

bility of competition with the United States and Canada in the supply of these articles. Then, again, a great carrying trade will be developed on the Pacific Ocean. Ship yards will be built on our coast and navies constructed there. An immense demand for lumber will spring up. Our forests will at length find a market. From the first day that a European army operates in China the stimulus to our industries will be felt. The grain and beef and horses of Canada instead of going east will go west to feed the army. Troops and transports will throng the docks at Vancouver. An era of prosperity undreamt of hitherto must come for the province of British Columbia. British Columbia will find itself upon the main line of the world's progress. There is nothing visionary and nothing unforeseen about this outcome of the Chinese embroglio. Every observer with sufficient acumen to pierce the veil of future events has foretold this result of the expansion of modern civilization. But the events of the next few months will make its beginnings tangible and apparent.

The position of the market for silver should fill the heart of every silver miner with comfort and joy. The world's annual production of this metal amounts to the enormous quantity of nearly 175,000,000 ounces, four million ounces less than the output of 1898. Silver has nevertheless appreciated in price during 1899 to the extent of 1-3 cents per ounce. Nor is there any evidence of any accumulation in the reserve stock of silver. The output is entirely consumed in the arts and manufactures every year, and while the output of silver is not increasing, is in fact diminishing, the demand for silver is remaining steady if not expanding. Nor need any great increase in the supply be expected. The same cause which has operated to contract the production of silver is not by any means exhausted, and is likely to show its effects for some years to come. A large number of mines in operation at the time of the slump in silver would never have been opened up with silver at its present price. Having been opened up they could still be profitably worked. But these mines are becoming gradually exhausted and new mines of a similar type are not being brought forward to take their place. When a market situation of that kind develops it is only a question of time until a very favourable reaction in favour of silver mining takes place. Meanwhile where silver is a joint product with gold or copper or lead, as in all the silver mines in British Columbia, the stability of this particular part of the product is a feature both gratifying to the mine owner, and a guarantee of the steady growth of the industry. The present high prices of lead and copper may not be maintained, but the silver contents of our ore will steadily if slowly appreciate in value.

The Boundary Creek district is slowly but surely emerging from the prospect stage and entering upon that of production. We learn from our local correspondent that the information supplied to him by the respective mine managers during the third week in July showed the ore shipments for that week to have been approximately as follows: From Old Ironsides, 875 tons; B. C., 490 tons; Golden Crown, 200 tons; City of Paris, 140 tons; Winnipeg, 80 tons. Total for week, 1,785 tons. Shipments at this rate only would aggregate 8,000 tons per month, worth, roughly, \$100,000 to \$120,000. This, however, is by

no means a fair estimate of what the district may reasonably be expected to be yielding—*i.e.*, in gross returns—to mine owners from this on. If, for instance, the Old Ironsides, Knob Hill and Victoria together shortly realize their mine superintendent's estimated daily output of about 1,400 tons, they will ship a monthly aggregate of 12,000 tons, which quantity, calculated at the average value of \$8.37 placed on the Knob Hill ore, will of itself reach a total value of \$100,000. To this may be added the increased quantity the B. C. and the City of Paris are expected to ship, making their total say 4,000 tons, of an average value of \$20 per ton, equal to \$80,000. There is, moreover, the Golden Crown and Winnipeg output to be considered, which should soon be 1,500 tons per month, worth, say, \$30,000. These several totals give an aggregate of more than \$200,000 which assuming, as there appears to be good reason to do, that our correspondent's informants may be relied on, it may reasonably be expected will shortly be the minimum gross value of the monthly output of the Boundary Creek mines. The position shows up even more satisfactorily when the prospective early output of the Mother Lode mine—leaving altogether out of account the Jewel, Oro Denoro, Gold Drop, Snowshoe, Brooklyn, Stemwinder, Morrison and others that should contribute to the total yield of the district—is kept in view. With the Mother Lode sending 100 tons of ore per day to the smelter, there should be at least \$30,000 more to add to the value of the general output. It does not therefore, appear to us that we are in any way exaggerating the outlook when we say that the earlier part of the year 1901 should see a monthly gross return of at least \$250,000 from Boundary mines, and if this forecast be realized it will be a very important consummation favourably affecting a much larger sphere than the immediate district, which should within six months witness a transformation from a section that long has been and still is a heavy drain upon those who are persistently putting money into the development of its staple industry, into one that is at least supplying the greater part of the capital requisite for the utilization on the present scale of its resources. Of course the proportion of profit that may be derived is quite problematical, depending as it does upon conditions untried so far as this particular district is concerned. The important point we have in view just now is that after years during which it has been entirely unproductive the district at length bids fair to shortly be in a position to produce at least a quarter of a million dollars per month towards the maintenance and further development of its chief industry.

Our Boundary Creek correspondent writes:

So much has been said and published during the past six months or so regarding the proposed establishment of pyritic smelters at Grand Forks and in the vicinity of Greenwood respectively, without there being any tangible evidence in the district that these enterprises really are to be established that doubt as to their bona fides seems quite excusable. However, information has lately been received by the writer from an apparently reliable source that Mr. A. Laidlaw, representing a Quebec company who some time since sent out a few tons of ore from Boundary Creek mines for treatment by the pyritic process and obtained such satisfactory results therefrom, that he has ordered the requisite plant for a pyritic smelter. This plant is being manufactured, it is posi-