

measures as will allay the unpleasant feelings now entertained by the most loyal colonists of the British Crown, and that the brightest jewel will be preserved to it. The Canadians consider that all the country west of Lake Superior to the Pacific, with the valleys and prairies of the Saskewatchan and Lake Winnipeg, belongs to them, and not to the Company,—this territory having been acquired from France nearly 100 years after the grant to the Hudson's Bay Company,—and require that the claims of the Company ought to be decided by law, or by reference to the Privy Council in England, where they could be heard by counsel. This would be only just to both parties.

The petition of 570 inhabitants of the Red River to the Canadian Parliament is attached to this, which gives a plain, unvarnished tale of the disadvantages they labour under; and they expect that they will get from the British Legislature the same freedom as enjoyed by the other colonists in North America.

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## P E T I T I O N .

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada,  
in Parliament assembled.

*The Petition of the undersigned inhabitants and natives of the settlement situated  
on the Red River, in the Assiniboine Country, British North America,*

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

That many years ago a body of British emigrants were induced to settle in this country, under very flattering promises made to them by the late Earl of Selkirk, and under certain contracts.

All those promises and contracts, which had led them to hope that, protected by British laws, they would enjoy the fruits of their labour, have been evaded.

On the coalition of the rival companies, many of us, Europeans and Canadians, settled with our families around this nucleus of civilization in the wilderness, in full expectation that none would interrupt our enjoyment of those privileges which we believe to be ours by birth-right, and which are secured to all her Majesty's subjects in any other British Colony.

We have paid large sums of money to the Hudson's Bay Company for land, yet we cannot obtain deeds for the same. The Company's agents have made several attempts to force upon us deeds which would reduce ourselves and our posterity to the most abject slavery under that body. As evidence of this, we append a copy of such deeds as have been offered to us for signature.