

map, they will see that Dyea and Skagway, at the entrance to this Yukon district, are nearly a thousand miles from Vancouver. And we could not send in an officer, we could not send a rifle or a revolver or a single charge of ammunition or a pound of provisions without the leave of the United States. It would have been an act of war for us to send our people and our officials with their arms and ammunition without at least the tacit leave of the United States. It certainly would have been such if we had gone through their territory or their waters after we had been forbidden to do so. We were in the position of having to provide for a vast territory a thousand miles from the nearest of our cities, and we could not get into it without going through the waters or the territories of the United States. And our hon. friend who leads the party with the instinct of government would have had us wave the bloody shirt and say we would have nothing to do with these grasping Yankees. He would have found that he did not own the territory in six months or so if he had followed that policy. His officers would have been starved to death. He would not have been able to assert his jurisdiction or to carry on the administration of the territory for six months. All that the authorities of the United States needed to do was to say they could not see their way clear to allow us to send troops or police through their territory, and we could not have complained much at that. We might say it was unkind or unfriendly, but that is all. And those who wished might have gone to the Yukon country, but we could not have got there to provide them with the benefits of government or to enforce any regulations. There would have been no trouble about mining regulations then. Whoever liked could have gone in; there would have been no law or order; the good name and the fair name of the Dominion of Canada would have been disgraced.

This was one of the difficulties we had to contend with; I say again that we have been treated, with regard to that point, with the utmost friendliness by the Government of the United States. I want my hon. friend from Victoria (Mr. Prior) with whom I think I have had some communication, and who, I think, has probably been influenced to some extent by the natural excitement in regard to the questions of trade upon the Coast, to understand that, while there is the strongest possible feeling in the Pacific Coast towns in regard to this question of trade, we have had no cause of complaint against the United States Government, because of their dealings with us upon this question. As my hon. friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) said in his remarks upon the Address, there was something to explain in regard to issuing the regulations at Dyea and Skagway which I had promised would be forth-

coming in a short time. It is quite true there was a delay, which delay has not been very fully explained. I do not know that I have any particular right to demand an explanation from the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States. When I was there he said that the regulations would be issued in such a way as to facilitate our trade in any reasonable way that we had a right to expect and that he thought he would be able to get them out in a short time. He was not able to get them out just as soon as he expected, but I have not felt that I was entitled to demand any explanation from him in connection with the matter. I did get a telegram from the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury to the effect that the delay was caused by the fact that he wished to consult the collector of customs in Alaska and get some information with regard to local matters which he thought he ought to understand before he issued the regulations.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Since the hon. gentleman has been good enough to refer to some remarks that I made, I would like to ask him what I suggested in my remarks should be answered, and which is not altogether what he seems to think. The question I wish him to have explained is, why he sent a telegram on the 3rd of January to the effect that regulations had been decided upon between the United States Government and himself by which these odious exactions would be removed.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. They have been removed.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. But this telegram on the 3rd of January was not a promise but a positive assurance to the people of the Coast that these regulations had been amended and changed.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The Secretary of the Treasury did assure me 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. I had no doubt, when I sent that telegram, that they would be drafted and issued in a day or two, but it was put off from time to time. But, as I said, I did not feel that I had the right to demand an explanation, because the Washington authorities have treated us most courteously, and I presume that the delay was because the Secretary of the Treasury wanted to consult the collector of customs of Alaska before he had them sent up. That was a reasonable explanation, and I do not feel that I was justified in complaining. But from time to time, I did communicate with Washington for the purpose of inducing the issue of the regulations as fast as possible.