

We have within the dominions of the Queen a larger portion of accessible territory by far than that which is possessed at present by the United States. We have a climate there which, though as regards some portions of it, may be rigorous, is a climate which makes men strong, and able, and enduring, and makes a nation hardy and brave. The proposal is that, in order to provide for some temporary peace with the United States, that territory shall be abandoned; and the British Empire shall in future I suppose, be described by geographers as England, Ireland and Scotland, and the Isle of Man. I am one of those who believe in a large country. I should be sorry, indeed, to be the citizen of a little one. I go in for as much territory as we have got, and for as much more as we can get; because I believe the liberty enjoyed by our country is the greatest and best liberty which human history has ever been able to record; I believe our civilisation is the highest and purest civilisation which, at present exists upon any portion of the globe; and I believe the great mission committed to us, in consideration of the great power and riches we possess, is to extend that civilisation into every portion of the globe. Then, I come to the question of the physical means to secure this. There is no physical agency so great as intercommunication. What Sicily was in a small degree to ancient Rome, the Western States are to this country and to Europe at large. There are the great granaries, within ten days of Europe, which are to feed our population, increasing beyond the physical resources of our own country. Under these circumstances, Colonel Syngé proposes that we should shorten the distance between this country and those great corn-growing districts of the West by 400 miles at an expense of £3,900,000 of money. I do not know whether he proposes that Mr. Gladstone should provide the money in any of his budgets. Mr. Gladstone is a most able Finance Minister, but I am afraid with his principles of economy that the money is not likely to be obtained from that source. Colonel Syngé proposes that the thing shall be done in concert between this country and Canada, and the North American provinces. Of course, the vast property which exists in that portion of the continent of America would be practically mortgaged in order to secure this great work. Nobody can complain of that, except the gentlemen who seem to be always ready to advocate the interests of the United States, forgetting the extent of the territory we have at our command, and the devotion, industry, and courage of the four millions of people who at present inhabit that portion of the territory which lies between Lake Superior and the ocean. In addition to this, the Hudson's Bay territory has to be considered. There we have a great prairie, the only one unoccupied upon the American continent. We have that prairie intersected by rivers which run east and west, and give facilities of communication east and west; a prairie with which those of Illinois and Ohio and the other States of America are not to be compared. That brings us back to the question, do we still intend to retain these provinces of North America? For myself, I am for retaining all the territory we have got. Just as in this country, and in every old country, a man is received and respected as a solid man, who, in addition to his money, his business, and his moveable property, possesses a solid estate, a portion of the soil of his country, so, I believe, that every nation is prominently great in the eyes of all surrounding nations, by having, not merely a large business, not merely large customs' duties, considerable trade, large balances in banks, Limited Liability Companies, and everything of that kind; but a broad and constantly increasing portion of that earth's surface which, after all, is the mother and source of all the wealth that surrounds us.

Mr. Gzowski, C.E., of Toronto: My friend, Colonel Syngé, has asked me to speak. He has covered the ground so cleverly, and Mr. Watkin, whom I have the pleasure of knowing, has advanced views so thoroughly Canadian that there is very little left for me to say. I do believe, with Mr. Watkin that the real greatness of an empire lies not in chattels, but in real estate; and that it would be a cruelty to the Canadians to make them feel that they are to be given up, and handed over as property of so much value to those who have no good feeling towards this country. Colonel Syngé's description of the lakes and rivers, and the facilities of communication is very correct, and may be relied upon in every respect. As an engineer, I have gone over every inch of the ground he has described, and I can speak from personal knowledge that he has been guilty of no exaggeration. With reference to the construction of the Ottawa Canal,