

\$1,500 to sink on their claims, while the trains to Cripple Creek and British Columbia are loaded with men and money for this very purpose, a result of the course suggested to this convention."

The "course suggested" is, as before stated, better newspaper notices of Montana's mines, the alleged absence of which supplies also, according to Mr. Floyd-Jones, the answer to the following query of his: "Why then are the trains boarded with people for British Columbia and Alaska, passing by better opportunities in Montana, where every facility, smelters, machine shops, railways and cheap supplies exist, going where everything of this sort is lacking?"

The reply to this plaintive query affords, however, but a partial explanation of the Montana men's large measure of migration to B. C. They are hither attracted, not merely by newspaper reports, but also by the natural fascination of "fresh woods and pastures new," so too by the better conditions of law and order which prevail under British rule. And their judgment is not mistaken. Montana's brightest day will within a very short period be easily surpassed in brilliancy by that of far more highly favored B. C., though at this present the Mountain State's mineral output still nearly trebles ours, being as highly developed as ours is yet infantile.

#### WEST KOOTENAY'S OUTPUT.

West Kootenay's mineral output for the fiscal year ending June 30th last, approached \$5,500,000, the shipments via Nelson alone amounting to \$4,841,459, made up as follows: Gold, \$2,306,880; silver, \$1,767,643; copper, \$518,515; and lead, \$248,421. To these figures must be added the shipments via Revelstoke of the northern and central districts of West Kootenay, which though not yet completely tabulated, would certainly bring the aggregate shipments of West Kootenay to a sum in the neighborhood of \$5,500,000. Meanwhile Nelson and subports make a contribution to the Dominion in customs dues of no less than \$350,078, from which it is abundantly clear that when the contributions of Revelstoke are also taken to account, the Dominion will in revenue from West Kootenay receive at least twice the amount that it there spends in public work, including the whole of the interest and sinking fund on the

particular and other part to the Dominion at large. If all the Provinces were of as great profit to the Dominion treasury as B. C. then would be a series of yearly surpluses, not deficits, a fact which Eastern Canadian representatives persistently refuse to acknowledge.

#### ROSSLAND'S OUTPUT.

The output of the Rossland mines is now increasing steadily and satisfactorily, that of last week totalling 7432 tons, a gain of 542 tons on that of the previous week, which was then a "record" one for Rossland's production.

The Le Roi mine was, as usual, the great yielder, and it is now rapidly approaching the predicted daily output of 400 tons, for last week it shipped 1905 tons in all.

Next *longo intervallo* came the War Eagle with shipments of 250 tons, showing that the directorate has slightly increased its recent output. The Centre Star, which at the present rate of progress should soon pass the yield of the War Eagle, shipped 128 tons, the Columbia and Kootenay 76 tons, the Iron Mask 48 tons, and the Cliff 25 tons.

Things have by all accounts now got down to a solid basis at Rossland, where as a result there exists amongst the settled community a general feeling that there will now be steady advancement on business lines in lieu of the feverish speculation of a few months back. By the end of the present week Rossland's 1897 shipments will easily have passed the goodly aggregate of 36,000 tons.

#### BETTER HERE.

Despite the inroads of the Mongol, ore mine workers remain nearly 1000 per cent better off as regards wages than the black serfs—for they are little better—of the South African mines. There a white man, usually a superintendent, or at least a foreman, averages an equivalent of about \$120 a month. But the black workers get sometimes a minimum of \$7, a maximum of \$16 a month.

The Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* says in regard to precious metal mining in B. C. and in Washington: There are excellent mines, but that fact does not add any value to hundreds of properties incorporated with a huge capital on paper. The buyer must discriminate. It would be an excellent precaution if incorporation of any mining property were prohibited until the claims owned by it were patented. Now many