

The proposal is that it should be surrendered to Her Majesty's Government, which is a very different thing, and I must apologise on behalf of the Directors for having inadvertently put the matter in the form in which it appears. I shall proceed, after having made a few observations, to move a resolution, and I think it may be convenient that I should now read the resolution, so that you may have it clearly in your mind what it is we are speaking about. I intend to propose—" That it is expedient to accede to the terms proposed in the communication above referred to, and to " surrender to Her Majesty's Government all this Company's " territorial rights in Rupert's Land, and in any other part " of British North America not comprised in Rupert's Land, " Canada, or British Columbia, and that the Governor and " Committee be, and are hereby, authorised to make such " surrender on being assured that the terms have been agreed " to by the Government and Parliament of Canada, provided " that the acceptance of the terms by the Government and " Parliament of Canada shall have been signified to them by " Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, within " six months after the passing of this Resolution, and that " for that purpose the Governor and Committee concur in all " such measures as may be found necessary for effecting such " surrender, and for securing to the Company the rights and " reservations to which, by the terms of the letter from Sir " Frederic Rogers, this Company will be entitled." Now, gentlemen, I may be allowed, before I call your attention to the correspondence which has been placed in all your hands, to make some general remarks upon its particular points. I wish, in the first place, very earnestly to direct the attention of the Shareholders to the nature of the business they are called upon to do to-day, because there is no doubt that, considering that this correspondence goes back over a period of six years, and that it raises a great many interesting and