

gative in this particular? I think that they can, for the following reasons: In 1888 the Canadian Parliament passed an Act providing that no appeal should be brought in criminal cases from a Canadian court to any British court of appeal, notwithstanding any royal prerogative—and I would in this connection refer hon. gentlemen to Bourinot's "Federal Government in Canada," page 66. This Act, in consequence of a most able appeal and the powerful arguments of the present Minister of Justice, was allowed. I would refer hon. gentlemen to the Paper No. 77, especially pages 4 and 5, of 1888. Another evidence that we possess the undoubted privilege is in the fact that no instructions are now given to the Governor General, as was the case previous to 1867, when the British North America Act was passed. In that connection, I would refer hon. gentlemen to "Bourinot's Procedure," pages 569 and 574, and also Sir John Thompson's argument on the Canadian Copyright Act of 1889, where he shows the complete jurisdiction of the Canadian Parliament over all subjects in section 91. I have not seen the report itself, but have read the substance of it in the *Toronto Empire* of the 11th February last. Now, under the British North America Act, we have much wider and larger privileges than we had previous to Confederation; and so satisfied is Dr. Bourinot—and I think you will agree with me that he is as well qualified as any gentleman in this country to express an opinion on a constitutional question—that I have his authority to use the following to which he has attached his name: He says: "In view of all the arguments contained in the foregoing authorities as to the large powers given the Canadian Parliament under section 91 of the British North America Act, 1867, it seems clear that Parliament can legislate freely on the subject of currency and coinage subject, of course, to the general power of disallowance by the Crown over all colonial legislation." I hope that that will remove any doubts as to the constitutional question. The next thing I shall call your attention to is the fact that as early as 1862 the then Crown colony of British Columbia had a mint in New Westminster. That mint was established there under Imperial authority; but I am sorry to say that through the jealousy of the late Sir James Douglas, then Governor

of the colony, influenced by the residents of Victoria, the Imperial authorities were prevailed upon to discontinue the minting. A few coins were struck off, and it is only within the last seven or eight years that the balance of the plant in connection with that mint was removed. In Australia, nearly thirty years ago, two mints were established—one in Sydney, in the colony of New South Wales, and the other in Melbourne, in the colony of Victoria. These mints, I believe, have received their authority from the Imperial Parliament to coin. However, it is quite evident that we have the power, irrespective of any reference to the Imperial Parliament, to establish a mint; and I think, in view of the fact that we had a mint in British Columbia when there were only a mere handful of people at the time, we ought to exercise that power and establish a mint and have a Canadian gold coin. In the United States they have three mints. The main one is at Philadelphia, and two branches—one in San Francisco and the other in New Orleans. I will now refer to the very large amount of gold that Canada has produced within the last thirty years. The Province that I have the honor of coming from—British Columbia—has within the last twenty-nine years produced, according to the Sessional Journals of the Legislature of British Columbia, \$51,599,957. I find according to the early Journals of the Legislature of Nova Scotia—where gold was discovered early in the winter of 1860—that previous to Confederation and from Confederation up to the present time the Province has produced about ten millions of gold. Now, here we have no less than sixty-one or sixty-two millions of dollars that this country has produced which has been exported, and not one ounce of which has been coined and put in circulation in our country. I learn from most reliable information that our gold miners out in British Columbia, who produce that gold, lose from 5 to 6 per cent. on all their gold dust and nuggets by the cost of transportation down to San Francisco, where they sell it. Now, I contend that such should not be the case. I contend that as we acknowledge gold to be a legal tender here—not only British gold, but United States gold—it is too bad that the country like Canada, extending over the greater portion of the continent of North America, with an area nearly as large as