

150

22

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 10 February 1857;—for,

“COPY of a DESPATCH from HER MAJESTY'S SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL of *Canada*, dated the 4th day of December 1856, together with a Copy of the REPLY from the GOVERNOR-GENERAL, dated the 17th day of January 1857, inclosing a MINUTE of the COUNCIL on the Subject of the HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY'S TERRITORIES.”

Colonial Office, }
12 March 1857. }

H. LABOUCHERE.

SCHEDULE.

Number in Series.	From whom.	Date and Number.	SUBJECT.	Page.
1	The Right Hon. H. Labouchere to Governor Sir E. Head.	1856: 4 Dec. - No. 179	Stating that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to bring the whole subject of the affairs of the Hudson's Bay Company under the investigation of a Committee of the House of Commons, and desiring him to consider what steps it may be necessary to take in order that the views of the Provincial Government may be represented before the Committee - - -	1
2	Governor Sir E. Head to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.	1857: 17 Jan. - No. 9	In reply to preceding Despatch, and enclosing a Minute of the Council on the subject - - -	2

— No. 1. —

(No. 179.)

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere* to Governor-General Sir *E. Head*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 4 December 1856.

I AM desirous of informing you, at the earliest period, of certain important questions which have recently been raised respecting the affairs of the Hudson's Bay Company in British North America, and of the steps which Her Majesty's Government have in contemplation regarding them.

You are aware that the Hudson's Bay Company claim, under their charter of 1670, and the various Acts of Parliament which they consider to have subsequently recognised it, rights of proprietorship, exclusive trade, taxation, and government, over all the regions under British dominion watered by streams flowing into Hudson's Bay. The extent and ground of this claim are defined in the "Statement of Rights," printed in the annexed Parliamentary Paper, and in the accompanying Map.