

scheme of Imperial Federation which is now the dream of political enthusiasts should ever reach the arena of practical discussion, the question of defence will be one of the first subjects of deliberation, but if that scheme in its entirety should prove impracticable, it ought at least to be the patriotic aim of the public men of England and her semi-independent colonies to unite for common commercial and defensive purposes. It is quite clear that the old times, when England took part in aggressive wars, as in the days of Louis Quatorze and Napoleon I., are over, and that her policy will be henceforth to confine herself to the protection of her widely extended dominions. A policy of defence that will combine all the resources of her dependencies is one calculated to maintain her prestige and prevent the disintegration of her vast Empire. The triumphs of steam and electricity are effectually surmounting the difficulties of distance, and should render more practicable what some persons persist in believing to be mere visions of a united Empire. In any plan of Imperial defence Canada must henceforth perform an important part. On her Atlantic and Pacific coasts are the finest harbours of the world, and enormous deposits of bituminous coal available for steam purposes. Halifax is a strongly fortified port, with a large dockyard; and at Louisbourg—now desolate, but once a famous fortress of the French—could well be established another important station for a naval squadron. Both at these places and in British Columbia can be formed those coaling stations which, as Captain Colomb has pointed out, are essential as strategical positions. The present Governor-General of Canada in a recent speech referred to the important works that are now in course of construction on the Pacific coast for purposes of defence.

You have here at Esquimalt (he said) a naval station likely to become one of the greatest and most important strongholds of the Empire. You have a coal supply sufficient for all the navies of the world. You have a line of railway which is ready to bring that coal up to the harbour of Esquimalt. You will shortly have a graving-dock capable of accommodating all but one or two of her Majesty's largest ships. You have, in short, all the conditions requisite for what I believe is spoken of as a *place d'armes*; but until now that *place d'armes* has been inaccessible except by sea. We shall henceforth be able to bring supplies, stores, and material of war, by an alternative route, direct, expeditious, and lying for more than half its way over British territory."

An astute statesman, the Marquis of Lansdowne, fully appreciates the Imperial importance of the Canadian Pacific Railway as a means of keeping open the communications between