

"Tell—to tell her boys' club that there is little fun in gold mining, that the work is very hard and the food very poor. \* \* \* Many of the mounted police are frozen badly in the winter, and have toes, legs, fingers, arms, and noses taken off; that the summer is hot, the mosquitoes swarm, forest fires are frequent; that then only one in a hundred goes home with more money than he leaves with; and if he dies, summer or winter, his fellow-miners have to burn a hole in the always frozen ground to put him into."

Only one in a hundred goes home with more money than he leaves with! But the chance of being that one, and knowledge of the fact that "most of the stories told of the wealth" of the Yukon are "true enough" may obliterate the recollections of the ninety and nine whose mothers will watch and pray until the close of life for the English boys who never return, but remain to build up a greater Britain across the seas.

### Criminal Statistics.

The Report of Criminal Statistics for the year ended 30th September has just been issued, and is likely to set the student of Canadian criminology calculating upon the causes which operate favorably in the reduction of indictable offences in the sea-washed provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. That the voice of the mighty deep has little to do with the diminution of crime in the Maritime Provinces is shown by the increased number of convictions in Prince Edward Island, where, as also in British Columbia and Manitoba, the increase is remarkable enough to attract the attention of reformers of all shades of opinion.

The indictable offences are divided into six classes:—Offences against the person; offences against property with violence; offences against property without violence; malicious offences against property; forgery and other offences against currency, and other offences not included in the foregoing classes.

There was an increase of 632 in the number of charges for indictable offences during the year:—8,027 in 1897 against 7,395 in 1896. In 1897, 2,172 were acquitted; 13 detained for lunacy, and 121 for several causes received no sentence, against 2,065 acquittals; 13 detained for lunacy and 113 receiving no sentence in 1896. This reduces the number of convictions for 1897 to 5,721 or 11.06 per 10,000 inhabitants, against 5,204 or 10.25 per 10,000 inhabitants for 1896, in the following order by provinces:—

PROVINCES.	Number of Convictions.		Number of Convictions per 10,000 Inhabitants.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
New Brunswick.....	116	95	3.61	2.95
Prince Edward Island.....	34	42	3.11	3.84
Nova Scotia.....	279	255	6.12	5.58
Quebec.....	1,420	1,737	9.12	11.05
Manitoba.....	181	245	9.36	12.07
Ontario.....	2,783	2,855	12.56	12.77
The Territories.....	144	170	11.98	13.58
British Columbia.....	247	322	17.86	21.73
Canada.....	5,204	5,721	10.25	11.06

It will be seen that the number of convictions has decreased, during the year, in the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, while it has increased in all the other provinces. Out of the total number of convictions 6.3 per cent. were female offenders in 1897, against 6.7 in 1896. 12.6 per cent. were young offenders under 16 years in 1897, against the same figures in 1896.

### Currency Reform—One result of the recent elections in the United States ought to cause very general satisfaction to those who have the true business interests of the country at heart. The so-called sound money men will have a reliable majority in Congress and Senate, and the Republicans will have no excuse for further delay in introducing some measure of currency reform.

Among the elected Democrats are men known to be stout adherents of the gold standard who, it is said, regardless of any influences to postpone action, will be found ready to support legislation having for its object the maintenance of the gold standard, and the adoption of a monetary system likely to give the country a better banking currency than at present.

It is to be hoped that the first step taken by those of the Republican and of the Democratic party who think alike on this important question will be concerted action for the passage of the deferred Banking bill at the next session of the present Congress, which will open early in December.

Business men of all countries having commercial dealings with the people of the United States are rejoicing with them at the prospect of the death and burial of Bryanism and the permanent elevation of the gold standard. Throughout the business community on both sides of the Atlantic, there has been an evident acceptance of the election as a proof that the present monetary standard is safe. London so regarded the result, and considerable dealing in American securities and some activity on the Stock Exchange testified to the satisfaction of those most concerned.

Yet the *Commercial Bulletin* finds in the signal triumph of the supporters of the gold standard a reason for anxiety as to the fate of the Banking bill, or at least that part of it which embodies currency reform. The *Bulletin* says:—

"The declaration that silverism is dead will be urged as a reason why there should be no currency reform legislation and why the platform two years hence should not be too uncompromising in its loyalty to the single gold standard. Silverism being dead, the sound money men will be urged not to needlessly outrage the feelings of a helpless silver minority by legislation on the subject or by ostentatiously displaying the gold standard. More serious than this is the opinion of Senator Thurston that the subsidence of silverism and Populism "is largely due to the prosperous conditions of agriculture and business generally. The people are satisfied with present conditions." This has undoubtedly a good deal of truth in it, but in proportion as it is true we are driven to the