

arbitration by a court of nationals would find full opportunity in the settlement of ordinary differences, but in case of graver issues, or in cases in which agreement could not otherwise be reached, there would be appeal to a permanent court of arbitral justice, which would gradually, by its decisions, consolidate its own code of international law with its own rules of interpretation and procedure. The establishment of such a court would be supplemented by special treaties binding the contracting Powers to accept its decisions as final. It is impossible not to feel that Mr. Taft has an opportunity of opening a new and happier chapter in the history of the world.

There is one consideration, however, which must temper our satisfaction at the prospect of such a treaty as I have supposed. No doubt it would practically eliminate the possibility of war between the two countries, but the burden of the armed peace would remain. Great Britain does not build ships against the United States, nor is the American Government thinking of the English fleet when drawing up its naval program for the year. Let the two Powers agree unreservedly to submit all their differences to a tribunal of justice, and yet having banished the possibility of war, neither Power will feel at liberty to lay off a single ship either in the Atlantic or the Pacific. Both Powers must continue to spend millions in preparations for war by sea and land just as if no arbitration treaty had been thought of. Is there any remedy for that evil? I throw out a seed of thought to all the winds; it may fall on stony ground, or it may be choked by thorns, or the birds of the air may devour it, but if it prosper I think fair fruit may come of it. I am not going to suggest any sort of defensive alliance. But I hesitate, and the thought comes at this moment that I should be content to say: The country which within one century has from relatively humble beginnings grown to be the greatest republic the world has ever seen; the people who have not only taught but, I may truthfully say, conquered nature, who have diverted rivers, tunnelled mountains, harnessed Niagara, bound the Atlantic to the Pacific by many bands of iron and are now engaged in the Herculean task of piercing the continent, may well be trusted to find a remedy for the evil which I have mentioned.

And now, in conclusion, one word of the Dominion of Canada, of that bumptious member of the British family that lives in the house next door. Of her I have said nothing, for