

The Canada Citizen

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

A Journal devoted to the advocacy of Prohibition, and the promotion of social progress and moral Reform.

Published every Friday by the

CITIZEN PUBLISHING COMPANY,

OFFICE, 8 KING STREET EAST, TORONTO.

Subscription, ONE DOLLAR A YEAR, strictly in advance.

CLUB RATES.

The Canada Citizen is published at an exceedingly low figure, but as some of our friends have asked for Special Club Rates, we make the following offer:—We will supply

5 copies.....	one year for \$4 00.
12 ".....	" " 9 00.
20 ".....	" " 14 00.

Subscribers will oblige by informing us at once of any irregularities in delivery.

Subscriptions may commence at any time.

Agents Wanted Everywhere.

—o—

All communications should be addressed to

F. S. SPENCE, - - - MANAGER.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, MAY 15TH, 1885.

We send this week to a great many of our subscribers extra parcels of specimen copies of *The Canada Citizen*. Our friends will very much oblige us, and also aid the good cause materially, if they will kindly distribute these extra copies, at once, among persons who will be likely to become subscribers.

MEN, WOMEN, AND THINGS IN GENERAL.

The clearest explanation of the Anglo-Russian complication I have yet seen is contained in a letter from Lieut.-Colonel R. D. Osborn, in the *New York Nation*, of April 30. The writer is a well-known English contributor to the magazines on military subjects, on which he is entitled to speak with some authority, and he has evidently made a long and minute study of the Indian problem. If his contention is correct, then England is in a position well-nigh untenable on military no less than on ethical grounds, and the sooner she withdraws altogether from Afghanistan, provided she can do so without any injury to her prestige with the natives of Hindostan, the better.

Col. Osborn explains in his letter that there have always been two lines of policy advocated by opposing parties in the East Indian administration. Sir John Lawrence, Sir James Outram, and other eminent civilians and soldiers, have steadily maintained that the Indus river is India's natural frontier, and that if the British people would only recognize this fact, and act on it, their Indian Empire would be invulnerable, even if Russia should appear on the southern instead of the northern border of Afghanistan. To reach the Indus, the Russian army would have to cross well-nigh a thousand miles of territory peopled by mountain tribes, while Britain must project her forces across half this distance in order to meet Russia at Herat. The true policy, these officers argued, was to leave the Afghans alone, cultivate their friendship, respect their independence, and aid them in maintaining it as against Russia, should the latter attack them. This policy strikes the unprejudiced observer as a common sense one, unless the aim is to acquire possession of Afghanistan with a view to adding it to the Indian Empire.

The other party in India, made up largely of scions of aristocracy and of military men eager for some relief from the monotony of Indian garrison life, have always resented the "masterly inactivity" policy, though it was favored by veteran military officers like Sir James Outram and Sir Charles Napier. They have maintained that Herat is the natural gate of India, which must be kept closed against any invader from the north if India was to be secure. They could not, even when their counsels were in the ascendant, attempt to garrison Herat with a British force, but as far back as 1838 they induced the British Government through the medium of the Governor-General, Lord Auckland, to invade Afghanistan for the purpose of dethroning one native Amir, and setting up another in his place. The terrible massacre of 12,000 troops in the Khoord Pass gave the Jingo meddlers a lesson, which should have sufficed for all time. The "forward" policy fell into the background for forty years, but it was recently revived by Lord Beaconsfield, who went to war with Afghanistan for the purpose of creating a "scientific" frontier, and by Lord Lytton who, as Governor-General of India, put himself in the hands of the official party, who were eager for a northward extension. The invasion of 1878 resulted in the deposition of Shir Ali, the elevation of Abd-al-Rahman to the Amirship, the payment of an annual subsidy of \$300,000 to enable him to maintain himself in office, and the obligation to defend against Russian aggression a ruler who is not the choice of his own people, and who may not be able to control them.

It is greatly to be regretted that those who are determined to have for England a spirited foreign policy, without reference to the right or the wrong of the quarrel, have still so much influence with national councils. Whether matters will be improved in this respect after the extension of the franchise takes effect remains to be seen, but there is a strong probability that the English democracy, who, in the long-run, have to pay the bills, will be less ready than the classes above to engage in needless wars of conquest or aggression. Even the preparations already made, though not a shot be fired, will entail a heavy expenditure in the face of a deficient revenue, and divert the national energies for a time from useful reforms at home to useless efforts abroad. The worst of the situation is, that when the line of delimitation between Afghanistan and Russia is fixed, Great Britain will be not unjustly held by Russia responsible for the conduct of turbulent and predatory tribes over whom she has no control. The Afghans may at any time engage in a conflict with their old-time neighbors, the Turcomans, may follow them into Russian territory, may even assail and plunder them there. This may lead to reprisals from the Russians and to renewed international troubles, all of which Col. Osborn shows, might easily have been avoided had common sense, not to speak of common honesty, been allowed to sway East Indian counsels. It is doubtful whether at this time Lord Dufferin is the best man to fill the position of Governor-General of India. He is himself one of the "forwards," though a man of too large calibre to be their puppet, as Lord Lytton was.

One of the outcomes of the threatened Anglo-Russian war is likely to be such a change in the navigation laws of the United States as will enable Americans to purchase English vessels and register them under the stars and stripes. Should war be declared at once President Cleveland may call a special session of Congress and propose in a special message the repeal or modification of the navigation laws. If war is temporarily averted the effect of its apparent inevitability will probably be the repeal of these same laws during the next regular session. The danger to merchant vessels under the British flag would be very great at a time when Russian privateers were at large in considerable numbers, and owners would be glad to sell or transfer them. If any other nation must divide the carrying trade of the world with old England let it by all means be our American cousins, who have for a generation tied their own hands by navigation laws too absurd for even medieval enactment. These laws would have been repealed long ago but for the fear that other protectionist measures would follow them. The fear is, no doubt, well founded, but this does not prevent journals of all political shades from advocating the immediate repeal of the fettering laws, and even an immediate special session of Congress for the purpose. Possibly the next year or two may witness an economical revolution on this continent, if not a political one.

ONLOOKER.