

itoba to the North-West Territories in 1899, which is a large increase over 1898. The immigrant arrivals at Winnipeg in 1899 are given as 43,410, of whom 365 left for other fields. In 1899 there were 149,813,531 feet of lumber sold in the North-West, of which 70,651,851 feet came from the States, but was manufactured in Canadian mills. The report gives the total gold production of the Yukon in 1899 as \$7,582,283, on which \$588,262 was paid to the Government as royalty. Besides this sum there was \$586,426 collected for timber dues, leases, mining fees, free miners' certificates, the Yukon revenue last year being \$1,174,688. The total revenue from Dominion lands in 1899 was \$3,940,163. The total cost of the services associated with these lands is not ascertainable from the Public Accounts, but the balance is, we believe, a considerable one in favour of the Government.

The Report of the Minister of Justice is a less agreeable but not less important a document. The administration of justice is for home defence. Had the Transvaal been ruled with justice, no war would have occurred.

It is discouraging to find the "average daily population in our 5 Penitentiaries" increasing year by year, as the following shows:—

1899	1898	1897	1896	1895
1,447	1,415	1,353	1,314	1,250

The percentage of increase was greatest in "Convicts under 20 years of age," who form 11 per cent. of the penitentiary population. Those from 20 to 30 years of age seem not to be increasing to any noticeable extent. The gross expenditure of the 5 penal institutions in 1899 was \$393,020. The cost per head for past 3 years was as below:

Penitentiaries	1899.	1898.	1897.
	\$	\$	\$
Kingston.....	173.56	203.59	229.53
St. Vincent de Paul.....	226.54	214.52	237.38
Dorchester.....	205.24	219.28	258.63
Manitoba.....	391.31	459.63	484.60
British Columbia.....	436.11	416.73	396.04

The excess of cost in Manitoba and British Columbia over Kingston is chiefly in the staff expenses, and the smaller revenues derived in the two former places from prison labour, etc.; in Kingston this yielding \$63.93 per head, and in Manitoba, \$24.72; and British Columbia, \$20.02. There seems room, however, for further explanations on this matter. The yearly increase of the nine serious forms of crime amongst youths under 20 years of age is a serious problem.

The Report of the Secretary of State relates chiefly to registrations of new companies. How rapidly the joint stock companies of Canada are expanding is shown by the fees and other charges paid to the Government for charters, supplementary charters, and licenses in the past five years, which were as follows:

1899	1898	1897	1896	1895
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
22,975	16,572	11,298	9,417	6,696

We beg to suggest that in future the new com-

panies be tabulated, with those given supplementary charters, and licenses so as to give the total capital called for by the joint stock companies of Canada during the year. We have drawn out a list which shows that the aggregate capital of the new incorporated joint stock companies, and of capital increases in 1899 was \$9,828,200. The aggregate capital of the companies licensed in 1899 was \$34,397,000, the whole of which enterprises were "licensed to carry on mining operations in the Yukon Territory." The larger portion of the Yukon companies were organized in England, 16 out of 25 give their capital in sterling, the aggregate being £2,345,000. Eight Yukon companies are American enterprises whose total capital is \$22,940,000. One is a Belgian concern with a capital of \$400,000. In the case of these companies only a moiety of the capital will be called up. But, if only one-third is paid up there will be 15 millions of dollars of money, in addition to the present amount, invested in joint stock companies in Canada.

The Report of the Militia and Defence Department is largely occupied with the affairs of the Contingents sent to South Africa. It is significant of the popular spirit to read that the officials showed a "willingness, it might be said eagerness, to work with unremitting application in getting the Contingents ready, even giving up their Sundays and holidays, to expedite the work." The votes for the defensive service amounted to \$2,489,550, of which \$387,763 was for the "Yukon Contingent." The report of the Major-General says: "a finer or more soldierly body of troops never represented a British Colony." Their brilliant record confirms this judgment, and the history of the Empire will have no brighter page than the one on which the gallantry of the Canadian soldiers in South Africa will be inscribed.

WAR WITH CHINA, BUT NO WAR DECLARED.

The commencement of hostilities between Chinese forces and those of other powers without any declaration of war having been issued by any of the combatants is creating a highly complicated situation which may take years to unravel. When war is formally declared, a warning is given to all whose property, or interests, are liable to be put in danger, so that they may secure whatever protection may be feasible. This warning has been held to release nations at war from legal responsibility for acts of war after its formal declaration. On the other hand, claims for damage done to property before war had been declared have been recognized. It is obvious that, if a nation either assumes new responsibilities, or is released from them when war commences, it is desirable for a formal announcement to be issued, by which the date can be fixed upon which those responsibilities were assumed or abandoned. Serious disputes have arisen as to whether vessels and other properties were, or were not, lawfully captured, the dispute arising from uncertainty