

And again :

When I was there—

Speaking of his visit to Washington and of a member of the United States Government, who is called here the Secretary of the Navy, but really, I suppose the Secretary of the Treasury—I do not suppose that "Hansard" is correct in that.

—he said that he would have them issued in such a way as to facilitate our trade in any reasonable way that we had any right to expect, and that he would be able to get them out in a short time.

And again :

The Secretary of the Treasury did assure that he would at once—

I call your attention to this, Mr. Speaker,— "that he would at once"

—issue regulations which would have the effect of doing away with the necessity of paying these fees, and I so telegraphed to the Board of Trade of Victoria, and, I think, that of Vancouver.

The regulations were to have been drafted and issued at once. So that then, we had this state of facts admitted by the Minister of the Interior of the Dominion of Canada to exist—that long ago he went to Washington and reached an agreement with the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States in regard to regulations concerning the customs upon goods passing from Canada through United States territory into the Yukon country. And, after many weeks, after extraordinary and unexplained delays on the part of the United States, costing the people of this country, east and west, many thousands of dollars, embarrassing the business of Canada, I venture to say, to an extraordinary degree, there came regulations which dealt wholly with Dyea and Skagway and ignored the Stikine River altogether.

All this was the result of the visit of a member of the Canadian Government to the city of Washington, and he had no cause of complaint against the Government of the United States. Must we eat humble pie all the time, Mr. Speaker? Must we go hat in hand to the governors of the United States, and be thankful that they courteously receive us? Must we not complain if an understanding is not complied with? Either the Minister of the Interior is exceedingly deceived or his statement is incredible, that he had no cause of complaint. Well, let us see. I have given you what he stated to this House, and I will sow you from other statements he has made, how our Minister of the Interior was dealt with by these gentlemen in charge of the public affairs of the United States. It appears that he had made all the concessions that the United States desired he should make. He was frank and explicit, let us give him credit for that, as to how far Canada would go in regard to the concessions that they de-

sired, and those were made in no doubtful manner. He received from them promises, and though the promises stood for weeks without any performance, and though definite regulations issuing out of those negotiations from the United States wholly ignored this route that is so indispensable now in the eyes of the Government, and so necessary for our purposes, the hon. gentleman chided in advance any one who would dare to rise in his place in this House and find fault with the manner in which the United States Government had dealt with him. Dealt with him! Why, they played with him, Mr. Speaker; they played with him as they would play with a child; and the extraordinary thing is that the child, after being played with, did not understand the game they were at. Now, let me see what he told the business people of the coast he had accomplished on this mission. On the 3rd of January, 1898, he wired to the Board of Trade of Victoria as follows:—

Have just returned from Washington where I have—

Got a promise? No, Mr. Speaker:

—where I have completed arrangements ensuring passage of Canadian goods by way of Dyea and Skagway sub-ports without charge for inspection referred to in your telegram and correspondence. Treasury Department will make arrangements to facilitate business.

Has the hon. gentleman no cause for complaint against the United States? or does he consider our position in Canada so humble and so contemptible that he dare not make complaints if the very best faith is not kept with him? If that statement is correct, and I believe when the hon. gentleman sent that telegram he believed it was correct, I know of no language sufficient to characterize the treatment that was accorded to him by the United States authorities, no language sufficient to deplore and to decry the spirit that prompted them so to delude, and so to deceive, the Minister of the Interior. He had completed arrangements on the 3rd of January which ensured this passage of goods forthwith, by a route which is now a secondary affair, not to be mentioned even in connection with the Stikine River; and perhaps the Minister of the Interior will confess that on that occasion he had no arrangement whatever in regard to the Stikine River, and no understanding with the United States Government. From what has occurred in Congress, from the action of the Secretary of the Treasury since, I take it there can be no question whatever that the Minister of the Interior entirely overlooked the necessity of coming to any arrangement with them in regard to this essential portion of the Government programme that is now submitted to us. However, on January 4th, the people of the Pacific Coast, relying on the acuteness of the Minister of the Interior, supposing