

the Washington Conference of 1871 the late Sir John A. Macdonald, then Premier of Canada, acted as one of the English High Commissioners, and the treaty clause by which the United States had to pay over five million of dollars to Canada as the value of her fisheries was the first illustration in our history of the concession to us by England of a Canadian representative in the making of treaties. The interests of Canada in Behring Sea have been represented by Canadian statesmen, and you had a brilliant object lesson during the Queen's Jubilee, in the honors paid by Her Majesty to our present Premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, that the policy which lost to England the thirteen colonies, and which often cut at the vitals of Canadian life, is as dead as Adam and annexation. You see, Mr. President, Canada is no longer in her swaddling clothes; she is a full-grown, buxom and bustling young woman, and you do not display to her view the gallantry or generosity of a lover. She believes that you imagine she would marry you for your money, but she believes, too, that you want to marry her for her land and her gold.

When our Government has held out to you the open hand of fair reciprocity, some of your statesmen thought that it was the offer of a weakling and a coward, and the open hand became a closed fist. If our Government to-day is seriously contemplating the passage of a bill to prevent mining in our gold lands by any one who comes from a country which, like yours, has an alien labor law against Canada, it is only a measure of reciprocal tit-for-tat, for which you may thank the American Senate. There is nothing which so distinctively marks diplomatic one-sidedness and short-sightedness, as the supercilious way in which certain honorable gentlemen in Washington, with a deluge of ink and of talk, attempt to bring the existence of Canada to an end. The old saying that Canada would some day drop into the Republic like a ripe apple, has surely proved to be one of the piquant fictions of the imagination, for if it should ever drop there, it will not be because it is ripe, but because it will be rotten. The misconceptions of Canadian feeling are due to the misrepresentation of a part of your press and a number of your politicians, and I am sure if you will dispassionately study the history of the two countries from the time of the American Revolution to the present session of the Canadian Parliament at Ottawa, you will discover that whatever policy or action on the part of Canada has been at all obnoxious or aggressive, has been compelled by the natural and national instinct of self-defence. Let me plead with you to dispel from your minds the thought that we of the North are afraid to face the responsibilities of developing our own Dominion, in an inseparable union with the rest of the Empire, and let me beg you to believe that there are no sacrifices too great for us to make, if