

ments from 1848 onwards, Turkey was intensely popular in England as she found an asylum for the Polish and Hungarian refugees that fled after the fatal battle of Temesvar, Russia and Austria being then as vehemently hated in the old land. There seems a prospect of Greece and Turkey being kept from war by a neutral territory being laid out along their borders from the Aegean to the Ionian sea. As that narrow region is bisected by ranges of mountains the delimitation will be troublesome. Meanwhile Crete remains a human shambles, where scenes are enacted daily that are as horrible as the butcheries of an African savage king. The day of divine vengeance will one day come in which Turkey will cease to threaten the peace of Europe and to scandalize humanity. When the Crescent sinks it will go down in blood.

#### The Opening of Parliament.

The Parliament of the Dominion was opened with customary pomp, on the 25th March. The speech from the Throne opened by stating that arrangements had been made for an effective representation of the Dominion in connection with the commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee, at the Capital of the Empire. The hope was expressed that the Manitoba school settlement would prove the beginning of a new era characterized by mutual concessions and reciprocal good will. The new Tariff was alluded to as meant to provide the necessary revenue while having due regard to our interests. The enlargement of the St. Lawrence canals was stated to be contemplated so as to have them perfected in 1898. An extension of the Intercolonial railway system to reach Montreal was announced. A hope was expressed that, through the labors of the Behring sea claims commission a final and satisfactory adjudication of these claims will soon be reached. In regard to the Indian famine His Excellency said the generosity of Canadians had been gratefully acknowledged by the Government of India and the Imperial authorities.

The speech concluded with a hope that the new Tariff will restore the equilibrium between receipts and expenditure, the year's revenue being inadequate to meet the annual charges. The Session, we believe, will be both stormy and protracted, unless the early advent of the Diamond Jubilee acts as an emollient on the combative temper of the Opposition, and serves to check the verbosity of the members on both sides. It is much to be desired that prorogation should be reached in time for the Premier to be in London on that auspicious occasion, and the members at home to share in local celebrations. In the Senate the motion for adopting the Address was moved by the Honble. George A. Cox, who in his maiden speech as a Senator proved his ability to take a prominent position in the discussions and deliberations of the Senate. His treatment of the tariff question was statesmanlike by distinguishing so clearly between what was theoretically sound, and what was desirable or even practicable under the present conditions of Canada. Senator Cox was highly complimented on both sides of the House.

#### INSURANCE JINGOS IN THE UNITED STATES.

For some time past there has been a party in insurance circles both in England and in the United States, which has been more or less hostile toward companies from other countries, whenever they have sought these fields as competitors. In England the objectors are in a hopeless minority, and the same is evidently true in the United States, but in the latter this minority is always active and sometimes noisy, and by reason of the fact that the admission of insurance companies and their regulation is committed to the several States and not to the general Government, the opportunity for the active opponents of foreign companies to make a noise disproportionate to their real influence is exceptionally favorable. In both England and the United States the opponents of foreign competition are from the managerial ranks of the home companies and not from the public at large. But even among company officials and field men the majority are tolerant of foreign companies duly authorized and safely equipped for business, and the prevailing feeling is for "a fair field and no favor."

There are, however, in the United States certain officials of American fire insurance companies who have for some time been known for their pernicious activity in the instigation of legislation by the several States discriminating against foreign companies. Considerably more than a year ago we had occasion to chronicle the drafting of a proposed law, a copy of which was sent to the members of several State legislatures, providing for a tax of *ten per cent.* on the gross premiums of foreign companies, most of which were of course from Great Britain and Canada, while the tax on American companies was to be only two and a half per cent. *on net receipts* from premiums, *i.e.*, on premiums after deducting all losses and management expenses. Mr. Henry Evans, the vice-president of the Continental Fire, of New York, was the reputed author of the proposed law. Nothing came of the proposition, for its manifest injustice and bad policy from a revenue-raising standpoint were so manifest that no State legislature seriously contemplated its enactment into law; especially as the insurance press, which viewed the whole question with broad-minded impartiality, opposed it.

The same old question of discrimination has been up again during the past few weeks, taking definite form in one State Legislature, that of Kansas. There the insurance jingos found congenial soil in the populist material of which the legislature was composed in which to sow the seeds of hostility to the foreign companies. A bill was introduced and for a brief time seriously considered to tax all foreign companies five per cent. on gross premiums, and American companies two and a half per cent. on net receipts. A short time sufficed to show the members of the legislature that such a law would produce less revenue to the State than the present law, which taxes all companies alike, and the bill was easily killed. Mr. E. F. Beddall, of New York, the manager of the