

protection of the same character as that given to the Newfoundlanders, namely, an assistance to their opponents—an assistance which resulted in an action at law by Mr. Baird (one of the Islanders) against the British Commanding Officer for illegally maintaining absurd French pretensions—illegally, I say, for the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council so said, and Mr. Baird got his damages?

And is it the fact that Canada, under the present conditions, is of no service to the British navy? Is the lecturer to the Mulock Club, to whom I have just referred, not right when he says:

“It has become a maxim that the existence of the Empire and the security of Great Britain depend on the maintenance of British sea power. Without such coaling stations as Halifax on the Atlantic, and Esquimault on the Pacific, the maritime supremacy of British naval power would be seriously jeopardized. The secession of Canada from Great Britain would probably, therefore, spell the loss of naval supremacy by the British Empire and danger to the safety of Great Britain.”

And ought the expenditure on our transcontinental railways, connecting these two coaling stations, to be considered in making up the accounts?

This inquiry might very well be extended and a general account of mutual benefits made up. To offset, if possible, our present alleged meanness in not subscribing directly to Imperial defence, let some estimate be made of previous contributions in order that we may see how the balance stands. Is Canada, for example, entitled to any credit, and if so for how much, for her assistance to the United Kingdom in previous wars? In 1775 the American Revolutionary war (how foolish it was we now all know) devastated Canada, and, as Mr. Kingsford tells us, “The only scrap of territory which remained, at one period, under British rule was the City of Quebec within the ramparts” (History of Canada, V. 483); and although there was no second invasion of Canada, yet until the close of the war in 1781 the constantly anticipated invasion “demanded the presence in the