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SIXTH YEAR.

IS IT WAR?

Russia Attacks and De-feats the Afghans.

EXPLANATIONS DEMANDED

Reported Occupation of Penjdeh.

ASCENE IN THE COMMONS

Mr. Gladstone Declares the Assault Unjustifiable.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

The Premier's Firmness Generally Praised.

EXCITEMENT EVERYWHERE.

Russia's Account of the Conflict.

THE AFGHANS AT FAULT.

England Demands That General Komaroff be Withdrawn - Anti-Russian Feeling in Parliament - Lord Dufferin's Agreement with the Amir.

LONDON, April 9.

The Russian government has announced that it has occupied Penjdeh, a strategic point on the Afghan frontier. This move has caused a great deal of excitement in England, and the government has demanded explanations from the Russian side. Lord Dufferin, the British ambassador in St. Petersburg, has been seen by the press, and it is believed that he has been instructed to demand the withdrawal of the Russian forces from Penjdeh. The Russian government has refused to do so, and has declared that the occupation of Penjdeh is a necessary step in the course of its operations in Afghanistan. The Russian government has also announced that it has captured a large number of British soldiers and officers, and that it has taken possession of a large amount of British arms and ammunition. The Russian government has also announced that it has captured a large number of British soldiers and officers, and that it has taken possession of a large amount of British arms and ammunition.

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AMER STRONGLY FAVORING AN ALLIANCE WITH THE BRITISH, THE LATTER TO SUPPLY AFGHANISM WITH ARMS AND AMMUNITION, AND TO INCREASE HER ANNUAL SUBSIDY. THESE CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY LORD DUFFERIN. THE AMIR EXPRESSED FEARS THAT THE ENTRY OF BRITISH TROOPS INTO AFGHAN TERRITORY WOULD REVEAL THE ANTI-PATHY CAUSED BY FORMER WARS. LORD DUFFERIN REPLIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF SENDING TROOPS INTO THE AFGHAN FRONTIER UNLESS THE AFGHANS SO DESIRED, AND THAT IN ANY CASE ENGLAND WOULD FEEL HER PLEDGE TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE AMIR'S DOMINIONS.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

LONDON, April 9.—The Echo (radical) thinks war inevitable. The Pall Mall Gazette says: "If the aggression was unprovoked we shall go sorrowfully, but reluctantly, over to the St. James Gazette heads its leading article: "War begun." The Times says: "The dignity nor the interests of the British empire can be served by wrangling in parliament. Mr. Gladstone's speech on Monday was worthy of England's representative. If it did not breathe defiance it had the ring of constraint, and it was a warning to the British government not to engage in a war which would be a disaster to the British Empire."

THE MORNING PRESS DECLARS WITHOUT EXCEPTION THAT THE AMIR HAS BEEN FORCED TO ENGAGE IN A WAR WHICH HE DOES NOT DESIRE.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH SAYS: "UNLESS REPARATION IS AFFORDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR DISTINCT AND STERN DEMANDS, THE WAR WILL CONTINUE TO INFLAME THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE OF BOTH COUNTRIES."

LATER IN THE EVENING MR. GLADSTONE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED ANOTHER TELEGRAM FROM SIR PETER LAMSDEN STATING THAT WHEN THE RUSSIAN THROAT WAS ATTACKED THE AFGHAN POSITION BY ADVANCING IN FORCE ON AK-TAP THE AFGHANS THREW OUT VINDICTIVE AND EXTENDED THEIR PICKETS TO PULI-KHISTAN ON THE LEFT BANK OF THE KHUKH RIVER, AND GRADUALLY STRENGTHENED THE POSITION, UNTIL ON MARCH 30 THE BULK OF THEIR FORCE HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED ACROSS THE RIVER. SIR PETER LAMSDEN CONSIDERS THIS MOVEMENT DID NOT CONSTITUTE AN ACTUAL ADVANCE ON THE PART OF THE AFGHANS, BUT WAS MERELY THE RESULT OF A STRATEGIC ADVANTAGEOUS MILITARY POSITION.

MR. GLADSTONE APPEARED ANXIOUS AND CAREFUL.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL ON ENTERING THE HOUSE WAS WARMLY GREETED BY BOTH CONSERVATIVE AND LIBERAL MEMBERS.

THE GENERAL OPINION EXPRESSED IN THE LOBBY WAS THAT NOTHING CAN PREVENT WAR.

THE OUTLOOK IN GENERAL.

LONDON, April 9.—The government believes that Sir Peter Lamsden is at Herat, which he will fortify and hold if necessary against the Russians. The ordinary defences of Herat are in good condition. It is believed that the promised orders to have the Russian advance stopped, which Baron De Giers gave assurance he would send, were so managed that they did not reach the headquarters of Gen. Komaroff until after his attack upon the Afghans.

A LETTER FROM MESEH, MARCH 7, STATES THAT IT WAS THEN RUMORED THAT THE AFGHANS HAD PLUNGED THE AFGHAN CAMP, BUT THE RUSSIAN LOSSES ARE SAID TO BE GREAT. THE BRITISH OFFICERS REMAINED UNTIL THE AFGHANS EFFECTED A REFUGES, WHEN THEY JOINED SIR PETER LAMSDEN'S CAMP.

AN ALLIANCE DESPATCH STATES THAT KOMAROFF, AFTER HIS VICTORY, COMPILED PENJDEH, WHICH HAS LONG BEEN HELD BY AN AFGHAN GARRISON. IT IS FEARED A BRITISH OFFICER WHO CARRIED THE BRITISH OFFICERS AWAY WISH THEM.

A RUSSIAN VERSION.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 9.—The Official Messenger publishes the following: Gen. Komaroff reports that in consequence of the hostile manifestations of the Afghans he was compelled to attack them on March 30. The Afghans were posted on both banks of the river Khukh, in fortified positions. The Afghan force consisted of 4000 men with eight guns. The Afghans were defeated with a loss of 300. All the British soldiers were killed. The Afghans were captured. The Russian losses were one officer, three subalterns and 100 soldiers. When the fighting ended and all the provisions were captured, the Russian loss one officer, three subalterns and 100 soldiers. When the fighting ended and all the provisions were captured, the Russian loss one officer, three subalterns and 100 soldiers.

THE ATTACK UNJUSTIFIABLE.

LONDON, April 9.—In the house of commons this afternoon Mr. Gladstone confirmed the intelligence of the battle between the Russians and the Afghans, and said from the information which the government had received, the Russians have apparently been guilty of an unjustifiable attack on the Afghans. England has demanded from Russia full explanations regarding the affair. The government had received no information corroborative of the report that the Russians had occupied Penjdeh.

MR. GLADSTONE SAID THE CABINET ON SATURDAY CONSIDERED THE QUESTION OF THE GRAVE OCCURRENCE JUST REPORTED.

CONTINUING MR. GLADSTONE SAID IT WAS EVIDENT THE RUSSIANS HAD ATTACKED THE AFGHANS AND THAT THE AFGHANS HAD BEEN DEFEATED AFTER A GALLANT RESISTANCE. IT WAS APPARENT ALSO THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE DEMANDING THAT THE AFGHANS BE RESTORED TO THE LEFT BANK OF THE KHUKH RIVER, WHICH WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO A RETIREMENT TO THEIR FORMER POSITION. THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THE RUSSIANS MADE EVERY ENDEAVOR TO INDUCE THE AFGHANS TO BEGIN THE FIGHTING. RUSSIAN TROOPS HAD TWICE ATTEMPTED TO FORCELY PASS THROUGH THE AFGHAN PICKET LINES. AFTER THESE ATTEMPTS HAD FAILED TO PROVOKE THE AFGHAN CAPT. VATES TOLD THE RUSSIAN CHIEF OF STAFF THAT THE CONDUCT OF THE RUSSIAN SOLDIERS WAS AN EVIDENT VIOLATION OF THE RUSSIAN AGREEMENT NOT TO CROSS THE AFGHAN FRONTIER.

THE AGREEMENT WITH THE AMIR.

BOMBAY, April 9.—A Rawal Pindi despatch says the conference between Lord Dufferin and the amir has resulted in the

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GEN. MIDDLETON OBJECTS TO EMPLOYING THE BLACKFEET AGAINST THE CREES OR VICE VERSA, BECAUSE ENGLAND WOULD NOT APPROVE OF SUCH A COURSE. THE GENERAL IS SERVING CANADA JUSTLY.

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THE TORONTO WORLD.

A One-Cent Morning Newspaper. OFFICE: 15 KING ST. EAST, TORONTO. W. F. MACLENN, PUBLISHER.

FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 10, 1915.

Russia Begins War. It is barely possible that war between Great Britain and Russia will be averted.

There are now more than two million bushels of goods in merchantable wheat stored in elevators at Fort William.

It is not likely that the dominion government will have the courage to do justice to the Northwest by making eastern Canada a market for its wheat.

All this time the attitude which Turkey may assume towards England and Russia respectively is of immense importance.

It was on Thursday, March 26, that the British reserves were called out. General Komaroff reports that "in consequence of hostile mobilization by the Russians."

The trouble in the Northwest has been aggravated. The Globe in its anxiety to urge the government to plead on the side of the Mall, anxious to play the role of a journal with a corps of war correspondents.

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NOTE THE DIFFERENCE.

In the literature of insurance, it is a matter of course to show the difference between the first few years of the life of a man and the last few years of his life.

THE EXTRA LIFE.

Every man who lives for a term of years, and the policy expires before he has reached the age of 70, is liable to be disappointed.

PLUMBING.

JOHN SIM, LATE OF QUINCY & SIM, Plumber and Sanitary Engineer, Steam and Hot Water Heating, etc.

Edward Gegg & Co.

66 ADELAIDE ST. EAST. Rents and debts collected. Money advanced on goods.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

The Great Canadian Route to and from the Ocean for Speed, Comfort and Safety is UNRIVALLED.

ENGLISH TOTAL.

CHEDDAR CHEESE. English White Leaf Cheddar Cheese. Parmesan Cheese.

LEATHER BELTING.

Hudson's Bay Stock bought for cash or on margin. Patent Stitches, Steam Machine Stretched.

ROBERT ELDER.

Carriage and Wagon Builder, GENERAL BLACKSMITH.

PERKINS' PHOTOS.

Studio, 293 YONGE STREET. Established 1862. T. H. BILLS, GENERAL FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHER.

JURY & AMES.

Tailors, 83 Bay Street. Have just opened their Imported Full Stock of Suits.

ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

A steamer sailed for Aspinwall from New York yesterday with 450 troops and six guns.

A prayer book was offered for a drink at a Lowell, Mass., saloon recently by a man who stated that he was out of money and had no anything else that he could pawn.

Referring to the willingness of the Ojibwa Indians to fight in defence of the British Empire, a meeting at York, Ont., held at the residence of the Hon. J. H. Ross, M.P., on the 2nd inst.

It seems that America is not the only country in which diplomats may be obtained without any special preparation.

The Russian of the Baltic provinces have not been slow in following the example of the English market with their own supplies of the English market with their own supplies of the English market.

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