

## CLEARANCE SALES.

One sometimes hears it said that a merchant is not honest in offering goods at cost, or in announcing a clearing sale at prices below what is reasonable. Conservative competitors of such a merchant sneer at him and say he is a fraud. It does not follow that such is the case, by any means. A lively, ambitious merchant may fall into error of judgment as to the selling quantities of a line he is at first confident will go. No man can predict exact results. Fact is, every merchant has had experience in this way that has cost him dear. The goods are all right, but at the price first placed on them they prove slow sellers. In such event it is far better to sacrifice all profits and get clear of the stock than to carry it along. Like a captain at sea, who has a big cargo, when the storm comes up, he feels that it is wiser to lose part of the deck load than to risk all on board. By lightening the load he saves the vessel and part of the goods. A clearing sale may make trade somewhat demoralized for a time, but better that than crippled credit. Few merchants are able to buy for cash. They must make sales in order to meet bills. The momentary inconvenience of forcing trade is offset by the healthier activity that follows putting in a new and popular stock. It does not pay to carry dead goods.—*Exchange.*

## B. C. MINERAL OUTPUT.

The annual report of the minister of mines was presented to the legislature, one day last week. It shows that the total estimated yield of gold for 1892 amounted to \$399,525. The number of men employed was 1,310, and their average annual earnings were \$298. The value of gold exported by the banks at Victoria during 1892 amounted to \$332,938. Commencing with 1887, the export has kept decreasing, and last year proved no exception. Returns from the several districts, excepting Cariboo and East Kootenay, show a falling off in the quantity of gold mined, which is attributed to the well-worked placer claims having in some cases become barren, and to the absence of new ground from which the deficiency could be supplied. Though the prosecution of the mining industry throughout the province is on the increase, there is at present little report concerning the result of the developments of the different mineral ledges and hydraulic workings in so far as it relates to the production of gold and silver. In West Kootenay, the activity in mining mentioned last year still continues, and one quartz mine is reported to have produced \$10,000 in free gold, while many claims have shipped ore, the results of which are not stated. With regard to hydraulic claims, the applications for mining leases of bench lands during the past year have been more numerous than at any former period, and it is anticipated that the output of gold for 1893 will be considerably enhanced by the hydraulic companies operating in the Yale division of the Yale district, and also in the Lillooet and Cariboo districts.

The yield of platinum for the season, estimated at \$3,500, falls far short of the

amount mined in 1891. A decline in the market value of the metal is offered in explanation of the reduced production. There is reason, however, to think that certain claims on the Tulameen River, in the southern portion of Yale division, which have been acquired by the Tulameen Hydraulic Company, have not received the attention during the past season as of late years. An amount exceeding \$20,000 has already been expended in the development of the property, and steps are now in progress for the purpose of obtaining necessary capital to work the claims to advantage. Should the company succeed in their efforts, mining operations will be resumed without delay on an extensive scale.

Statistics are as follows: Total gold and silver exports since 1858, \$53,631,509; total number of men employed, 1892, 1,310; average yearly earnings per man, \$298; gold output in Cariboo, \$201,000; ditto Cassiar, \$28,950; claims recorded, West Kootenay, 1,701; transfers, ditto, 946; claims recorded, East Kootenay, 131.

The coal output for 1892 was \$26,335, as against 1,029,097 tons for 1891, as follows: Nanaimo, 433,386; Wellington, 290,370; East Wellington, 33,650; Union, 68,928; coal on hand Jan. 1, 1892, was 33,213 tons. Exports in 1892 were 610,579 tons, as follows: Nanaimo, 307,623; Wellington, 238,100; East Wellington, 28,000; Union, 66,556. Total home consumption, 196,224; on hand Jan. 1, 1893, 22,755 tons.

## THE POPULATION OF THE EARTH.

How many people are now living on the earth? How are they divided in regard to the great geographical divisions of the world, to the great political subdivisions, or as to races? Where are the most densely and the most sparsely settled countries? To these questions we find answers given in the publication by H. Wagner and A. Supan, entitled *Bevolkerung der Erde*, the eighth division of which appeared in 1891. For a large part of the earth, these answers do not pretend to scientific accuracy, because they are not founded on an accurate census, or counting of the people, but the estimates have been carefully made after comparing all the information available from various sources, including especially the careful study of this subject made by M. Emile Levasseur, of the Institute of France, and published in the Bulletin of the International Institute of Statistics in 1887 and 1888. According to Levasseur, the total population of the earth in 1886 was 1,483,000,000; according to Wagner and Supan, it was in 1891 about 1,480,000,000, the difference being mainly due to the differences in the estimates of the population of China and of Africa. The figures of Wagner and Supan include 836,000,000 people actually counted or registered, or a little over 56 per cent. of the total mass.

Over half of the people of the world live in Asia, and nearly one-fourth of them in China, which slightly exceeds the whole of Europe in population. India contains a little over one-fifth, and Africa about one-ninth of the world's people. Less than one-fourth belong to what are ordinarily known as civilized nations, and of these nearly one-third, or about one-thirteenth of the total population of the

world, belong to the English speaking peoples. The density of the population of different parts of the world varies very greatly in different countries—being greatest in Belgium, where it is about 535 to the square mile. The number of persons to the square mile in different regions and countries is as follows: Europe, 95; Asia, 48; Africa, 14; America, 8; Australasia, 1.3; Belgium, 535; England, 480; Netherlands, 357; Great Britain and Ireland, 311; Italy, 272; German Empire, 230; Japan, 271; China, 226; India, 187; Switzerland, 186; France, 184; Austria-Hungary, 170; Denmark, 146; Portugal, 124; Spain, 80; European Russia, 49; Sweden, 27; United States, 17; Mexico, 15; Norway, 15; Canada, 2. A large part of the world is not crowded yet. In Australasia the density of population is only 1.3 per square mile.

In 1660, Riccioli estimated the total population at 1,000 millions; in 1810, Malte-Brun gave it as 610 millions. In 1840, Bernoulli gave it as 764 millions; in 1858, Dieterici estimated it at 1,283 millions; and in 1868 Kolb gave it as 1,276 millions. In 1872 Behm and Wagner issued the first of their reports on this subject, estimated it at 1,377 millions. In 1880 they reached the figure of 1,556 millions. In 1882 they rejected the result of the so-called census of China in 1842 taking 350 instead of 405 millions as its population, which reduced the total result to 1,434 millions, equivalent to 1,401 millions in 1880. In the figures of Wagner and Supan for 1891, a further reduction is made of 46 millions, 38 millions being dropped from Africa alone. According to these revised estimates, the population of the earth increased in eleven years from 1,355 millions to 1,480 millions, giving an average annual increase of 0.84 per cent. Taking into consideration the fact that excessive death rates prevail in semi-civilized and barbarous nations, it seems probable that the average annual increase by excess of births over deaths is certainly less than 1 per cent of the population of the earth.—*Ex.*

The Dominion Coal Company, the new concern which has just secured the lease of the Cape Breton mines, is beginning to work. The money for the lease has been paid and the stock for the company subscribed. About one-fourth of the latter is from Canada.

Electric light baths are among the latest inventions. The necessary parts of such a bath are a cabinet which will enclose the entire body except the head, and 50 electric lamps of 16 candle power each, or 100 volts, arranged about the body in groups, with a separate switch for each group. The light is thrown on a section at a time, making the patient frisky, and browning the skin like an ocean bath.

The inhabitants of a suburb of Vienna were recently bombarded by anonymous letters, threatening them with incendiarism. Some took the precaution of insuring their possessions, others, with a sounder instinct, informed the police, with the result that the author of the letters has been discovered in the person of the agent for the local branch of a fire insurance company! There is something truly trans-Atlantic, shall we say?—in this gentleman's way of doing business,