

was published by Jean Deny, indicating this possession by the French; that a geographical work was published in 1677 to which was attached a map which fixes the point of possession by the French fishermen at Hudson's Straits; that in 1523 a certain navigator named Jean Vereyzani, under instructions from Francis I. of France, visited the country and, for the Crown of France, took possession of the country and called it New France; and that then no one was in possession, unless it were the French. If the Cabots did discover the country they abandoned their possessions, and no one was then in possession of this vast section of country unless it were the French, clearly no one under the English Crown. Then the colleague of the right hon. gentlemen points out, in this valuable and important State paper, the fact of the discovery and the possession by the English, but subsequently abandoned, and the important fact of the discovery by the French and of the possession and retention of such possession by the French, and he then uses the arguments made use of by the English with respect to the Oregon boundary. He says:

"It is a circumstance not to be lost sight of that it (the discovery by Gray) was not, for several years, followed up by any Act which could give it value in a national point of view; it was not, in truth, made known to the world, either by the discoverer himself or by his Government."

Then the hon. First Minister, through his colleagues, goes on through a series of events subsequent to that, pointing out that all this country was in the possession of the French from the first discovery until the territory was ceded by France to Great Britain. He points out that, in 1540, de Roberval was made Viceroy of Canada, and that the description in his commission covered the Hudson's Bay territory; that in 1598 de la Roche was made Governor of Canada over precisely the same territory as that over which de Roberval was made Viceroy, and that these voyages and early discoveries by the navigators clearly show that the French were really in possession of the country and entitled to hold it at the very time the English Government granted it to the Hudson's Bay, and that therefore nothing passed under that charter. Then the hon. First Minister, through his colleague, goes further and contends vigorously that France was entitled to the territory by virtue of treaty obligations. He points out that by the treaty of 1632, the treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye, Canada was relinquished to the French, and that the territory in question was covered by that treaty. He points out still further, in confirmation of the government of that day, that in 1629