

# THE WEEK.

Vol. XIII.

Toronto, Friday, December 6th, 1895.

No. 2.

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## Current Topics.

**The European Situation.**

We have more than once ventured the opinion that there would be no "European concert" as they call it, when matters with regard to Turkey came to a climax. The news from Europe is exceedingly disquieting. We cannot repress a feeling of regret that England did not do some months ago what she will have to do before long, and that is, lay her fleet before Constantinople as she did before Alexandria. Then, the defences were feeble—now they are formidable. To-day the appearance of even a single ship at the entrance of the straits will be the signal for a storm of shot and shell. Then the Sultan would have been glad of English support. Now he or his creatures have been taught to be afraid of it. The point of the whole dispute is: Shall England or Russia be first in Constantinople? Whoever holds Constantinople holds India. The other nations are bystanders in this dispute. Whichever of the rivals bids highest for her support will get it. Germany holds the key of that situation. We have constantly urged that England should secure Germany's alliance, or at all events her absolute neutrality. Combined with Italy, England and Germany could defy Europe and dictate their own terms. If Germany would agree to resuscitate Poland and get as a compensation the German states of Austria she would create a barrier state between herself and Russia which would prevent any attack by the latter and give herself a faithful ally. The danger from Russia to England's possessions in the East is very real indeed, and the present symptoms are that Russia has for the moment checked England's Queen on the European chess-board. When this hurly-burly's done and the battle lost and won the world's history will have had some new and exciting pages added to it.

**The High Commissioner.**

It is announced that Sir Charles Tupper will leave England for Canada to-morrow. The Premier has stated that there is no political significance to be attached to this interesting visit; the High Commissioner comes only to discuss with the Government the Atlantic steamship service and the Pacific cable

project. All the negotiations regarding the establishment of a fast line between Canada and Great Britain have been carried on through Sir Charles since the holding of the Ottawa Conference last year. It is hoped that his visit will be productive of much good and that the negotiations will be advanced by a very appreciable step.

**An Outsider's Opinions**

We publish to-day in another column a remarkable article against annexation, by the editor of a leading New York journal.

He signs himself an "Outsider"—which he is in truth, being neither a Canadian nor an Englishman. Coming from the source it does this contribution will attract wide attention. But we can assure "Outsider" that Canadians have no intention of ever changing their political allegiance. British subjects we are to-day and British subjects we will remain so long as the Empire endures.

**Pacific Cable Conference.**

The subjects with which the proposed Pacific Cable Conference will be asked to deal are the comparative cost and length

of the different routes; the probable cost of maintaining the cable constructed by the different routes; the sources of business and the probable revenue; whether the cable should be constructed by a company receiving a subsidy, or by one or more of the Governments interested; and whether the cable should be operated by the Governments. This comprehensive programme will bring together all the points that must be considered before the question can be dealt with by the respective Governments. The difficulties in the way of carrying out the great project are many and formidable, but we have no doubt whatever that the scheme is possible, and that the cable will be laid before many months have passed away.

**A Happy Proposal.**

The capital suggestion of The Mail and Empire that the Prince of Wales should be invited to perform the inaugural ceremonies in connection with the opening of the new Court House and City Buildings of Toronto is one that has been received with marks of universal satisfaction and approval.

The year 1897 is to be an interesting one in Toronto even if no member of the Royal family should come. The meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science is to be held here in the month of August of that year, and the exhibition of the Canadian Historical Association, the scope and objects of which have already been treated of in the columns of THE WEEK, will then open its doors. We are promised, therefore, attractions of a very important nature apart from any civic ceremony. There is no doubt, however, that the occasion would be a very favourable one for the bestowal of a little Imperial attention on Canada. This is an important Colony and its interests must naturally take a foremost place in any systematic consideration of the dependencies of the Crown. Then we have in the Colonial Secretary one who is a man of action, and who, while ambitious and resourceful, is known to be *persona grata* to the Queen and other members of the royal household. As for the benefit that a visit from the heir apparent would be to this city that needs but little enlarging upon. It would make the year 1897 a red letter year in our local calendar. The number of visitors that would be attracted to Toronto