

fusion they did in this particular case. The next two paragraphs of the Speech refer to the Atlantic fast line and the Pacific cable. As to the fast line, that no doubt will be of some advantage in advertising the country, and if Great Britain is willing to grant a handsome subsidy towards the project it may be wise to accept it. I am not prepared to speak definitely on the matter until we learn what the amount of the contribution will be. My own view is that if we could strike off some of the shackles which now bind the trade between Great Britain and ourselves, we would find an abundance of steamers plying between Canada and Great Britain to meet the requirements of the situation. This fast line, I am aware, is intended chiefly for the purpose of advertising Canada, and of showing particularly that the highway between Great Britain and the far east through Canada has advantages over any other route. To that extent it may be an advantage to us. As to the Pacific cable, the view to be taken depends largely also upon the amount of the contribution which may be made by Great Britain and the various colonies affected. It is, of course, a step in the right direction so long as our finances will admit of the scheme being carried out. It is undoubtedly a proper thing to bring together the various colonies of the empire by all possible means. The next paragraph of the speech would, I think, have been very much better left out, namely, the one in which reference is made to the necessity for the better arming our militia and the strengthening of Canadian defences. So far as concerns our defences at ports like Esquimalt, Quebec, Halifax and St. John, or any other points on either ocean, I think it is not only wise and prudent, but that it is our duty towards the empire, to maintain the fortifications in such a condition as to render them of material service to the mother country in the event of any entanglement with any countries other than the one immediately to the south of us. If it is intended, however, (which I trust is not the case) to fortify points along the international boundary, I think the suggestion is very unfortunate. I presume it arises out of the feeling created by the communication addressed by the President of the United States to Lord Salisbury. That document has not received the moral support which was expected from the better class of the population of the United States; and already the war feeling

that arose is day by day abating. The better classes in the United States, and nearly all classes in Great Britain, view with horror the prospect of war; in fact they do not admit that it is within the range of possibility that two countries, so closely allied by blood and by business relations, should come into collision. Each of these countries is the best customer of the other. Vast sums of money belonging to British subjects are invested in the United States, and as I have said, the ties between the two countries are of such a nature that war cannot possibly arise between them. It is at once our interest and our duty to promote that feeling. Canada, of course, is prepared to stand by the Empire in any emergency, but I think we will show not only good judgment but true loyalty to the Empire by suppressing any jingo sentiment rather than by encouraging it. It would be supreme folly for us to think of fortifying as against the United States. What would be the result? They also would erect fortifications, and would no doubt give notice that after 12 months, which I believe is the term prescribed by law, they would launch an additional number of armed vessels on the great lakes. That would be an extremely unfortunate thing. We all know that year by year questions arise between Canada and the United States in relation to fisheries and other matters; and if both countries were prepared for war I am afraid that the consequences might be very serious. When a cause of difference arises, if the parties to that difference are prepared for war their representatives are sometimes inclined to act hastily and do injudicious and imprudent things; and therefore I think we would be wiser to promote the view that war between the United States and Great Britain is impossible. I am glad to see that of late years the attention of the leading men of the United States has been directed towards the desirability of having all questions arising between the two countries submitted to a standing board of arbitrators. I do not think that it is necessary at all that we should stimulate the feeling of loyalty in Canada. The Canadian people are proud of their country, and well they may be. There is no country in the world that has greater or stronger attractions than Canada. Our system of government, we think is the best that could be devised. It is from time to time shown