

vening stretch of United States territory to the British Columbia boundary line, and thence to the Klondike fields.

All the members of the Cabinet were agreed upon the course to be taken. In the brief discussion over the matter it was pointed out that it was not only a neighborly action to take, but would be helpful to citizens of the United States as well. About nine-tenths of the men now in the gold belt belong to this country, it was said, and a failure to make the concession might deprive American citizens of needed supplies. It was also intimated that if the privilege were denied by this Government Canada might take up the matter, and by way of retaliation restrict operations in the part of the gold fields of Canadian soil to citizens of that country.

INFORMATION FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

An evidence of how deeply the Klondike excitement has taken hold of the Government appears in the announcement made at Washington July 24th, that in recognition of the importance of the gold discoveries in Alaska and adjoining territory, and in obedience to the widespread demand for authentic information in regard thereto, the Commissioner of Labor has detailed from his regular force an expert, thoroughly familiar with all the features of gold mining, to proceed immediately to the Klondike for the purpose of making a careful and exhaustive study of the conditions as they exist there. It is the intention of the Commissioner to embody the facts in a special report or bulletin of the department, which will appear at as early a date as possible. This is a subject of absorbing interest to all classes, and in making this investigation the Commissioner feels that he is working in the interest of the unemployed. Such a report as that contemplated, giving the unbiased facts as to the opportunities for the investment of capital and the employment of labor, wages, cost of living, etc., he believes will be of great value to the people of this country.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

As it is probable that the Alaskan furor now developed by these revelations of marvelous mineral riches will secure for that much neglected territory a generous measure of Congressional attention next winter, we give herewith the names of the Committees on Territories and Public Lands appointed by Speaker Reed on July 24, 1897:

Territories—William S. Knox, Massachusetts; P. B. Low, New