

THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-WEST CANADA BY THE HUDSON'S BAY TRADE-ROUTE.

WHILE many minds are directed to the solution of the problems affecting the great population of these islands and arising out of its rapid increase, those enterprises which provide immediate work and offer fresh inducements to permanent settlement in a new country are worthy of serious consideration.

The writer of the following pages claims for the development of the Hudson's Bay Route that it will comply with these conditions; and surely the time is opportune when on this side the population is increasing at the rate of nearly 1,000 per day, without any corresponding increase in the trade of the country, and on the other side of the Atlantic there is a territory within the Queen's dominions, and full of home friends and associations, which has been well described by Sir George Stephen, the Chairman of the Canadian Pacific Railway, as "another Russian Empire waiting for population."

It is to bring our surplus population in contact with that great territory that the route is to be opened. The fact of starting it will lead to cargoes of steel rails and other British manufactures being conveyed by sea direct to Port Nelson, and to the employment of English labourers in the formation of the line. These men will find work and supplies waiting for them, and it will be contrary to past experience if they do not permanently settle in the country and induce their friends at home to follow them. Hitherto the vested interests of the Hudson's Bay Company have barred the way. So long since as 1749 that Company had acquired an unenviable reputation as monopolists, for in that year petitions were presented to Parliament from the leading cities and towns of England complaining of the undue exercise of their rights by keeping out traders and shutting up the country—rights derived from a charter which had been granted to the Company, and which practically gave them a monopoly of the trade of the larger part of the North American Continent.

The Marquis of Lorne, the late Governor-General of Canada,