

The Klondike.—The far north of Canada was long supposed to be uninhabitable, save for the Eskimo, and to be capable of yielding nothing but fur-bearing animals. In 1896, however, our people were startled by the news that gold mines of almost fabulous richness had been discovered on the Klondike and other tributaries of the Yukon River. The report was true, and thousands of eager miners, through much toil and hardship, soon found their way to this little-visited land. The output of gold has every year amounted to many millions of dollars, sometimes reaching \$10,000,000. In this far-away north-west corner of Canada, almost within the Arctic circle, where a few years ago was but a mining camp, now stands Dawson, a city of eight thousand inhabitants, and equipped with all the conveniences of civilized life.

Defeat of Liberal-Conservatives.—Sir Mackenzie Bowell succeeded Sir John Thompson as Premier. He and his colleagues found the Manitoba school question a most difficult matter to deal with. They attempted to pass a remedial Bill restoring separate schools in Manitoba. For a week the discussion of the Bill was continued day and night without intermission. The Opposition, led by Mr. Laurier (Sir Wilfred), held that such a measure was not necessary. The usual supporters of the Government also were divided on the question. Finally the Government withdrew the Bill. Sir Mackenzie Bowell soon retired from the Government, and Sir Charles Tupper became Premier. A general election followed, resulting in the defeat of the Government.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY.

1. Show how the "National Policy" tends to develop home industries.
2. What objections might be urged against this policy?
3. What are the two chief reasons for imposing high duties on imported goods?
4. Under what conditions would Free Trade best promote the prosperity of a country?
5. Give an example of a great country that has prospered under Free Trade, and of one that has prospered under Protection.
6. What are the duties of the Canadian High Commissioner in London? Name the men who have held this office.