

point of view, assumes the role of a philosopher and gives us a passage on naval armaments, to show that a military road would be useless, and then diverges into social ethics to prove that it is unnecessary. He says ; page 10 :—"In 1848 Major Robinson recommended the Northern Route on military grounds, since then, from the revolution in *Naval Armament*, its claim has entirely disappeared. Then it would have been comparatively safe from attack from the water ; now, from gunboats, steam frigates and armor plated ships, for seven months of the year, it would be exposed to the enemy.

" *Treaties* and Orders in Council have thrown open the waters of the Gulf and Bay to the world.

" There are no grounds of alarm from our American neighbours. Their Commercial and other interests are so much in common with ours, and like ours, all on the side of peace, that should any disturbing element arise, it will be disposed of in the future as in the past, by the pen and not the sword.

" Better then accept the situation at once, and build the line on a *commercial basis*, knowing that as a military work, should war occur, it would be in danger wherever placed. If constructed as a military road, it would *invite* attack ; while, as a commercial enterprise, its peaceful mission would be its *shield*."

This is the flimsy reasoning used by Mr. Lawrence to make us lose sight of the very consideration which first suggested the road. His wish to deceive is apparent in the very first line of this extract. He says : " Major Robinson *recommended* the Northern route on " military grounds ; " thus conveying the idea that among several routes, Major R. *advised* the Northern route for military reasons, when he well knew, or at least every one else well knew, that the sole object of Major Robinson's survey was to find a suitable route for a military road, and that this has never been lost sight of either by the British or Provincial Governments, is just as well known to every one but Mr. Lawrence. The late Duke of Newcastle, when Colonial Secretary, said emphatically, in the course of conversation with the delegates, that no line which did not secure the advantages of a safe military road would ever receive the assent of