

of the press, may, however, prove troublesome; though it is confidently expected that a course of action on all points acceptable to the delegates will be reached, and ratified by their respective governments. How effective it will prove in practice has, of course, to be known, but it may be doubted whether any of the repressive measures to be discussed by the conference will serve greatly to diminish the special danger threatening the lives of the great. Expulsion, for example, will only tend to band the anarchists together in safe places until their opportunity comes, while as for anarchist literature, while it may increase discontent, it does not of itself give the impulse to murder. The really effective method is to watch all anarchists suspected to be really dangerous—their number must be few—and when their plots approach maturity, to punish them as for any other plot to murder.

#### THE CONFERENCE ON ANARCHY

IT was to be expected that some international action for the repression of anarchy would follow the assassination of the Austrian Empress and the anarchist plot against the German Emperor. Although popular belief in the divine right of kings is no longer strong, the majority of civilized mankind still believes in kingship as the best, or at all events, a useful, instrument for securing good government. They do not expect the king to be himself the government, but to prevent misgovernment, to keep the balance even between the classes which want to rule, and the body of the people, to act as an impartial arbitrator when difficulties arise. The kings accept this function, but their efforts to perform it are seriously handicapped by the attempts of anarchists to assassinate them, which restrict their movements and necessitate precautions which prevent them from learning by actual contact with their people what they desire. As there is no reason to believe that the number of anarchists will diminish, but rather that with the growing resentment against poverty it will increase, the European governments have, therefore, called an international conference to devise means for their repression. This conference met in Rome on the 24th ult., and in order to expedite its work and avoid being swamped in a sea of discussion, its deliberations are to be limited to five topics, only one of which is likely to involve any extended debate. These topics are, briefly stated, the definition of anarchists and anarchy, expulsion and extradition of anarchists, the suppression of anarchist literature, prevention of publicity of the sayings and deeds of anarchists, and the form of punishment of anarchist crime. The second topic, as raising the question whether known anarchists shall be subject to extradition without the commission of crime, whether a state shall have the right merely to expel them, or must hand them over to the government to which they were originally subject, will no doubt provoke the widest difference of opinion. The prevention of the anarchist propaganda through the suppression of anarchist literature and speech, as affecting freedom of speech and