

Champlain, who was the Viceroy of France, was captured in Quebec and carried to England as a prisoner of war, and that while he was such prisoner he published a map showing that the Hudson's Bay's country formed part of New France. He further points out that through all these years and down to 1670 when the English Government granted the charter to the Hudson's Bay Company, France and not England occupied this territory, and that, therefore, no rights were legally granted to the Hudson's Bay Company over the land in dispute. This condition of affairs remained unchanged for half a century, and during all that time France remained in undisturbed possession of the country. Then war again broke out between England and France. That war was ended by the Treaty of Ryswick in 1697; at that time England had possession of Fort Albany only—all the rest of the territory was in the possession of the French. But under the provisions of that treaty each nation was bound to deliver up to the other all the possessions they had prior to the war and especially in Hudson's Bay, and so under that treaty Fort Albany alone of all the vast territory claimed by the Company was held by it down to the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. And so, Sir, it may be said that the rights of the respective Crowns of France and England continued unchanged until the treaty of 1763, when the territory was ceded, with whatever rights and franchises belonged to it, to Great Britain, up to the Mississippi River. But these are not all the arguments advanced by the right hon. gentleman's colleague on this important subject, and as the head of that Government he must bear the responsibility of the position then taken. He pointed out with great force and vigor, and with great energy, the fact that the Quebec Act of 1774 gave Quebec all the territory I have just spoken of, and that is covered by the description in the commission that was issued to Sir Guy Carleton in that year. It may be well to refer for a moment to what that description does cover, because it covers a good deal more territory than hon. gentlemen opposite are now willing to concede to the Province of Ontario, or to admit belonged to the old Province of Quebec, and as a consequence, to the new Province of Ontario, although not more than they themselves at one time contended for. After describing at some considerable length the boundaries of the territory over which Sir Guy Carleton was appointed to govern, the description in the commission thus proceeds:

"And thence along the western boundary of the said Province until it strikes the River Ohio, and along the banks of the said river to the southern boundary of the territory granted by the Merchants Adventurers of England trading to Hudson's Bay, and also all such territories, islands and countries which have, since the 10th day of February, 1763, been made part of the Government of Newfoundland as aforesaid