

effort should be made to remove them root and branch. It is pleasing to observe that the Gospel everywhere has proved itself to be the power of God to save. In some districts where tact and determination were needed to secure a foothold we have now self-sustaining congregations.

### THE YUKON DISTRICT.

The Yukon district requires separate treatment. This region lies north of British Columbia and between the Rocky Mountains and Alaska. The United States claims a strip southward along the Pacific Coast from Mt. St. Elias for 400 miles; this makes Yukon a sort of Hinterland, the nearest inlets and harbours being in the disputed area. The district is about 600 miles in length and 500 miles in width; and the gold-bearing belt, according to Ogilvie, about 150 miles wide and 550 or 600 miles long. Access to the country is at all times difficult, and especially in winter, owing to the severity of the climate and the lack of travelling facilities. Miners and supplies are entering the country chiefly by the Taku Inlet, Stikine River, Lynn Inlet and Yukon River. From Lynn Inlet three routes start, from the Pyramid Harbour, Dyea and Skaguay. The White Pass from Skaguay is 2,600 in elevation, and the Chilkoot 1,000 feet more. Owing to distance, numerous bars, and shallow water, the route by the mouth of the Yukon River is not popular.

### MINERS.

In January, February and March 25,000 are said to have entered the Yukon district; and up to the present time 35,000 is the estimate. The defeat of a bill to build a railway between Glenora and Teslin, and the snow slides in the Chilkoot Pass, by which 150 men and 10,000 tons of supplies were swept into the abyss below, checked the inrush till navigation should open.

Unless the wealth of the district is greatly exaggerated, in spite of the hardships to be encountered, gold seekers will steadily flow in, and with them an army of men and women to pander their appetites and passions. This is not a matter of conjecture; sad reports have already come to hand of the doings of vile and villainous scoundrels and of the fall of many of whom better things might have been expected. Their moral deficiencies were forced.

### A PROSPEROUS YEAR.

Since the progress of the Church in the West is somewhat bound up with the material interests of the country, a few general statements will assist in making clear the obligations resting on our Church. Last year was profitable for the farmers of the West; absence of autumn frosts, a fair crop and

good prices enabled Manitoba farmers to realize \$18,000,000 on the year's returns, and those of Eastern Assinibola four or five millions more. By this handsome return debts were wiped out, mortgages lifted, better buildings erected and confidence inspired. The area under crop this year is one-fourth larger than last year, and the prospects are so far cheering.

### IMMIGRANTS.

Last year 9,700 settlers passed through Winnipeg to take up land in Manitoba and the North West. This year, during January, February and March alone over 10,000 passed through, not to speak of 2,500 Canadians who were on their way to the Klondyke. The prospects are that Manitoba and the Territories will get an accession of 20,000 or 25,000 people this year. About one-half of the incomers are English-speaking, from Eastern Canada, the Motherland, or the United States; the others are foreigners from Northern and Central Europe.

The exhaustion of free grant lands in the United States, the restrictions placed on immigration, and the war now being waged between the United States and Spain, will likely divide the stream of emigration from Europe, and send a much larger proportion of it to the shores of Canada. The Teutons, and Scandinavians are, generally speaking, of good physique, industrious, law-abiding, and promise to become good settlers; but strenuous and sustained efforts must be put forth to assimilate and Christianize them, if trouble is to be avoided in the future. The dangers of the Republic to the south, by leaving large masses of population unassimilated, should prove a warning to Canada.

### MORMON SETTLEMENT.

As is known to the Church, there is a considerable colony of Mormons established at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, just north of the International boundary line. On coming to Canada they agreed to observe our laws in the matter of marriage, but, having brought all their wives with them, their circumstances are rather unfavorable to the observance of their pledge.

They have built a temple, got an act of incorporation from the Legislature at Regina by a vote of 14 to 10, in spite of strenuous opposition, and are establishing themselves firmly. They are in close touch with the Mormons of Montana and Utah, who have an army of 1,000 missionaries at work in Europe, the United States and Canada. These missionaries, too, are making converts even in Canada, especially in districts which Christian Churches are neglecting. The Alberta settlement is likely to receive large accessions during the coming summer, and prompt energetic measures are necessary to prevent the spread of this pernicious system.