

that the Province had never been fairly asked to adopt the milder measure, and should not be condemned for not passing a measure which the Dominion itself would not pass, but the milder act, not being in execution of the remedial order, would be void. How far the bill differs from the remedial order we have not had time to examine. But it apparently does differ in some respects. And if it differs at all, Manitoba will have a just right to complain that if the Dominion will not go to the extreme length of the remedial order Manitoba should not be blamed for not having done so. Compromise was well suggested and might have been beneficial. But compromise could not be effected with an instrument of jurisdiction retained by the Dominion in the shape of the original remedial order. A moderate measure not completely authorized by the order will also have this effect, that a long course of litigation will be entered on to test its validity, and the sore will remain open.

Ontario's
Legislature.

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario opened on Tuesday afternoon with animated moderation. Though there was nothing startling about the Speech from the Throne it was of decided interest and pitched in the right key. In briefly alluding to the Venezuelan boundary dispute gratification was expressed that the peaceful relations existing between the Empire and the United States were now not likely to be disturbed, but that "in case of any trouble affecting the interests of the Mother Country, no sacrifice which the circumstances might demand would be considered too great by the people of Ontario should they be called upon to repel invasion, or to defend the integrity of the British Empire." This will further emphasize the now famous resolution of Mr. McNeil, which was received with such acclaim in the House of Commons last week. Turning to matters of business, we are pleased to observe an encouraging passage in the Speech respecting the important agricultural concerns of the Province. The farmers "exhibit a growing interest and enthusiasm in every department of agriculture." They attend in large numbers the meetings held for the discussion of agricultural matters. The associations are in a flourishing condition, the dairy schools have proved most effective, "and experiments in fruit-growing and orchard-spraying have been successfully conducted during the past year, and promise good results for the future." Brief mention is made of our mineral wealth. The Speech here scrambles over a very weak spot in the Mowat Administration. It has done very little to further the mining industry, and what it has done has not always been according to knowledge. The Ontario Government should devote less attention to tinkering with our laws, and very much more attention to schemes for developing our mineral resources. There are many bills in preparation, which are to be promptly submitted for consideration. We could probably do very well without the half of them—but that is another story. A matter for general congratulation, and one eminently creditable to the Government is that the total expenditure of the Province was kept well within the appropriation, and that the actual receipts were considerably in excess of the estimate. We wish that Mr. Foster had had a similar report to make. But he had not.

The Imperial
Parliament.

The Queen's Speech at the opening of the Imperial Parliament on Tuesday is of deep interest, concerned as it is with important questions which have attracted world-wide attention. The independence of Siam has been secured by an agreement between England and France, and the frontier which sepa-

rates our Indian Empire and Afghanistan from Russia has been delimited to the satisfaction of Her Majesty and the Czar. The paragraph devoted to the Venezuelan boundary dispute is worth quoting in full, not for what it contains but for what it does not contain. It is a very still, small voice after the storm:

"The Government of the United States of America have expressed a wish to co-operate in the termination of the differences which have existed for many years between my Government and the Republic of Venezuela upon the question of the boundary between that country and British Guiana. I have expressed my sympathy with the desire to come to an equitable arrangement, and trust that further negotiations will lead to a satisfactory settlement."

Reference is made to the fact that the Sultan has sanctioned the reforms in the government of the Armenian Provinces for which England, together with France and Russia, has been pressing. But why rejoice over the sanctioning of reforms if the reforms are not made? The "sudden incursion" into the South African Republic by Dr. Jameson is to be made the subject of a searching enquiry, and Oom Paul is congratulated on the moderation and wisdom he has displayed in dealing with the prisoners. It is believed that he now recognizes "the importance of redressing the legitimate grievances of which complaint has been made by a majority of the persons in the Transvaal." Respecting the armed expedition sent to Ashanti to enforce the conditions of the treaty of 1874 it is stated that "the establishment of efficient British control at Coomassie will put a stop to the barbarous customs which have hitherto prevailed, and have the effect of preventing inter-tribal conflicts, and also tend to benefit the people and the interests of peace and commerce." After remarking that effective control of Chitral has been secured, attention is directed to matters of domestic concern, but not before the extension and improvement of the naval defences of the Empire is named as the most important subject to which Parliament can direct its efforts.

The Projected
Church Congress.

We have received the following letter from a prominent Toronto Anglican who signs himself "Anglicanus" to whose remarks we would call special attention:

"Will you allow one of your readers to draw attention, through your columns, to the projected Church Congress, which may be of interest to others besides members of the Church of England. These congresses have been of the greatest service to the Church in England and in the United States, in helping to reconcile differences and in stimulating clergy and laity to work for the Church.

"The projected Congress is only for the Diocese of Toronto—which is probably a mistake—but at any rate there can be no harm in making a beginning. It is said that the aim of the promoters of the Congress is to obtain the discussion of subjects which cannot well be brought up at Synods; and it must be apparent to any one who attends those august assemblies that their deliberations are not of universal interest.

"That there is need for such assemblies can hardly be called in question if we consider the state of the Church of England in general and the Diocese of Toronto in particular. We have only to refer to the recent charges of the Bishop to be aware that matters are by no means in a prosperous condition financially. Now in a wealthy city like Toronto there can be no difficulty about money, unless something else is wrong. Half a dozen wealthy men could wipe out the liabilities of all the Church Societies in a day without feeling it.

"Well, then, there is need of consideration and deliberation on these subjects. But there are certain things obviously necessary to be kept in mind, if any success is to attend such a gathering. Diligent preparation must be made, the subjects must be carefully selected, men must be chosen