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The Canada School Journal and Weekly Review.

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and a staff of competent Provincial editors.

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—O—T E R M S.—O—

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The World.

The war, if such it may be called, on the isthmus of Panama is still going on. If our readers should ask what it is all about, it would be impossible to tell them. As to the principles involved, there are none, so far as an observer can discover. It seems to be a case of fighting from the love of it, or from sheer turbulence. It seemed, a week or two since, as if the United States would be drawn in to settle the difficulty. The steamer "Acapulco" landed a strong force of American marines and sailors at Panama on the 21st ult., and there were four or five American war vessels in the ports of Panama and Aspinwall. The admiral commanding telegraphed that the landing of troops was absolutely necessary to protect transit and American property. They were, however, withdrawn on the following day, on the assurance of the rebel general, who had control of the city, that he would be responsible for its security.

Once more there seems hope of a peaceful solution of the Anglo-Russian difficulty. If, as now reported, the Czar has accepted the arbitration proposed by Lord Granville, and submits the question in good faith, a great triumph of civilization will have been achieved. Nothing can be fairer, or more practical, than such a means of settling an international difficulty. It has been pretty evident all along that the British ministry did not accept Sir Peter Lumsden's version of the Pendjeh affair as absolutely final and unassailable. There is no doubt a strong desire for war on the part of many British officers in India, and if Gen. Lumsden is of the number it is but reason that some allowance for possible prejudice should be made and his representations accepted with a grain of salt. In any case the British ministry deserve credit for their moral courage in resisting popular clamour and determining to sift facts to the bottom before plunging the nation into all the horrors of such a war.

The slow progress thus far made in suppressing the insurrection in the Northwest may be unavoidable, but it is very unfortunate. The half-breed leaders chose their time well, no doubt. They counted beforehand on all the difficulties in the movements of troops, and the transport of supplies, which a Northwest spring would bring. It is very easy to be wise after the event, but yet it does appear as if the supplies for General Middleton's command should not have been trusted to the uncertainties of early navigation of the Saskatchewan, if there was any possibility of sending them through by a surer route. It is, of course, possible that the delay may prove serviceable in giving the rebels time to think, and also in exhausting their slender stores. But it is rather to be feared that they will regard it as the weakness of hesitation or fear, and take courage to strengthen their position and prolong the deplorable struggle.

The Canadian public are shortly to be edified by a public platform discussion of a most important question. Certain leading advocates of the Scott Act, or of total prohibition, have challenged certain other representatives of the lately formed Liberal Temperance Union, to an open debate upon the principles at issue. The challenge has been accepted. We do not, of course, know who are to be the chief spokesmen, or how far they may be respectively accepted as representatives of the views they are to advocate. It would seem necessary, if the discussion is to have weight, that the speakers should be well matched, should have thoroughly studied the subject in all its bearings, and should be able and trained logicians. But there are no more important questions to-day before the Canadian people than whether prohibition can be enforced, and whether the substitution of beer and wine for ardent spirits could be relied on to greatly reduce drunkenness. As we have before pointed out the question now left is simply that of expediency, of what is practicable. The principle of prohibition is conceded by both parties. Every friend of sobriety should read and inwardly digest the arguments.