

been doing business in Prince Edward Island for more than thirty years, because the claim which they have against the government and recognized is twenty-one years old. That claim arose out of the non-enforcement of the Washington Treaty in 1871. It is known that at that period a difficulty arose in reference to Prince Edward Island and it was understood at the time that though Prince Edward Island was not included in the provisions of that treaty, whatever duties were paid upon fish and fish oil sent from Canada into the United States were to be refunded by the United States Government. By some misunderstanding, as usual, the United States authorities refused to make these rebates, which amounted to some \$60,000 or \$70,000—I am speaking subject to correction.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.)—That is right.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The British Government did not think it worth while to create any friction between the two governments in reference to this question, and they intimated to the Canadian Government that they had better pay it themselves. The Canadian Government, in considering the question, refunded out of our own funds that which should have been paid by the United States, to all British subjects who had been carrying on a legitimate trade and had paid duties to the United States Government on fish and fish oil. This United States firm, not being British subjects, made a very large claim. We declined to admit it. I say “we,” because that claim has been made on each and every government. Mr. Fitzgerald, now a judge, was appointed by the late government to investigate and report upon the subject. He made a long and exhaustive report. He did show that Hall & Myrick had shipped, for British subjects on the island, a certain quantity of fish, and that duty had been paid upon them. We recognized those claims. I say that, because I was in the government at that time, and we refunded the money to the British subjects, but declined to pay the claim of this United States firm who were not then, nor are they now, British subjects. They have steadily refused to take the oath of allegiance, although they have been there thirty years, to the British Government. Every election

that has taken place for the last twenty years these people made demands on the government to pay them the amount they claimed. At the last by-election it cropped up again, and these gentlemen were among the most active and energetic supporters of the present member, and they succeeded, through their influence and the employes they have on the island, in defeating our old friend Mr. Hackett. I received a letter from the island immediately after the election took place explaining how Mr. Hackett had lost his election; and it was said “Watch events and you will find Hall & Myrick’s claim will be recognized by the present government.” True enough, here it is. Here is a Yankee firm that has been pressing this claim for over twenty years, a claim which has been refused by every government, including the Mackenzie government, as unfounded, and now it is recognized. It looks on the face of it, as if this claim of over twenty years standing is paid to these people for the support they gave the government candidate in the election in East Prince. There are the facts. Hon. gentlemen can draw their own conclusions from them. This Yankee firm had no more right to that \$15,000 or \$16,000, than my hon. friend beside me; but it is a sample of the manner in which the funds of this country are being voted away, for, shall I say, corrupt purposes. That would be unparliamentary, but I leave hon. gentlemen to draw any deductions they like from the facts I have presented. These are only a few, a very few of the items in this bill to which I might call attention. Now, what are we asked to vote? I will give a summary of the contents of this Supply Bill which we have either to swallow or reject. I do not suppose any one will take the responsibility of rejecting the bill, though I think if there ever was a case to justify a rejection of a supply bill, this is one of them. It is true the government have the power, and they must take the responsibility. The Supply Bill shows the supplementary estimates for the year 1898-99, which we have already passed, amounting to \$2,647,628. The main estimates for 1899-1900 amount to \$46,286,550. Further supplementary estimates, \$5,497,343, a second further supplementary estimates, \$12,451. Then we have the Drummond County Railway purchase, \$1,600,000. I am not drawing a distinction now, between that which is charged to capital account and that which should be