

a lasting peace by reason of there being no other nation to quarrel with. It would be well if this society were to spend the money they put into this foolish and useless literature in buying food for the Belgians, who are now being starved to death by Germany's brutality and its breach of international obligations. These peace papers and the proceedings of peace societies, such as the above, are now a ghastly farce and a cruel joke.

In another place (post p. 70) we refer to the death and give a sketch of the life of a frequent and valued contributor to our pages, William Edward O'Brien, LL.B. Though a member of the legal fraternity he was more widely known to the public in the ways there spoken of.

Correspondence.

ROYAL BANK CASE.

SIR,—Permit me to say a few words in reply to Mr. Lefroy.

He takes exception to my saying that it was "a curious phenomenon that any astute and clear-minded lawyer should entertain the slightest doubt about either the perfect wisdom and justice of the Privy Council decision." I infer from his remarks that he entertains no doubt—he admits that it is a question that is "too high" for him. I therefore exonerate him from entertaining any doubts either as to the wisdom or the justice of the decision.

When a decision is not susceptible of attack on the score of either wisdom or justice, it is *prima facie* right as a matter of law. For the object of all law is the attainment of justice, and as our Rule 183 puts it, that judgment may be given "according to the very right and justice" of the case.

The common law has been said by great authorities to be the perfection of common sense and has been built up by judges having a constant regard to what they believed to be (sometimes perhaps erroneously) the requirements of wisdom and justice.

Wisdom and justice must also be constantly kept in view by