

they were completely overshadowed by the members representing the mother country. Most of us are probably aware of the fact that the first seizure took place in August, 1886. Three vessels were seized at distances of from 60 to 130 miles from the Pribylov Islands. They were there plying their legitimate avocation, and without any warning or pretext they were seized by the United States revenue cutters and run into United States ports, the captains and crews were imprisoned, and the vessels' cargoes confiscated. The same thing occurred, notwithstanding the remonstrances made by the British Government through the British Minister in Washington, in July and August of the following year. Remonstrances still continued to be made by the home Government, I believe, but little or no attention appears to have been paid to their representation. In 1888, fortunately for the British Columbia sealers, no seizures were made, but the following year, 1889, five more vessels were seized in Behring Sea and treated like the former ones, and three others were peremptorily ordered out of Behring Sea. It may appear rather strange that while these acts of piracy (for I cannot consider them in any other light) were being perpetrated on the high seas and in Behring Sea on British vessels, British men of war should be lying quiet at anchor in Esquimalt Harbour only 600 or 700 miles distant from where these outrages took place. I could not help this afternoon endorsing the sentiments expressed by the hon. the senior member from Halifax, when he said that the United States, or any other nation, would not have tried to take such a position as that 70 years ago. If the British Government had stood firm to their guns and demanded a cessation of these unlawful acts of the United States Government, because I suppose it was on the authority of the United States Government that these seizures were made, I firmly believe that Brother Jonathan would soon have stopped his nonsense, and that not one shot would ever have been exchanged between the two nations. I cannot conceive of anything that would produce such a state of affairs as to bring on a war between the United States and Great Britain. It only requires firmness; and in my judgment where the United States took advantage of the position was this, that unfortunately for nearly the whole of the last century every time Great Britain and the United States

arbitrated over any matter or interests affecting Canada, such interests were sacrificed. Take the state of Maine, for instance—we lost a very large portion of that state and a winter port. Look again in the North-west, and the North-west angle of the Lake of the Woods. Take again on the Pacific shore; what properly belonged to us and ought to have been a portion of this great Dominion of Canada was sacrificed. Canada ought to have extended, not merely to the 49th parallel, but down to the Columbia River. Three large and important states have been carved out of that territory which we gave up to a species of bluffing practised by the United State on the people of Canada. I might refer also to an island in the Gulf of Georgia, the important island of San Juan, the last portion of territory wrested from the Dominion Government. All these concessions made from time to time were due, in the first instance, in the early days of Canada to the gross stupidity of English statesmen. The policy was continued by men of undoubted ability, such as were on this last arbitration, but whose interest and feeling and sentiments were British and not Canadian. This leads me to make the statement that I sincerely hope and trust that the late arbitration held in Paris will be the last that ever will be held when Canadian and United States interests are under consideration and where English statesmen will have a seat on the board. There is one noticeable incident in the history of this country, and it is the only one, where Canadians were permitted to deal wholly and solely with the interest of their country and that is the only time in the history of this country when Canada did not take a second place but a first place. I refer to the Halifax award, and while I yield to no man, in this room or out of it, in my loyalty to my Queen and to Great Britain, yet above all I am a Canadian, and Canadian interests shall always receive my deepest and warmest support, even at the expense of Great Britain if it comes to that. Holding these views, I sincerely hope that Canada in the future, as she did once in the case to which I have referred—the Halifax award—will have the opportunity of managing her own affairs. When the Halifax award was under consideration, very considerable pressure was brought to bear on that good and honourable man, gone to his rest a year or two ago, Alexander Mackenzie, heavy pressure was brought to