

Conventions still to be held ought to be visited by delegates from the Alliance and influenced, if possible, on the right side. The leaders of the three parties should now speak out. The Bill as read a second time to the House will form a convenient text for leaders and for the rank and file. And as time is pressing there must be no longer delay. The machinery of the Alliance should be set in motion at once, and if a vigorous campaign be properly conducted, nothing need be lost, by the present withdrawal of the Bill.

#### EDUCATION IN QUEBEC.

THE education bill brought in by the new Quebec Government, after passing the Legislative Assembly by a large majority, has been thrown out by the Council and so the whole matter comes to an end for the present Session. The Bill was one which contemplated placing a responsible Minister in charge of the department, as in Ontario, instead of a Superintendent appointed by the Government. It also somewhat abridged the powers of the Council of Public Instruction, but made little change in other respects. It was a most moderate measure on the whole and certainly was approved by the great majority of the people, both Catholic and Protestant. But it was displeasing to the Bishops, who hitherto have kept the administration of Catholic education almost entirely in their own hands, and they have had influence enough with the members of the irresponsible branch of the Legislature to secure its rejection. This check, however, is certain to be only for the present. The people are determined to have some improvement in the system and the longer the change is delayed the more radical it is likely to be. The bishops have had their chance and have failed to use it aright. It is high time they stepped to one side and allowed the direct representatives of the people to see what they can do. It is significant of much that one of the grounds of opposition to the new measure was a provision that every school commissioner should be able to read and write. A similar proposal was actually thrown out several years ago, for the reason that if enforced there were school districts in which it would be impossible to secure enough adult men to constitute a legal board. It is no wonder the people are tired and ashamed of a system that has made such a state of things possible. The recent bye-elections, after the school policy of the Government was announced, showed very plainly what they thought of it. A few more like them before the next Session would strengthen the hands of the Government and perhaps convince the Legislative Council that it is listening to the wrong advisers. The most ludicrous element in the whole discussion has been the ardor with which the bishops and their representatives in the Legislature have taken the Protestant minority under their protection and have opposed the Bill in their alleged interest. The Protestant minority with few exceptions are too deeply interested in the progress of education to oppose a measure which gives any promise of improvement in the existing condition of things, and unless their rights are directly attacked will cordially support the movement among their Roman Catholic fellow-citizens for the re-construction of the system, so as to be more effective.

#### THE LATEST NEWS FROM KLONDIKE.

REV. C. W. Gordon sends the latest news from Rev. Mr. Dickey, the Klondike Missionary. It will stimulate the interest sought to be maintained by the Home Mission Committee in this new and important field. Mr. Gordon prefaces Mr. Dickey's letter by the following remarks:—

"We ought now to be getting our men selected and ready. By the end of February there will doubtless be

eight or ten points that should be manned, beside many small points for which I fear we cannot care immediately. It will be necessary to have men along both waters, the Skaguay and White Pass and the Stuckeen, where such points as Glenora, Telegraph, Lake Teslin, will demand attention. Mr. Grant passed through yesterday. Four men ought to be now in preparation to go the end of February. We must be on the spot *before the rush* else we shall lose much that can never be recovered. The Church ought to know this—that any slow-going, procrastinating, weak-kneed policy, will simply mean waste of money, loss of prestige, and loss of territory. We should have a special Klondike Fund for the next three years, and that this should be speedily inaugurated. We cannot meet this extraordinary demand by ordinary revenue; and if we took a bold step the Church would support us. The Committee must make the policy and show the need for it and place it before the Church, and I have no doubt the Church will heartily endorse the action of the Committee.

Mr. Dickey writes in the following interesting terms:—

Our Church was dedicated on Sabbath free of debt. The collection on Sabbath more than paid for the seats. Thirty-two joined in celebrating the Lord's Supper. . . . At the social gathering last night the church was more than crowded and many had to go away. We got a flash light photo of part of the people. I had been telling some of them about Dr. Robertson's illness and his interest in the Mission. Mr. Christopher, a Presbyterian elder, moved a resolution sympathizing with him in his sickness, expressing gratitude to him for his prompt action in sending a missionary, and assuring him of their sympathy and aid to the men who may be sent to the interior. It was unanimously passed by standing vote.

I have had a long talk with Mr. King to-day. He is just arrived from Dawson City, having walked all the way. From his report our men will not have great difficulty (except of course the cold) in reaching Lake La Barge. They may get beyond that point but it is possible they may have to wait there till spring, or at any rate leave their stores there. However it will be a great advantage to get that far, for all the dangerous parts of the river will be passed. The river at that point breaks up at least a month sooner than Lake Bennet. There will be large numbers of people camp there all winter, building boats for spring.

Skaguay is on the narrow strip of territory still in dispute between the United States' and Canadian Governments. Meantime Uncle Sam is in possession, and has placed here Custom House offices, a Marshall and a Commissioner.

It is situated at the head of Lynn Canal, about 1000 miles north of Vancouver, B.C. The town nestles in a narrow valley not more than half a mile at its widest part, between two ranges of precipitous mountains. At the head of the valley is the beginning of the now famous Whit Pass. The entire valley was covered with heavy timber four months ago, but it is disappearing so fast that the people are fearing the want of shelter will increase the severity of the storms. The scenery alone of this valley would well repay a visit. Usually it is the rising or setting sun that one admires most. Here it is scarcely noticed. It is the glory of the moonrise that enraptures. As she gradually rises behind the snow clad peak surrounding it with a halo, we often stand gazing at it in rapture, altogether forgetful of the biting blast, sometimes I see not the mountain top in the moonlight, but the Great White Throne of our Ascended Lord, made thus glorious by His presence. And yet within full view of that sight, night after night, men made in the image of God, are defacing that image, drinking and gambling and worse. And after all, what are we doing to save them? Forty houses wherein the agents of Satan use every device for men's destruction. Against that one Christian Missionary and one little church built by the few Christians, in sympathy with his work."