

rivers will be on their way by February 1st, and every official in the country will have his hands full from the very early period of the year. The present police force would have to be supplemented when spring opens. He did not, however, anticipate any trouble, because from observations he thought the people were going in delighted, above all things, that the Canadian government intended administering the law fairly and keeping order. Mr. Sifton went on to say that from careful study of reliable information he was convinced there was an immense amount of gold bearing territory in the country, not all as rich as the Bonanza and Eldorado Creeks, but which would pay well for the working if the cost of living were cheapened and means of transportation improved.

The government would try as soon as possible to open up the Canadian route. Parties were now carefully examining the pack and cattle trail by way of Edmonton, and also from Cariboo northward to Stickeen. It was of the utmost importance to merchants and companies anxious to secure a portion of the trade of the territory that they should equip themselves properly for competition. Mining regulations might have been changed somewhat, but nothing he had heard of had shaken his opinion as to the advisability of collecting a royalty and reserving for the public benefit a portion of the mineral wealth of the country. Mr. Sifton would say nothing of the dangers of the passes he had crossed beyond that the trips were rough and unpleasant.