

the Powers should endeavour to take advantage of our position as rulers of India to impose upon us conditions which we deem altogether inadmissible, we can decline to enter into any agreement at all, and leave them to do their worst when a crisis arrives. The continuation of the present state of uncertainty as to the legal position of the Canal is no longer as dangerous as before. A settlement of the difficulty is most desirable, but it is not so essential that we need concede more than we deem just and right in order to get it.*

Much reference has lately been made to the 'immensa majestas Romanæ pacis.' England can hardly have a higher ambition than to secure to the world the benefit of such a peace. And anything that strengthens our position, that by reducing time and distance enables us to concentrate and most efficiently employ our necessarily scattered and somewhat limited forces, and that for commercial advantage as well as for political security brings the component parts of Greater Britain into closer relationship with each other, is an advance towards that most desirable object. Such a contribution to the welfare and unity of the British Empire, and so to peaceful interests throughout the world, has Canada now most obviously made by the construction of her inter-oceanic lines, and by the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

* 'Essays on some disputed questions on Modern International Law.' By T. J. Lawrence, M.A., LL.M., Dep. Whewell Professor, &c. &c., pp. 68-69.