

on your part, we know that we cannot adequately protect you, and therefore in your interests and in ours we require a certain surrender—I am not going to be unreasonable, if the British Government choose to make such a statement, let us accept the situation, but let us demand that the corollary be accepted also, and the corollary that I deduce from this same transaction is that while maintaining our connection with Great Britain we should have the right to demand and ought to demand a free hand to settle our difficulties with the United States, and with any other people on this continent, at least, in our own fashion and according to our own way. Sir, I know, and no man knows better, the very great value of the friendship of the United States to England. For five and twenty years I have privately and publicly from my place in Parliament and in the Cabinets of English ministers urged this view, and have never ceased to point out through good report and evil report, that no consideration under Heaven is so valuable to the people of England as to retain the friendship and good-will of the people of the United States, and as a private man and as a minister I have done my best, and I will continue to do my best to the day of my death, to bring about that most desirable end. But while I will go as far as any man to obtain the friendship of the United States for Canada and the mother country, I desire it to be done by fair and honourable means, and I tell hon. gentlemen opposite that this is not the way to win it. I repeat again that to conciliate does not mean to crouch, and that the worst possible way of seeking the friendship of the United States is to bluster and then to cringe. I know, because I have had dealings with the American people, and my hon. friends around me have also had in their time dealings with the people of the United States. I know that the Government of the United States respects fair and courteous opponents, and as a matter of fact the Administration of Mr. Mackenzie, which had made it a part of their policy by all fair and honourable means to conciliate the United States, but which at the same time never gave up one jot of the rights of Canada without receiving adequate compensation, never stood higher in the estimation of the United States Government than after showing at Halifax that while they were willing to maintain the most friendly relations with the United States, they were also determined to maintain to the uttermost the rights of Canada. I am sorry to have to say it, but the policy of the Canadian Government with respect to the United States, for the last seven years at least—I hope a better time is coming, and I take some courage after the remarks made by the hon. gentleman in hoping a better time is coming—but for the past seven years at least their policy was one long mistake. I say they were rash and intemperate in their language, and in the language permitted by them to be used by

their subsidized press, and in the expressions used to and of the Government of the United States. They were obstinate when they should have been yielding; they were weak and ill-advised in action, and what is more, and what I regret much is, that they have thrown away many golden opportunities which, had they known how to use them, might have established us in a satisfactory position in regard to the United States. More than that. They knew perfectly, and the Minister of Justice must have known, that in former times they incurred a frightful risk by their folly in dealing with the United States, and if they escaped a collision it was most assuredly rather by accident than by their own foresight. In proof of what I have said I will read an authority, which the Minister of Marine at all events will not dispute. I called attention some little time ago to the extraordinary danger in which the folly of the present Government had placed Canada from having complicated matters in connection with the Behring Sea difficulty, by reason of pursuing a mischievous policy on the other side of the continent. Here is what in this House in my presence six years ago, the present High Commissioner, Sir Charles Tupper, told the House with respect to the position the policy of the hon. gentleman opposite had placed us in the year of grace 1887. Sir Charles said:

I would like to draw the attention of the House to what has been accomplished by this treaty. I have told you what position Canada stood in with regard to the United States of America before the initiation of these proceedings. I have told you that we stood face to face with an enactment which had been put on the Statute book by a unanimous vote of Congress, ratified by the President, providing for non-intercourse between the United States and Canada. I need not tell you that that bill meant commercial war, that it meant not only the ordinary suspension of friendly feeling and intercourse between two countries, but that it involved more than that. If that bill had been brought into operation by the proclamation of the United States, I have no hesitation in saying that we stood in the relation to that great country of commercial war, and the line is very narrow which separates a commercial war between two countries from an actual war. Yesterday we stood face to face with a non-intercourse bill sustained by the united action of the Senate and House of Representatives, sustained by almost the whole press, Republican and Democratic, of the United States, sustained with few exceptions by a prejudiced, irritated, exasperated people of 60,000,000 lying on our borders.

Having said what I have said as to the British Government, I felt it right to put on record what Sir Charles Tupper had to say of the results of the policy of his colleagues towards the United States almost at the same time that these outrages of which I have spoken were being perpetrated on our sealers and ships in Behring Sea. Sir, I repeat we have had one gain, and one gain only. It is true we have removed the cause