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LONDON'S POLITICAL REFUGEES.

HOW far the extraordinary conflict between the London police and the Scots Guards on one side, and two anarchists on the other, goes to indicate the existence of a general anarchistic conspiracy in London; and how far it indicates a plot to rob and murder under a masquerade of anarchism is hard to determine at the present time. The one thing it shows beyond question is the desperate character of the European criminals to whom the British authorities have extended such unbounded hospitality. They come from countries where life is held very cheaply both by their own class and by the governments and police and military authorities. Familiarity with murder and executions has bred in them contempt for death and their lives have not been such as to create in them much love for life. The hanging, shooting, or beheading of one of their fellows for murder or conspiracy, is a mere incident which arouses but passing if savage interest. They have no property of their own and no respect for the rights of other people's property. They are about as unfit for life in a free country as human beings can be. The only arguments they understand are self-interest, the gratification of animal passions, and physical force. In countless thousands they have sought the shores of England to evade justice or political vengeance in their own countries, and they have taken their brutal, savage instincts and class hatreds with them. If England has had to revert to old age pensions for its own people it is largely due to this influx of foreigners. That there must be a speedy end to this kind of thing is evident; and it will probably be arrived at by withdrawing the right of asylum to political refugees which has been so grossly abused. The urgent need of taking active measures to expel or imprison these anarchists before the coronation is obvious. If two reckless ruffians could hold at bay 1,800 policemen and two companies of Guards for nine hours, what could not some hundreds or thousands of them accomplish on such an occasion as the coronation? We may just as well recognise the fact that London has, through being the only refuge for political criminals, become the very centre of anarchistic activity; and it is fairly evident that the trend of British politics has created the impression among these men that even Great Britain itself is ripe for radical constitutional changes.

INCREASED TAXATION.

BEFORE hastily deciding upon increased taxation, the City Council should insist upon a very full and detailed report upon the city's financial condition; its resources and obligations. Broad generalizations upon such a subject are of no use whatever. If Montreal had a revenue of \$14,000,000 there would be no difficulty spending it and the cry of no money would still be heard in the land. Increased taxation may be justifiable, but it should not be resorted to until it has been demonstrated to be imperatively necessary. The city has incurred certain obligations in connection with the recent annexations, but there seems to be some uncertainty not only as to their extent but as to their effect. For instance, it has to spend \$1,000,000 in three years on streets and sidewalks in Notre Dame de Grace. The estimates in the civic budget should show not only the amount of revenue immediately available through the annexation of the ward, but the probable increase in taxable value which will be caused by the expenditure. If the expenditure of \$1,000,000 is not going to improve the assessed value of the ward, it is a pity to spend the money. There are not enough facts before the Council at present to enable the aldermen to form an intelligent opinion upon the situation and certainly not enough to justify them in rushing into increased taxation. Other methods of an equitable and less burdensome character may be available.

QUEBEC LEGISLATURE.

THE Quebec Legislature will be opened on Tuesday next, by the Chief Justice, Sir Louis Jette, as administrator of the government, in the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir A. P. Pelletier. Not much important government legislation is anticipated, but there are 144 private bills on the programme. The City of Montreal Bill is, however, comprehensive enough to occupy most of the session. The City Council asks for the right to legislate on municipal autonomy; regulation of illuminated signs; qualification of the mayor and aldermen; qualification of electors; elections, voting and polling districts; electoral committees; intelligence bureaux; notices to electors; division of wards having over 6,000 voters; ratification of a resolution