

Dr. Anderson's motives for objecting to the abolition of the Hudson's Bay Company's monopoly in furs were indicated in a memorial he addressed to the Governor and Committee of the Company, in which he says: \* "After four years' residence in Canada, my opinions are unchanged as to the evils that would follow free trade in furs. It would doubtless enable unscrupulous adventurers to make money in the southern part of the territory. Rum would be largely used, and the Indians greatly demoralized, and difficulties thrown in the way of missionary operations. I never hesitate to express my opinion to that effect, whenever I am asked what I think of the movement." The admirable effects of the policy pursued by the Government of Canada towards the Indians of the North-west Territories, and the general result of the system, on which the whole Indian population of the Dominion is provided for, have dispelled many of the fears others besides Dr. Anderson may have once entertained as to an influx of white settlers. But it is easy to see how, looking at the questions before him from such a point of view, he may, unconsciously perhaps, have done an injustice even to the character of the country itself.

#### HUDSON'S BAY.

Our references have hitherto been mainly to matters directly bearing upon the interests of the Province of Ontario in the territory now brought within its jurisdiction. But, in the waters and country lying beyond the boundary line fixed by the arbitrators, the people of Ontario have, in common with the whole Dominion, also an interest, and, from their geographical position, it may be anticipated that they have even a larger stake in the explorations and developments of those regions than others. To them, if communications be established with James Bay, the whole coast line of Hudson's Bay will be accessible, as also will the fisheries in its waters, while, should it be attempted to utilize the Nelson River Valley as a route for the transportation of the products of the Saskatchewan Valley to Europe, settlements would of necessity spring up on the Nelson or Hayes Rivers, and their confluents, and probably on the western shores of the Bay also; if, too, the expectations that the eastern coasts contain large mineral deposits be realized, a demand for the products of Ontario manufactures would naturally present itself in that quarter also. It is true that, as we shall presently see, some eminently respectable authorities are sanguine, that the navigation of the Bay and Straits may be effected for a period in the course of the year, sufficient to make it profitable, and to justify very bold measures for connecting the Saskatchewan and Lake Winnipeg, with Hudson's Bay by means more expeditious than those now existing. The progress of modern science has done so much to remove old prejudices and to overcome presumed impossibilities that it would be wrong hastily to decide adversely to these views. But certainly the evidence so far before

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\* Report of Committee, p. 238.