

compared favourably with those of the United States, and we have no wholesale massacres or prolonged Indian wars to chronicle such as the Americans have experienced at the hands of their Savages. This is owing to the good treatment ever extended to the Indians by the Hudson's Bay Company, and to the faithful performance of treaties and considerate management of Indian affairs by the Canadian Government.

In 1857 the Canadian Government fitted out an exploring expedition under the charge of S. J. Dawson and Henry Youle Hind, M.A., for the purpose of penetrating the North-West Territory and obtaining some definite information in regard to it. This step was probably taken under the impression that some immediate action would be recommended by the Imperial Government to bring about a transfer of the country to Canada.

In 1858 an attempt was made to organise a mail service between Canada and Red River Settlement, *via* Lake Superior, but in 1860 it was abandoned, having proved a failure. The United States, however, succeeded better, for in 1857 they established postal communication with Pembina on the boundary line, and a carrier from the settlement brought the mail from that place to Fort Garry.

About this time the traders had to cart their goods some six hundred miles over the prairie from St. Paul, Minnesota, and the Hudson's Bay Company, in addition to using this route for bringing in supplies, brought a large portion of their English goods into the country *via* Hudson's Bay and York Factory. In 1862 the Hudson's Bay Company placed a steamer, called the "International," on the Red River, for the purpose of bringing in supplies and taking out their furs, and after this the steamboat gradually took the place of the Red River ox cart.

We now come to the time immediately preceding the transfer of the North-West to Canada.

In 1868, Sir George E. Cartier, and Honourable Wm. McDougall were appointed a delegation to England to arrange the terms for the acquisition of Rupert's Land by Canada. For some time previous to this, negotiations for the opening up of the country to settlement had been going on between the Canadian and Imperial authorities, and on the 16th August, 1865, Lord Monk forwarded copies of papers on the subject to Right Hon. E. Cardwell, Secretary of State. While, however, Canada was thus stirring herself in the matter, others were not asleep as to the importance and value of the great North-West. In 1858 a plan was submitted to Lord Stanley, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, for the purpose of opening communication with the Red River, in which it was proposed that a company should do the work with the aid of a land grant of forty million of acres in the neighbourhood of the Saskatchewan River. It would seem from this that there were capitalists in those days who had some faith in the future of the North-West. Then, again, in 1866, an application was made to Sir Edmund Head by one Alex. McEwen, to know whether the Hudson's Bay Company were willing to dispose of its cultivable territory to a party of Anglo-American capitalists, who would settle and colonize the same, etc., etc. A favourable reply was given by the Hudson's Bay Company to Mr. McEwen, but as the Canadian Government and the Imperial authorities had held a conference in 1865 on the subject of transferring the North-West, nothing could be done with Mr. McEwen's proposition pending further negotiations with Canada.