

base of the bordering mountains, which culminate six miles to the south-west at the boundary monument, 6,000 feet above sea level. No work whatever has been done to test the nature of the oil sources. A comparatively small outlay for some shallow sinking or boring on the flat above described would do this.

"On the 24th, we proceeded down the valley, and about four miles north of the 49th parallel the trail came down to the level of the brook, on the edge of a beaver dam pool, there were ledges of dark blue shale dipping E. 30°, N. 12°. Lifting layers of this at and below the water, a quantity of dark green circular patches of oil rose to the surface, and a precisely similar result followed by stirring up the mud in the bottom of the pool. This place is about 15 miles in a direct line west, 10 degrees south, from the occurrence on Cameron Falls Creek, the main watershed of the Rocky Mountains and Mounts Kirby, Spence and Yarrell intervening, oil is said, by the Indians (the Stoneys) who frequent this region, to occur at other points, in the Akamina Brook Valley, both above and below that recorded. The Akamina joins the Flathead River in Montana, about four miles south of the international boundary. The beaver dam oil is of a dark greenish-black, and does not apparently differ much from that of Cameron Falls Creek. Preliminary tests might be made here by sinking a shallow shaft in the shales at the beaver dam pool, and by boring on the sandy and gravelly flat country about two miles and a half north of the boundary line.

"At about a mile and a half higher up, the creek leaves the high mountains, which border its upper course in a north-easterly direction up to the main watershed some twelve miles distant, and here, at the edge of the water, on the left bank, I found hard, dark flinty shales like those at the beaver dam pool on the Akamina, dipping S. 25 degrees, 30 degrees, W. 25 degrees. Directly the layers of this rock are raised, the oil rises and spreads over the surface of the water in such abundance that a short time suffices, with the aid of a tin cup, to collect a bottle full. Here, also a considerable quantity of gas escapes from the cracks and joints in the rocks, and ignites freely on the application of a match.

"Less than half a mile higher up, on the right bank and on the opposite side of the valley, oil was again found issuing from the base of the bank or drift, which has here filled the valley and causes the stream to make a sharp bend eastward to the base of the opposite mountain. No rock was exposed here, but every stone in the bed of the creek, especially on being broken or rubbed, gave out a strong odor of petroleum. The oil collected here, a sample of which can be seen in the Museum, differs entirely in appearance from those of the Cameron Falls Creek and Akamina or Kish-e-ne-nah Creek. Some of it was of a light lemon-yellow, but most of it nearly the colour of pale brandy and with a powerful petroleum odor."

The last annual report of Sir Horace Seymour, comptroller of the Royal Mint contains separate reports by the Deputy-Masters of the branches established in Australia at Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. The three colonial mints coin gold only, while the London mint supplies silver and other coinages required by the Empire.

The Sydney and Melbourne mints, although estab-

lished for many years, have only just ceased to be a source of annual loss. In 1899 the figures are given as follows:

	Revenue.	Ex- penditure.	Profit or Revenue
Sydney . . . . .	£15,610	£14,488	£1,122
Melbourne . . . . .	25,145	17,001	8,144

The Perth branch has only recently been established. It seems from the report of Sir Horace Seymour that all the gold produced does not find its way to these colonial mints. In 1896 the mints received about 80 per cent. of the total Australasian production, but the proportions for the last three years are as follows:

	1897 Ozs.	1898 Ozs.	1899 Ozs.
Total estimated Australasian production of gold . . .	2,929,959	3,547,079	4,462,500
Total sent into the colonial mints . .	2,127,098	2,233,525	2,670,796
Proportion of production . . . . .	72½%	63%	60%

The decrease in the proportion is said to have been occasioned chiefly by the considerable quantity of the large West Australian yield shipped in the form of bullion. The Perth mint is, however, attracting the gold, and doubtless the proportion of the total output coined in the colonies will soon show some recovery.

From these reports it is abundantly clear that what we have already pointed out with regard to the proposed Canadian mint is correct. It is not necessary merely to have a mint, but also to have one that will attract the gold produced in the country. The place where the mint is located and the price it offers for gold are the two most vital considerations. Unless the Canadian mint is located on the Pacific Coast, it will certainly not attract the gold produced in the Klondyke and British Columbia. All the difference between making the Canadian mint a success and a ridiculous fiasco is involved in the choice between the East and West for its location. Furthermore, unless the mint is prepared to offer the same price for gold as is offered by the United States mint at Seattle, it will not attract the gold either. And it must not be forgotten that the United States mint assumes a proportion of the cost of refining the gold, and all the cost of transporting it to San Francisco or Philadelphia, where actual minting operations are carried on.

In a popular novel recently published in Great Britain the hero, who is a duke just come into his inheritance, wishes to bury two degenerate scions of his race in some remote part of the earth. He takes the advice of his most intimate friend, who tells him: "There are great reports about British Columbia just now. They've found wonderful new gold-fields and they are a fearful distance from anywhere. It takes months to get to them, so I'm told." How long it takes to get to a place entirely depends on where one starts from. It takes five days to get from the centre of the British Columbia gold-fields to New York and seven days on the average to go from New York to London. The average time for letters from London to the centre of the British Columbia gold-fields is fifteen days. The travelling is luxurious. One carries a dining room, a reading room, a bar, a barber shop and a bathroom on the train. The