

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

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RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 29 May 1857;—for,

A "COPY of the LETTER addressed by Mr. Chief Justice *Draper* to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, bearing date the 6th day of May 1857; together with a Copy of the MEMORANDUM therein referred to, relative to the HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY."

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Colonial Office, }  
15 June 1857. }

C. FORTESCUE.

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COPY of LETTER from Chief Justice *Draper*, c. B., to the Right Honourable  
*H. Labouchere*, M. P.

Chief Justice  
*Draper*, c. B., to  
Right. Hon. *H.*  
*Labouchere*, M. P.  
6 May 1857.

Sir,

33, Spring-gardens, 6 May 1857.

IN the last interview with which you favoured me, I took occasion to advert to the question of boundary between Canada and the Hudson's Bay territory, as one which required to be settled, as a necessary preliminary to many other very important inquiries involved in the matters submitted to a Committee of the last House of Commons, and as I understand to be again submitted to the new Parliament.

I alluded to the difference between the views of the Hudson's Bay Company as expressed in former times, and those which are now and have been within the last 40 years advanced by them on this point, and I stated my readiness to submit a memorandum to you in relation thereto, which you were pleased to signify your readiness to receive and consider.

That memorandum I have the honour to enclose. As the construction of the language of the charter, and the extent of the territory purporting to be granted are involved, it may be considered desirable that the matter should be referred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In this event, I venture to request that counsel on the part of the Province may be permitted to attend to watch the argument, and, if it be deemed necessary, that they may be heard in support of those views which more immediately affect the interests of Canada.

I have suggested a reference to the Judicial Committee, because I think its opinion would command the ready acquiescence of the inhabitants of Canada as to their legal right, and because I believe they entertain a very strong opinion that a considerable portion of the territory occupied or claimed by the Hudson's Bay Company will be found to lie within the proper limits of that Province.

Whether it would be desirable to sever this from the more general question of the legality and validity of the charter, is a matter that I should desire to leave for your consideration; but in any event, I think it expedient that counsel should be permitted to attend to watch the interests of the Province.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Wm. H. Draper*.

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