

922A

{ Copy }

6577

OUR LATEST CAPITULATION

To the Editor of The Saturday Review.

Santa Ana, California, U.S.A. February 15, 1903

Sir:-

Of an Anglo-American compact adverse to the interests of Canada an English statesman --- not of the new dispensation --- once remarked: "It is a capitulation, not a convention."

Some ten months ago I was accorded the privilege of setting forth in these columns a long series of such "capitulations" concluded under the guise of treaties by British Ministries with the United States' government, by which the rights of Canada were sacrificed in a vain attempt to acquire the favour of the American people.

I used the facts there set forth as an object-lesson by which might be learned the danger of a renewal of such attempts, and to show the folly of supposing that American animosity could be placated by such means.

I then wrote: "Those who doubt the ability of a British Ministry to cope with American politicians may soon have an opportunity to judge of the correctness of their opinion.

. . . . The Alaska matter will tax all their diplomatic powers to arrange without a complete surrender of British and Canadian rights." I also, at the same time, did my best to warn my countrymen that a continued disregard for these rights on the part of the British government might result in straining the loyalty of that colony to the breaking point.

My audacity in making these remarks aroused the wrath and contempt of a great London daily, which devoted a column or so of its valuable space in holding me up to the derision of the illustrious army of little englanders of which it appeared to be desirous of acting as the exponent. Notwithstanding, however, the disapproval of my views by this journal, I ventured to exercise my birthright as a Briton and remain of the same opinion still, and the trend of events leading up to the present status of British-American relations has only served to emphasize that opinion.

The "opportunity" I referred to has come. A British Ministry has again attempted "to cope with American politicians," and as a result we are face to face with a "complete surrender" of British and Canadian rights."

On the 11th instant was ratified by the United States' Senate a treaty which may safely challenge the history of nations to produce its equal. By the terms of this document the British Government binds itself to submit its --- or more strictly Canada's --- claims to territory on the north-west coast of America to a judicial body consisting of six commissioners, three to be appointed by Great Britain and three by the United States. That is to say, to a Court composed of counsel for the opposing parties and unprovided with either judge or jury!

- 1 -

TUPPER PAPERS

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA