

there will be laid down coke for just about one-half the price which they have been paying for coke brought from other parts of the world. It will be Canadian coke, mined in Canadian territory, and it will go to the smelter and reduce the price of treatment of Canadian ores; the result will be a tremendous increase in the production of ore in the Kootenay district. Thousands of men and millions of dollars of capital will be employed in connection with this great industry. Moreover, the cheap smelting will result in the production of more ores, and the production of more ores will result in the greater volume of smelting, and the greater volume of smelting will result in an establishment of a refinery, and we will have, within ten years, the precious metals mined in Canada, smelted in Canada, and minted in Canada to as great an extent as is done in any other country in the civilized world."

The Rush to the Yukon.

While Canada will always depend upon her agriculturist as the backbone and mainstay of the country, the developments of the past twelve months have given a clear indication that the mineral resources and mining interests of the Dominion will run agriculture a very close second. The remarkable and unprecedented rush to the frozen Yukon, the rapid development and ever-increasing promise of the Kootenay and other mining sections of the Pacific Province, the actual work prosecuted in the almost unexplored, mineral-laden stretches of Ontario and Quebec, the renewed activity in Nova Scotia, and the recent discovery of strong indications of unlimited oil deposits in the Territories, have produced an aggregation of events that presents a future for the mineral development of the Dominion, the full effect of which cannot be appreciated at present.

As The St. James' Gazette (London, Eng.) declares, the gold rush to the Yukon is but an episode in Canadian history, still it is an episode of far-reaching and wide-spread import, for not only has it attracted thousands of additional population, but it has called attention to the possibilities and prospects of the country in a manner more pregnant with promise and more fruitful in results than any other one incident has ever been.

The story of the Yukon is so recent and familiar that it need not be dilated upon here. The sudden rush to this almost inaccessible country and the un-

precedented demand for immediate and extensive transportation facilities, together with the unexpected exigency of the necessity of efficient government and administration, combined to create a situation in the affairs of the country that is probably without precedent in the world's history. We are still too close to the actual events to be able to estimate, impartially and with judgment the efficiency or otherwise of the policy adopted. On the one hand there was no precedent to guide, and scarcely any reliable information upon which to establish a line of policy, and on the other hand there was unfortunately not only a vast majority of the population most clearly affected, composed of aliens none too kindly disposed towards the country, and upon principle antagonistic to all restraints of the law, but there was also altogether too large a section of the community anxious apparently to embarrass and discredit the Government at all and every cost. The result has been a vast outcry against the Administration, and all manner of impersonal charges against its representatives in the gold fields of mal-administration, and malfeasance of office, but for many weeks it was impossible to secure the slightest reliable evidence or any definite charge against any man or men. Finally, a memorial was received by the Minister of the Interior from a representative miners' organization in Dawson City, in which certain not very definite charges were formulated. Upon this basis, slight though it was, immediate instructions were despatched to Commissioner William Ogilvie to investigate thoroughly and completely. Of the work of that investigation, which is still in progress at the time of writing, little has yet been learnt, but the latest arrivals from the goldfields report everything satisfactory, and the complete failure of every attempt to secure definite evidence of official wrong-doing.

The amount of gold that will be brought out of the Yukon this season is, so far, entirely a matter of conjecture, and it is doubtful if more than an approximate estimate will ever be possible, owing to the difficulties of securing complete and accurate returns. Those best able to judge, however, believe that about \$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000 are not far from the correct figures, and that will be five or six times as much as was brought out in 1897. The output for 1899 is already being estimated at \$18,000,000; in 1892 the total output of