

could have been built otherwise. The amount which was given in various forms and ways for the construction of the lines of railroad has been variously estimated at from two hundred and fifty to three hundred million dollars, in addition to the subsidies that are given to the line of steamships from Vancouver to the Orient and to Australia, and that are to be given on the line from Halifax to Liverpool, and upon the proposed oceanic cable from Vancouver to Australia.

We hear enough of the doctrine of Cobden—*laissez faire*—let things go as they will. I do not propose to trench upon the ground treated of in such a masterful fashion by the junior Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. LODGE] in the earlier stages of this debate. No more striking illustration of this is furnished than by the present example to which I am alluding, that while Great Britain wisely relies upon free trade where it is to her advantage, she does not hesitate to offer subsidies and bounties, and to apply the doctrine of protection wherever that will be to her advantage. So we have built around us by subsidies a cordon of railway and steamer lines encroaching upon our domestic and foreign commerce, as well as a military and naval cordon that in any time of difference would be precipitated upon our undefended cities and shores.

Mr. President, in this dark picture there is one bright spot that gleams out on the sky like the North star, shining with no borrowed light, drawing its luster from no sun, a lesson of courage and of statesmanship worthy to be learned by the men who, sitting in this Chamber, direct the destinies of the American Republic. I refer to that noble band of Americans in Hawaii, the picket guard, the outpost of American interests, standing there by themselves, loyal to the country of their origin, loyal to the ideas which carried them there, not to be seduced and not to be driven even by the resistless power of that Republic for whose interests they have stood and whose rulers with folly predestinate strove to overthrow them.

Mr. President, there is one safe point for American interests in the Pacific Ocean. There is no merit in the American Government; but a good deal is due the American people for the influence they have exerted in this critical exigency in their affairs.

This country, with its vast resources, with its magnificent possibilities, with a prosperity up to the time of the advent of the Democratic Administration without parallel in the experience or history of the world, could well afford to contemplate with equanimity and relative indifference any prosperity which Canada might have by any means whatsoever.

We might look on and view it with comparative indifference. Certainly if that were all, I should not submit the remarks I am now making to present this view of the subject. But we are concerned as respects the Canadian Pacific road and its influence, with the removal of a duty upon wool and upon Canadian natural products, and the effect of that policy upon the future problem of the unity of the English-speaking people of this continent.

No American has any thought of the conquest of Canada by force of arms. Profoundly as many Americans believe that the welfare of all English-speaking people upon the continent, on whatever side of the line they may live, demands the unity of