

consolation to know that public opinion in the States was against the acquisition of the territory, we have Mr. Swineford's word for it that when it was announced in 1867 that the Hon. W. H. Seward, then Secretary of State, had negotiated the treaty for the purchase, "the proposition not only failed to elicit any considerable manifestation of popular favour, but was quite generally condemned and denounced as a reckless and wholly indefensible expenditure of the public money in the purchase of what some of the leading journals of the day denominated a 'great national refrigerator.'" How in the face of this opposition the treaty was ratified, and Alaska formally transferred to the United States by Russia, possession being taken by the representatives of the former country on the 10th of October, 1867, is, of course, a matter of history, but, we think, it is not generally known that "the men who were instrumental, through the means of a strong and influential lobby, in securing the favourable action of Congress" to the treaty, "profited largely by the purchase," and that really the valuable possessions of the United States in the North were secured to the country chiefly by the purely selfish wire-pulling of San Francisco speculators. After describing the boundaries—from the point of view of the American contentions—and superficial area of Alaska, Mr. Swineford in subsequent chapters relates the history of the Russian possession of the country from the year 1849, and later entertainingly writes of the natives, their customs, habits and manner of life. In fact, the book is full of valuable and interesting information, and of a kind that is not procurable in our ordinary works of reference. Valuable deposits of coal and mineral have been found at different spots on the Alaskan coast, and we are told on the Fish River is "located perhaps the most remarkable mine in the world. It is a vein of practically pure galena, carrying from 75 to 85 per cent. lead, with some gold, and from 180 to 250 ounces of silver. Meanwhile, if the resources of the country are to be developed, the United States will be necessarily obliged to pursue a wiser policy than heretofore. Mr. Swineford, when Governor of the Territory, was not afraid to express his mind on this point, for we find in an official report addressed by him to the Secretary of the Interior, he speaks with the greatest indignation of the manner in which the country is legislated, and of laws which "hinder and retard rather than encourage and promote" natural resources.

## SHIPPING MINES.

## ROSSLAND.

The following are the ore shipments from the mines adjacent to Rossland from Jan. 1, to June, 18th, 1898:—

Le Roi.....	22,970
War Eagle.....	9,473
Centre Star.....	910
Poorman.....	453
Iron Mask.....	1,673
Cliff.....	140
Velvet.....	350
Monte Cristo.....	185
Total.....	36,265

During the month of May the value of the mine exports through the part of Rossland (3,760 tons) was \$90,816.00, divided as follows:—

Gold.....	\$ 75,200 00
Copper.....	\$ 11,580 00
Silver.....	3,036 00
Total.....	\$90,816 00

The Collector of Customs at Nelson kindly sends us the following returns:—

## PORT NELSON.

The mine (copper matte) 99 tons, value \$70,679.

The Collector of Customs at Kaslo kindly sends us the following returns:—

## SLOCAN.

Total customs returns for the month were \$3,715, being: Kaslo, \$3,091.56; Nakusp, \$478.16; Rykerts, \$145.48.

For the month of May there were cleared at the Kaslo Customs office 1,860,857 pounds of ore valued at \$67,735, containing 696,086 pounds of lead and 94,052 ounces of silver.

Of this amount the port of Nakusp is credited with gross pounds of ore, 540,000, valued at \$15,498.00 containing 54,000 pounds of lead and 24,300 ounces of silver.

The shipments by Kaslo were as follows:—

	lbs.
Ruth.....	520,000
Whitewater.....	74,000
Slocan Star.....	480,000
Antoine.....	37,000
Coin.....	25,000
Total.....	1,144,000

Ore shipments from the Slocan for May were low owing to the breaking up of the roads, the burning of the Payne tramway, the shutting down of the Slocan Star on account of the scarcity of water, and the alterations going on at the Whitewater.

## COAL SHIPMENTS.

The New Vancouver Coal Mining & Land Co. Limited.

## FOREIGN SHIPMENTS, MAY, 1898.

	Tons.
2—S.S. Peter Jebsen.....	San Deigo 4,781
5—S.S. Burma.....	San Francisco 4,491
6—Amur.....	Alaska 185
9—Str. Pioneer.....	Port Townsend 17
10—Str. Victorian.....	Alaska 44
12—S.S. Titania.....	San Francisco 5,315
13—Schr. W. H. Talbot.....	St Michaels 1,226
14—Str. Wanderer.....	Port Townsend 22
14—S. S. Manauense.....	Alaska 573
17—S.S. Burma.....	San Francisco 4,448
18—S.S. Amur.....	Alaska 163
19—S.S. Peter Jebsen.....	San Francisco 4,765
23—S.S. Alton.....	Japan 651
24—S.S. Titania.....	San Francisco 5,394
24—Str. Capilano.....	St. Michaels 176
28—Schr. Muriel.....	Kahului, H. I. 900
28—S.S. Roanoke.....	Seattle, Wash. 350
28—Str. Iskoot.....	Ft. Wrangel 81
29—S.S. Burma.....	San Francisco 4,485
30—Str. Spratts Ark.....	Mary Island, Alaska 489
30—Str. Mystery.....	" " 28
30—Str. Wanderer.....	Port Townsend 36
Total.....	38,650

## FOREIGN SHIPMENTS TO JUNE 20th, 1898.

	Tons.
2—Str. Wanderer.....	Port Townsend 40
2—Str. Tyee.....	" " 70
4—S.S. Titania.....	San Francisco 5,379
6—Str. Pauline Warner.....	Alaska 10
6—Str. Dorothy.....	" 7
8—Bark Seminole.....	Honolulu, H. I. 2,024
9—Str. Wanderer.....	Port Townsend 50
10—S.S. Burma.....	San Francisco 4,522
12—Manauense.....	Alaska 219
13—Str. Columbian.....	" 102
15—S.S. Titania.....	San Francisco 5,394
15—S.S. Amur.....	Alaska 178
15—S.S. Canadian.....	" 150
15—S.S. Tordenskjold.....	" 581
16—Str. Earnest A. Hamill.....	" 94
17—Ship Tacoma.....	San Francisco 2,600
Total.....	21,421

## THE METAL MARKET—JUNE.

Special Telegraphic dispatch to the B.C. MINING RECORD, from *The Engineering & Mining Journal*, New York.

## SILVER.

The first week of the month silver advanced rapidly, owing to large purchases on Spanish account, the Government finding it necessary to meet the drain of silver coin. For the week ending June 8th, the market opened at 57½ and closed at 59½, but Spanish orders failing to materialize, prices from the 4th to 17th of the month fluctuated between 59½ on the 8th, and 57½ on the 17th. Our telegraphic quotations to-day (June 24th) are for Thursday and Friday 57½ and 59½ respectively.