

7. That to retain the present tolls on Canadian coastwise shipping, contrary, as I believe, to the letter and the spirit of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, will be regarded in Canada as an injustice tending to disturb the friendly relations between two great countries, which have a mutual interest in developing the resources of North America, and in facilitating transportation between its widely separated coasts and seaports, and also to deepen the impression that every treaty between the United States and Great Britain, in which we were interested, was interpreted to the disadvantage of Canada territorially and commercially.

With this summary, the only question that now remains to be considered is, Have we any remedy? We cannot submit quietly to injustice, particularly where such important interests are concerned, nor should we resort to retaliation, unless all other efforts to obtain redress have failed. We have enjoyed one hundred years of peace with the United States, although the atmosphere has several times been more or less agitated by differences, all of which, happily, have been settled either by arbitration or by diplomatic correspondence with the government at Washington. We have every confidence that, in this case, what diplomacy has done before it will do again, and if the government of Canada has not already remonstrated against the action of Congress, it is to be hoped it will do so without delay. I have every confidence in its anxiety to protect Canadian interests, and that in doing so, within the limits of diplomatic courtesy, it will be supported by the people of Canada.

Should the Washington government still refuse, notwithstanding the protest from Canada, or from the Foreign Office, or from the Imperial government, which has already, I understand, entered a protest, then an appeal should be made to the Hague Tribunal, to which the government of Great Britain and the United States have bound themselves to submit the interpretation of treaties. Canada is willing to abide by the decision of that Tribunal. If we have no rights under the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, we are prepared to abide by the result. We believe that the best men in

the United States consider such an appeal eminently proper, and that any refusal on the part of the United States to refer the question to the Hague Tribunal would be discreditable to the American nation. On this point let me quote from a speech delivered by ex-Secretary of State Elihu Root, before the New York Chamber of Commerce on the 22nd of November, about two weeks ago. He said:

We are now approaching a question which will test the willingness of the American people to be true to the ideals of self-government, showing that a democracy can be honourable and just. Under an agreement made regarding the Panama canal, Great Britain retired from her position and signed over to the United States all the rights she had under the partnership agreement. It was specified that the ships of all nations were to have the same treatment. . . . Our Congress passed a law which gives free transit to American ships engaged in the coastwise trade while passing between our Atlantic coast and our Pacific coast, while tolls are to be imposed upon British ships passing between British ports on the Atlantic and British ports on the Pacific, and upon all other foreign ships. The question now is, what is to be done about it? We have a treaty with Great Britain under which we have agreed that all questions arising upon the interpretation of treaties shall be submitted to arbitration, and it seems hardly conceivable, yet there are men who say that we will never arbitrate the question of the construction of that treaty (the Hay-Pauncefote treaty), and I say to you that if we refuse to arbitrate it we will be in the position of the merchant who is known to all the world to be false to his promises. (Applauses.) . . . Among all the people of the earth who hope for better days of righteousness and peace, we will stand, in the light of our multitude of declarations for arbitration and peace, discredited, dishonoured hypocrites, with the fair name of America blackened, with the self-respect of Americans gone, with the influence of America for advance along the pathway of progress and civilization annulled, dishonoured and disgraced. That question stands among us, and no true American can fail to use his voice upon that question for his country's honour. (Applause.) If we are lovers of liberty and justice, if we are willing to do as a nation what we are bound to do as individuals in our communities, then all the questions we have been discussing will be solved right, and for countless generations to come Americans will still be brothers as they were of old, leading the world towards happier lives and nobler manhood, towards the realization of the dreams of philosophers and of the prophets for a better and a nobler world.

If I were expressing the opinion of Canada in regard to the treaty and in regard to the action of the American nation, I would even hesitate to use such