

trades with 37, the building trades with 35, the mining industry with 22, the metal trades with 19, and the fishing industry with 6 unions. It is noteworthy that one half of the unions in connection with the mining industry were organized in the year 1899. Of the other 11 the years 1889, 1890, 1895 and 1898 each saw the organization of one, while 1900 is credited with two, and 1901 with four, the remaining one not being accounted for. The localities in which these unions have been organized are as follows: West Kootenay, 9 (Kaslo, Nelson, New Denver, Rossland, Sandon, Silverton, Slocan City, Whitewater and Ymir); East Kootenay, 4 (Fernie, Kimberley, Michel, and Moyie); Boundary, 3 (Camp McKinney, Greenwood and Phoenix); Kamloops, 1; Vancouver Island 4 (Extension, Ladysmith, Nanaimo and South Wellington); and Texada Island, 1. The intention is to publish in the next issue of the *Gazette* a table showing the total number of unions reported to the department to June 30 of the current year. These particulars are reproduced here as of some interest to those connected with the mining industry of this Province.

CASSIAR.

(By Clive Phillips-Wolley.)

IN the *Badminton Magazine* for November, 1897, (an English magazine published by Longmans & Green) there occurs an article by the present writer to which the editors have added this note: "This article, the publication of which has been unavoidably postponed, was written early in the year 1895. It will be found of special interest at the present time. Not only does the writer foretell the great rush of gold seekers which has since taken place, but he describes the new route to the Klondyke."

The editor had bottled up my prophecy until it had been fulfilled, but I ask some little credence for future prophecies concerning the North, for the sake of this proved accuracy in the past.

Unfortunately my editor was not altogether right in speaking of the new route to the Klondyke, but he was only an Englishman and could not be expected to understand the politics of British Columbia or Canada generally: could not be expected, for instance, to understand that a country would commit suicide for the benefit of its rival and at the suggestion of the party most interested. But that is another story which we may consider later on.

At the very outset I find myself in serious difficulty. In speaking of Cassiar, I think that we all meant ten years ago, that district which lies between the Alaskan boundary line and the western edge of Athabasca, between the Skeena and the western limits of British Columbia: that is to say the great northern block of our province of which Dease Lake is the centre, the Stikine River the natural entrance, and the Dease, Stikine, Liard and perhaps the Taku, the natural lines of travel, although, of course, once started from Dease Lake down the Dease and the Liard, an enormous hinterland is open to you which is not Cassiar, but only the unprospected area of which Cassiar keeps the key.

Cassiar proper as defined by the authorities, is, I believe, a district lying between the limits to the east and west which I have already assigned to it but extending north and south from the edge of the Comox District in 51 degrees north latitude to 60 degrees north latitude, and containing over a hundred and five millions of acres, and possibly in 1895, one hundred and five white inhabitants.

To-day that is all changed.

The Klondyke rush took men through the northern districts of our province and though "gold by the bucket" was the bait, the country they passed through was such that the eyes of some of the pilgrims, blind though they were to almost all but their goal, were caught here and there, and as a result Atlin and other camps grew up and Cassiar was re-divided into the mining districts of Bennett, Atlin, Teslin, Stikine and Liard.

The whole Cassiar country has been compared by Dr. George Dawson to the Russian province of Vologda, and will, according to him, do as much to sustain a population as that province, but whereas Vologda in 1890 sustained a population of a million, I doubt whether Cassiar contained a hundred white men all told.

In 1894 Cassiar was slumbering after her great excitement of 1872. There were perhaps a dozen miners who "holed" up in Wrangel for the winter and went up to their old haunts to wash a little gold in the summer: there were a few traders on the rivers like Callbreath & Hyland at Telegraph Creek: a very few fur traders like Johnny le Montague travelling down the Liard, and of course the one or two officials at the scattered and unimportant ports of the H. B. Co., but these and a small residue of Chinamen on the creeks of 1872, still washing what the whites had abandoned, and a few thousand Indians, (sticks trapping on the Stikine or Cascas hunting all over the Arctic slope) made up the whole population of this vast territory.

In those days, we hunters, who talked of moose whose heads would measure over six feet, and bears whose hides would go over ten, were laughed at as those are to-day who venture to believe that there may be some truth in the oft-repeated story of an ibex somewhere up in the Mt. St. Elias country, but since then Mr. A. S. Reed has brought back to Victoria not one but half a dozen specimens of moose heads of the required dimensions and bear skins exceeding our maximum in dimensions and all the hunting world believes in the giants of Cook's Inlet. As it was with the hunters so it was with their comrades, the prospectors. Their stories of a north land richer than Cariboo were laughed at and the suggestions that the matter be looked into and a road built into the new country made by myself and others were disregarded as the foolishness of unreasonable men, but as it was with the game so it was with the gold.

At first there was a story afloat that those good fellows Reed and Rufus Sylvester, pioneers and friends of pioneers who keep (or kept, for Sylvester is dead) a store at Wrangel, had grub-staked two prospectors to go North and that these men had come back