

As expressing much more tersely and clearly than I can, the

GREAT EXTENT

of the territory of this government to the north of the United States; I take the following from Mr. Grant's valuable work, "Ocean to Ocean": "Travel a thousand miles up a great river; more than another thousand along great lakes and a succession of smaller lakes; a thousand miles across rolling prairies, and another thousand through woods and over mountains, and you have traveled from ocean to ocean through Canada. And this country is a single colony of the British Empire; and this colony is to-day dreaming magnificent dreams of a future when it shall be the 'Greater Britain,' and the highway, across which the fabrics and products of Asia shall be carried to the eastern as well as the western side of the Atlantic."

THE HISTORICAL PART

of these middle two thousand miles commenced with the organization of the Hudson Bay Co., in 1670, during the reign of Charles XI., to traffic on the shores of Hudson's Bay and the streams flowing therein, in a section then called Rupert's Land, in honor of Prince Rupert, a brother, I think, of the king.

THEIR CHARTER,

as was the custom of those days, was exclusive, really giving them this territory in vassalage to the Crown, with rights to make laws and carry on a form of government, of course to be approved by the Crown, and the control of any trade therein—at least they have claimed this, and so acted, which action has at least been tacitly admit-

tees of what is now known as the "Dawson Route," to Red river. He landed here, and on the south bank of the Assiniboine, built a fort at the point of its juncture with the Red River nearly opposite the present Fort Garry, which is on the north bank of the Assiniboine. He called this post Fort la Rouge, and it was doubtless the name of this Red Fort on its banks, that in early days gave the name of Red River to a stream whose waters and clay, subsoil of its banks are most decidedly whitish. (For further explorations of De la Verandry, see notes on St. Boniface, hereafter).

Following these first white men in this valley, came others, until, as early as 1762, Fort la Rouge was known as an established trading post, frequented by the *Coueurs des bois* from the French establishment at Mackinac, Lake Michigan, who came here to trade with the Omahas and Assiniboins. Although by the Versailles treaty, in 1763, the French were obliged to give up their North American possessions to England, they still, with others' then British subjects in Montreal continued in increasing numbers, their trade in this section, coming by their old original route, via Thunder Bay, and also via La Pointe, on Madeline Island, near Bayfield, south shore of Lake Superior, and up past what is now Duluth, to the head of St. Louis Bay at Fond du Lac, and so across joining the Thunder Bay route on Rainy River. These adventurers, however—belonging to individual enterprises—pushing their trade north, came in contact with the employees of the Hudson Bay Company.

This condition of affairs continued, the French or Canadians, still in

Some idea of the extent to which the Northwest Company have pushed their trade may be seen in the fact that in 1845 they had some sixty trading posts in this region, principally in the valleys of the Red Saskatchewan, Athabasca, etc. This condition of trade and occupancy of this section, continued undisputed, at least so far as the Red River was concerned until 1811 when, at the solicitation of Lord Selkirk, one of the stockholders of the Hudson Bay Company, that company laid claim to the exclusive jurisdiction, under their charter, over this immense region and in 1812 they established their first Fort and Trading post on Red River near this place. Coming thus into so close daily competition the state of affairs went from bad to worse, resulting in great injury to both companies, and finally bloodshed. In one of their affairs the commanding officer of the H. B. Company was killed. The result of this regular battle brought both companies to their senses, and soon after in 1821 these two competitors formed a coalition continuing under the chartered name of the Hudson Bay Company. The company so consolidated, continued in undisputed possession until 1868 when they sold their right to their exclusive trade and jurisdiction claimed under their old charter over this entire portion of British America and British Columbia, receiving some \$1,500,000 cash, and one-twentieth of the land with especial reservations about some of their posts, fully 50,000 acres.

So this great Northwestern area, hitherto known as Rupert's Land or Hudson Bay Territory has really been open to settlement, occupancy and