

portion of the territory, and asking the Colonial Office to stay their hand in the matter till they had been heard. The Colonial Office thereupon took up the side of Canada and stayed their hand, and they used their influence with the Directors of the Company, to induce them also to stay their hands until the matter should have been brought in a formal shape before them by the Government of Canada. The Government of Canada it was understood were invited to make proposals, and were supposed to be ready to do so, and it was supposed that very soon there would be a direct dealing between the Government of Canada and the Company, for the transference of the land to Canada. But at this point comes in a new feature. Canada says, "We are now in negotiation for the Confederation of the British North American provinces. We must wait till that Confederation is accomplished. We cannot act alone; we must wait until the Confederated Parliament can act." Then that again was pressed upon the Company by the Colonial Office, and feeling, as they have done throughout, that it was their interest and their duty to conform, as far as possible, to the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, the Directors held their hands for some time, in order to see what would come of this Confederation scheme. Ultimately, as you know, Confederation was passed, and in the Act, which ratifies the Confederation of the British North American dominions, a clause was inserted, giving power to Her Majesty to transfer to the dominion Rupert's Land and other parts of North America upon the address of the Canadian Parliament. That having been done, the Canadian Parliament passed an address to Her Majesty, in December, 1867, praying she would annex these territories to Canada. In that address they stated they should be ready to provide for the proper recognition of the rights of any private company, evidently referring to the Hudson's Bay Company. Upon its receipt, the Colonial