

entering a country like the Yukon, which in outfit and travelling outlay it costs, on an average, at least \$500 to enter, and in which in addition to the incurring of great risks of health and even life, a bare living costs, and long will cost from \$2,000 to \$2,500 a year. Only a very rich claim should therefore be laden with so large a tax as 10 per cent. on output, the exemption of the first \$2,500 from the duty being really but a small one. And is certain as aught well can be, that for each Yukon claim that yields a small fortune, there will be ten others, either unproductive or only such as give little beyond a "living wage" return, from whose owner it were cruel to exact, in addition to big direct and indirect deductions in heavy customs and excise dues on commodities, as well as license and other fees, a very heavy royalty. A five per cent. royalty, rising only to ten per cent. in the case of exceptionally productive claims, would be ample in a land where, judging by the precedent of the 130,000 people of B. C., 200,000 to 250,000 in the Yukon will credit Ottawa in customs, excise, license and postal revenue contributions, with a total return of at least \$2,500,000—more likely \$3,000,000—a year, without counting in a cent for royalties. And we venture to assert that if the \$2,500,000 to \$3,000,000 be so contributed, the case of the Yukon will be, like that of B. C., the instance of a far western region returning to the State of Canada yearly a big tribute in cash, far in excess of public expenditure locally incurred by the Dominion. Excise alone, in a land where whisky is and will be by most of the temporary settlers, regarded as a prime necessity of life, yield a very big revenue indeed to Ottawa, one in all probability quadrupling at least the present large like contributions of our own Province, where amongst more than 40,000 Indians and Chinese, most are almost, if not complete, habitual abstainers from intoxicants, whilst of our remaining 90,000 or 100,000 people, very large numbers are either pledged or customary "teetotalers." And as all know, a vast customs revenue must be contributed to Canada by dwellers in the Yukon, who will import hugely, and thus be subjected in hosts of cases, to the big customs duties of a land, which, whilst nominally under a "free trade" favoring Government, still enjoys or disrelishes—disrelish being the usual case of dwellers in the heavily mulcted Pacific region—the results in raised prices of an extremely protective tariff. For these and other reasons, which might easily be given, we cannot join the usual chorus of all-approval, that is now sung by many hide-bound party organs, in respect of the revised Yukon regulations. Nor can we consider them by any means a good exemplification of an adage dear to the friends of things that be, who ever feel inclined to optimism and therefore nourish a half belief that "all is for the best in the best of worlds." We

therefore, agree in one special instance at least with Mr. Frank Oliver, M. P., who, sturdy western Liberal though he is, holds that all the Mounted Police in the Yukon will be unable to collect more than a little at best of an excessive ten per cent. royalty on output. The duty will, in a host of cases, be evaded in others, it may even be, resisted with success if, as is likely enough, opposition to the exaction well nigh prove unanimous on the part of at least 200,000 more or less sturdy seekers of a frigid fortune.

THE PROPOSED PROVINCIAL CHAMBER OF MINES.

We are distinctly of opinion that there should be scope in this, the "banner" mine Province of Canada, for the establishment, on lines similar to those on which such institutions as mine Chambers have, as useful working bodies, been founded elsewhere in other mining countries of the British Empire. There is no need for such an institution to clash either with the work of any Board of Trade, or with the larger scope of the Federated Canadian Mining Institute.

The work of a Board of Trade, of which bodies British Columbia already possesses several strong examples, and will possess many others, is of necessity more or less local. A Board of Trade, too, has its own all round commercial work of supervision to accomplish, and though such a board may well include in suitable districts a mining sub-committee or department, it cannot specialize to the same extent, as a Provincial Chamber of Mines. The latter should in its voluntary work continuously supervise all the greatly varying mining interests of a big Province, but a Board of Trade, even though, as in the case of the Victoria, it proudly arrogates a title to be "all British Columbian rather than Victorian," is more or less bound to take a narrower and more localized view of things in general. On the other hand, the mining men of a Province such as ours, may well establish for themselves a Chamber of Mines, instead of being more or less completely dependent upon a national body such as the Federated Mining Institute, which at present, by-the-by, largely does its work from far away Montreal. It is, however, quite possible for a Provincial Chamber of Mines to be in some manner connected, officially or otherwise, with a larger national body, such as the Federated Institute.

And just as it is well for a Province to have its own Legislature—in addition to its share in the National Parliament and its organized local municipalities, so is it advisable, if the Chamber can be established on right lines, that such a Provincial body be set up, in addition to a National Mining Institute embracing all Canada, and a number of Boards of Trade or Mining Associations representing more or less important localities within a