

This description in the Statute of 1774 is corroborated by all the diplomatic documents and more particularly by the instructions addressed to the Governors. Thus in the commissions addressed to Sir Guy Carleton on the 27th December, 1774, and in those addressed to the same Governor bearing date the 22nd April, 1777, the northern limit of the Province of Quebec, is declared to be the southern boundary of the territory ceded to the Merchant Adventurers of England trading at Hudson's Bay. In all the other Commissions addressed later on to the different Governors, and especially to the Right Honourable Charles Paulett Thompson on the 6th September, 1839, it is declared that the line separating the two Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada extends towards the North until it reaches the shores of Hudson's Bay.

Does it follow, that the Northern limits of the Province of Quebec should include all the territory situate in the same latitude as the said shores and that the concessions to the Hudson's Bay Company have never extended further to the East and to the South than those shores? This is what one may infer from the judgment which the Privy Council was called upon to give concerning the boundary line between Manitoba and Ontario; since, by adhering to the Proclamation of Sir Alured Clarke, dated in 1791 and authorized by the Statute of the year 1791, 31 Geo. III, Chap. 31, their Lordships declared that, as the dividing line between the two Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada extended to Hudson's Bay, the same should apply to the Western line and the latter should extend as far as Hudson's Bay. If therefore the judgment of the Privy Council be accepted in its entirety, our Province would be bounded on the West by the Seigniorities of New Lougneuil and Vaudreuil as far as the River Ottawa, by the River Ottawa as far as Lake Temiscamingue, thence by a line drawn due North as far as Hudson's Bay; on the North and West by the said Bay, Hudson's Straits and Labrador, on the East by the said Labrador and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Indeed it is quite obvious that if the Province of Ontario does not stay its course to the North at the Height of land or water-shed between the St. Lawrence and Hudson's Bay, and this under the laws referring to the old Province of Quebec now divided in two, we have the right to go beyond the same line. Whilst the Province of Ontario is admitted to extend as far as James Bay, it would be both anomalous and unfair to insist in bounding this Province half-way, since the division line between the two Provinces is the line which should determine its Western limits.

In fact, for two centuries the Imperial Parliament, the Legislatures, various Governments and the Press are engaged in the most serious and important discussions on this topic, and yet never have the Northern limits of the present Province of Quebec been clearly defined, because the territory of the Hudson Bay Company itself which bounded the same has never been properly described by the Imperial Statutes.

The Statute of 1821 which should have cleared up the question, concedes to the Hudson Bay Company the Indian territories not then belonging either to the Company or to the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, the boundary question being still undecided and unknown. Thus it will be noticed that the difficulty arises from the absence of any official document declaring the Hudson Bay Charter valid as regards the disputed territories North of the Height of Land or water-shed.

It is true this difficulty no longer exists, since the rights of the Company are extinct and the Federal Government, holding possession of the territory, would be free to dispose of the same as it might deem consistent with the rights of the interested parties.

But it is more advisable for the Province to abide by the Imperial Statutes cited above, and which throw sufficient light on our rights to force their recognition on the authorities who have to decide upon them.