

who has yet undertaken to bring Russia into a more reasonable condition. The Czar is wholly incapable of placating his angry subjects. They have no leader, no definite policy, no political programme; they seem swayed by violent emotions rather than clear ideas as to what they wish. The riots in several cities accompanied by wholesale massacres are not the outcome of any rational political aspirations. Racial passions are not in harmony with a longing for civil and political liberty. How can murdering Jews promote the cause of constitutional Government? One of the first effects of destroying despotism in England was to give larger freedom and more protection to the Jews in London.

WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR RUSSIAN'S DISORDERS?—One cannot but hold the ruling classes in Russia responsible to a very lamentable extent for the disorders in that country. They for generations have been in circumstances which ought to have rendered them the leaders of the people in the path leading to higher civilization and to wider political liberty. We fear they have been following the example of the aristocracy of France before the turmoil of the revolution, instead of taking their fate as a wholesome warning against wealth and power being divorced from public duty and the service of humanity.

THE NEED OF THE HOUR IN RUSSIA is some strong statesman of national reputation, who will be courageous enough to declare positively that constitutional Government is established and that the people are called upon to exercise their franchise and enjoy the civil, political, religious freedom conferred upon them.

AS TO POLAND.—It is hopeless to expect Russia to take any step towards restoring the independence of Poland. Germany and Austria would have to join in that action to make it effective. We fear Poland is only a memory, so far as nationality is concerned. Its autonomy was buried with Kosciuszko.

TAX ON COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS.—The Council of the Board of Trade, the Toronto Board of Trade, and other bodies have condemned the imposition of a tax in this province on Commercial Travellers. Like the transfer stamp tax, this tax on Commercial Travellers seems designed to obstruct the transaction of business. Taxation of this nature is utterly out of place in a province which depends for its welfare upon commercial and financial business. To promote these interests should be the first care of the Government, to injure them is a deplorable mistake.

MESSRS. HYDE AND HARRIMAN.—The proceedings before the insurance investigating committee have

been chiefly interesting this week, owing to the evidence given by Mr. Hyde, which called out contradictory testimony by Mr. Harriman. Probably they were both not over-anxious to reveal more than was necessary to bring their part of the enquiry to an end.

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MR. CHAMBERLAIN REPRESENTED.—Mr. Hewins, who is secretary of the Tariff Association of Great Britain, which is associated with the Hon. Mr. Chamberlain's movement for Imperial Preferential Trade, delivered an address on 16th inst., before a representative gathering at the Board of Trade. The address was moderate in tone. Mr. Hewins is an ardent believer in the practicability of establishing certain lines of preferential tariffs within the Empire.

The British Commission now enquiring into the conditions of British trade with a view to ascertaining what ideas are prevalent, and what changes are desired, is publishing the evidence in sections as that relating to each interest is completed. He advises Canadians to be ready. He believes Mr. Chamberlain will come into power in two years.

The address was able and cordially received by an appreciative and sympathetic audience.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Robert Meighen in his usual fluent and vigorous style. It was seconded by Mr. George E. Drummond, in a concise and practical speech.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

CONNECTICUT INSURANCE REPORT 1905. Part 1. Fire and Marine. The 126 fire insurance companies transacting business in Connecticut received \$187,985,217 in premiums last year and paid \$126,765,251 for losses. The Commissioner, Mr. Thorn Upson, considers that in the lines of this inspection, greater care of buildings and more efficient fire protection rather than on "valued-policy loans" will be found a partial remedy at least for burdensome rates of insurance.

AGRICULTURE & COLONIZATION. Report of Standing Committee, 1904. This Blue Book comprises various publications on agriculture and the testimony relating thereto given by experts before the Committee. An explanation of the Metric system given by Professor McLennan, Toronto University, before the Committee, forms part of the report, with the reasons given for its adoption in Canada. It would have been well to have presented the objections to this change. The reports on the climatic and other conditions of the North West Territories, etc., are more interesting and of great value.

CONNECTICUT INSURANCE REPORT 1904. Part 2. Life, Accident, Casualty, Fidelity and Sure-