

## CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE

The Hudson's Bay Company also claim, and actually exercise rights of exclusive trade, although not the ownership of the soil, over all the territory comprised in a certain license to trade, granted in the year 1838 by the Crown, under the provisions of the Act "for regulating the Fur Trade," 1 & 2 Geo. 4, c. 66, of which license copy is also annexed to this despatch.

It has been intimated to me, on the part of the Hudson's Bay Company, that as their license expires in 1859, and as a very long period is required before any important change of arrangements can be notified and acted on throughout the vast and distant regions affected by it, it will be very desirable that the views of Her Majesty's Government and of Parliament as to the renewal of the license should be ascertained as early as possible.

Her Majesty's Government have therefore determined on bringing the whole subject under the investigation of a Committee of the House of Commons at the earliest convenient time. The inquiry will mainly be directed to the question of the renewal of the license; but it must incidentally embrace the general position and prospects of the Hudson's Bay Company.

As many points may arise in the course of this inquiry which may affect the interests of Canada, I have to instruct you to consider, with the advice of your Council, the question whether it may be desirable to send witnesses to appear before the Committee, or in any other manner to cause the views of the provincial government and the interests of the Canadian community to be represented before this Committee.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *H. Labouchere.*

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-- No. 2. --

(No. 9.)

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor-General Sir *E. Head* to the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere.*

Government House, Toronto, C. W.,  
17 January 1857.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your despatch of 4th December last, No. 179, relating to the Hudson's Bay Company.

I now enclose a copy of a Minute of Council which I have approved this day. At the same time I desire to observe that I express no opinion of my own as to the fact that the western boundary of Canada extends to the Pacific Ocean.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Edmund Head.*

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COPY of a REPORT of a COMMITTEE of the Honourable the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, dated 17th January 1857, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General.

THE Committee of Council have read with great satisfaction the despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, of the 4th of December last, on the subject of the Hudson's Bay Company's occupation of the great North-west territory of America.

They rejoice that the important position and advantages of that great portion of the continent have received such prominent attention from the Imperial Government, and are to undergo the examination and consideration of a Committee of the House of Commons in England.

The Committee desire to urge the importance of ascertaining the limits of Canada, in the direction of the territory over which the Hudson's Bay Company claim jurisdiction. The general feeling here is strongly that the western boundary of Canada extends to the Pacific Ocean.

In

Parliamentary  
Paper, No. 547, of  
1842, page 9.

January 17, 1857.