

£8,011,754. The tonnage employed on the lakes and St. Lawrence in the coasting trade and the States, including steamers, ferry boats, sailing vessels, &c. for 1856, amounted to 12,245,167 tons; some of the ferry boats made several trips daily. The whole trade of the Hudson's Bay Company, over a territory larger than the rest of the British empire in all other parts of the world, was little over £400,000, employing three vessels. It is to be hoped that the Cabinets of St. James and Washington will carry out the wishes of the people in opening the country trade of the Lakes and St. Lawrence to both nations. The boards of trade of New York and other cities are in favour of such a change.

At the last sales of the Company in London, in March 1857, black bear-skins brought from 50s. to 100s., for which the Company gave the Indians two dozen brass buttons, two combs, or other goods, costing them one shilling. One beaver-skin being estimated as equal to one dozen yellow buttons, or one dozen needles; two beaver-skins being equal to two black bear-skins or three brown; silver fox-skins selling for £20 or more, for which the Indians only got five shillings-worth of goods. It is reported in Canada that the Company sold the Government, for our soldiers when perishing with cold in the Crimea, 80,000 buffalo robes at 40s. to 50s. currency, which cost them 5s. to 15s. If this be true, comment is useless.

The *Toronto Globe*, of 27th of June, states, that the Company were about getting from the Canadian Government all the harbours and mouths of rivers on the British side of Lake Superior, but that Parliament, on meeting, would refuse sanctioning any such unjust and illegal grants, which, if carried out, would give the Company the keys of the rich prairies on the Red River and Lake Winnipeg, thus locking the doors against the Canadians, and diverting the trade to the Americans.

The proposed grants were 6400 acres at each river, with the banks on both sides, five miles long by two deep—a total of 50,000 acres, at one farthing per acre. In the history of jobs it would be difficult to find a parallel to this.

At present, Canada is very much excited, thinking that the decision of the Committee of the British House of Commons may be favourable to the Company. The sending of troops to the peaceable district of the Red River at their request, the taking the long route by Hudson's Bay, with the late discovered land jobs of the harbours of Lake Superior, have further raised their indignation.

Surely the good sense of the Home Government will take such