

APPENDIX (A.)

STATEMENT of the RIGHTS, as to TERRITORY, TRADE, TAXATION and GOVERNMENT claimed and exercised by the Hudson's Bay Company on the Continent of *North America*.

By the Charter of his Majesty King Charles the Second, dated 2d May, 1670, by which the Hudson's Bay Company was constituted, his Majesty granted to the Company as follows :—

“ We have given, granted and confirmed, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, do give, grant and confirm, unto the said Governor and Company, and their successors, the sole trade and commerce of all those seas, straits, bays, rivers, lakes, creeks, and sounds in whatsoever latitude they shall be, that lie within the entrance of the straits commonly called Hudson's Straits, together with all the lands and territories upon the countries, coasts and confines of the seas, bays, lakes, rivers, creeks and sounds aforesaid, that are not already actually possessed by or granted to any of our subjects, or possessed by the subjects of any other Christian Prince or State, with the fishing of all sorts of fish, whales and sturgeons, and other royal fishes, in the seas, bays, inlets and rivers within the premises, and the fish therein taken, together with the royalty of the sea upon the coasts within the limits aforesaid ; and all mines royal, as well discovered as not discovered, of gold, silver, gems and precious stones, to be found or discovered within the territories, limits and places aforesaid ; and that the said land be from henceforth reckoned and reputed as one of our plantations or colonies in America, called “ Rupert's Land ” : And further, we do by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, make, create and constitute the said Governor and Company for the time being, and their successors, the true and absolute lords and proprietors of the same territory, limits and places aforesaid, and of all other the premises, saving always the faith, allegiance and sovereign dominion due to us, our heirs and successors for the same ; to have, hold, possess and enjoy the said territory, limits and places, and all and singular other the premises hereby granted as aforesaid, with their and every of their rights, members, jurisdictions, prerogatives, royalties and appurtenances whatsoever to them the said Governor and Company and their successors for ever, to be holden of us, our heirs and successors as of our manor of East Greenwich, in our county of Kent, in free and common soccage, and not in capite, or by knight's service ; yielding and paying yearly to us, our heirs and successors, for the same, two elks and two black beavers, whensoever and as often as we, our heirs and successors, shall happen to enter into the said countries, territories and regions hereby granted.”

Under this grant the Company have always claimed and exercised dominion as absolute proprietors of the soil in the territories understood to be embraced by the terms of the grant, and which are more particularly defined in the accompanying map ; and they have also claimed and enjoyed the exclusive right of trading in those territories.