

To Canada, the settlement of the question is not less important, as removing a cause of irritation between it and its neighbours, and even with the mother country itself, as destroying an obstacle to that which has been looked upon as the natural growth of the dominion, as likely to open an indefinite prospect of employment to Canadian labour and enterprise; and lastly, as enlarging the enducements which Canada is able to offer to the British immigrant. It is no small matter that it would enable Her Majesty's Government at once to annex to the dominion the whole of British North America proper, except the colony of British Columbia.

To the Hudson's Bay Company it may almost be said to be necessary.

At present the very foundations of the Company's title are not undisputed. The boundaries to its territory are open to questions, of which it is impossible to ignore the importance. Its legal rights, whatever those may be, are liable to be invaded without law by a mass of Canadian and American settlers, whose occupation of the country on any terms they will be little able to resist; while it can hardly be alleged that either the terms of the Charter, or their internal Constitution, are such as to qualify them under all these disadvantages for maintaining order and performing the internal and external duties of Government.

The prejudicial effect that all these uncertainties must have on the value of the Company's property, is but too evident.