

nection with the latest of several abortive efforts there to establish a smelter, has, so it is stated, now become convinced that mining operations on the coast and adjacent islands do not yet justify any expectation of their ability to supply a smelter located at Vancouver with 100 tons of ore a day. This, no doubt, is correct enough at the moment, but there are promising indications that a fair sized smelter can be got into full working order at some point convenient for treating coast and island ores, and there should be a sufficient ore supply to keep the smelter going continually. Moreover, the fact of the establishment of such a concern—if done on business lines, would of itself tend to quicken the development of precious metal mining, not only on the coast and islands, but also at **certain points** that are inland, as for example, the Harrison Lake district.

of the present year have just been published, the showing being in every sense eminently satisfactory. The gold yield for the period mentioned is valued at \$133,744, as compared with a worth of \$190,244 for the twelve months of 1897. This increase is quite remarkable in view of the somewhat unlucky series of circumstances which, since April, have had an effect of handicapping the gold production of this Province. The most notable evidence of progress is, however, to be found in the figures of iron output, the value of iron ore mined to June 31st being \$23,845; and of pig iron \$305,083; as against \$4,689 and \$288,128, respectively, for the whole of 1897.

It is stated on good authority that capitalists from the Midland district of England, of which Birmingham is the centre, are quietly investigating the op-



A MINERS' MEETING AT DAWSON. (Photo by Edwards Bros. Vancouver.)

It seldom happens that an American mining camp becomes even temporarily tributary to a British Columbia trading and farming centre, the reverse being too usually the case, as between British Columbia and the neighbouring State of Washington. Chilliwack is, however, a happy exception to the rule, as the little town on the Fraser is, we learn, doing a very profitable trade in mining supplies, needed by workers on the slopes of Mount Baker, on the other side of the International boundary, but at no great distance, via Sumas, from Chilliwack.

Ontario's mineral statistics for the first six months

portunities for smelting in the coast and island districts of the Province, and also negotiating with a view to acquire, if possible, on terms sufficiently advantageous to themselves, the British Columbia Ironworks in Vancouver. As regards the smelter possibility, it is understood that these would-be investors at present rather incline to the view that the Comox district, being near the more promising mines and claims of the Mainland coast and islands, and also in proximity to ample coal and coke supplies, offers facilities preferable to the Burrard Inlet district about Vancouver. Nothing, however, has yet been definitely decided.