

granted in 1670. Red River was first settled by fur-traders of the Company, but was not regularly colonized until after having been purchased in 1812 by Lord Selkirk, who established a number of industrious Scottish families in the wilderness. A few years after his death, the colony reverted into the hands of the Company, who repurchased it without the knowledge or consent of the inhabitants. The hardy Scottish settlers have survived all manner of vicissitudes: attacks of hostile Indians, violent opposition of the rival North-West Company, failure of crops, insufficient store-supplies, freshets of the river, ravages of insects, and of disease,—and form the nucleus of a flourishing settlement which now numbers 10,000 souls, including Christianized Indians and Canadian half-breeds.

The Hudson's Bay and North-West Companies were amalgamated in 1821, and a parliamentary license of exclusive trade in the vast regions between the Atlantic Ocean and the Rocky Mountains, north of Canada and the 49th parallel of North latitude, was granted to the united Company. This license was renewed in 1838, and the date of its expiration was 1859. A large proportion of the Canadians sought to prevent the renewal of this monopoly, questioned the validity of King Charles's charter, and agitated for the annexation of such portions of this region as would be available for colonization and for communication with British Columbia. To this movement the Imperial authorities seemed propitious; but owing, it is alleged, to the supineness and masterly inactivity of the Provincial Government, the scheme proved abortive, and it now seems the intention of Britain to erect the territory in question into a Crown Colony.

X.—In 1858, an act was passed providing for the protection and proper management of the Lake, Gulf,