

Though more recent charters limited the field of the great trading company, the sovereignty of this country was held by the Hudson Bay Company until 1890, when it was formally taken over by the Dominion Government and the various districts properly designated.

If any claim can be recorded (and basis for this we have failed to find), the United States would be restricted to the waters of Hudson Bay itself. Here, again, there would be failure, unless a claim could be adjudicated upon adjacent territory. A glance at the map will show that while the bay is joined by various channels with the ocean, it is really a large inland sea and altogether Canadian territory. Those islands to the north are merely the post-glacial fragments of a continent, and Hudson Bay a post-glacial lake, of which kind are many other adjacent waters. If the United States' claim antedates the glacial epoch, we may as well throw up the sponge and be annexed at once. It is the same kind of cheek they have displayed in sending patent medicine circulars to a local medical college.

The intrinsic value of the Hudson Bay waterways has been up to the present time mainly in fisheries and the fur trade. It is possible that the interior of Ungava, that portion of the great eastern peninsula, between Labrador and Hudson Bay, contains

immense quantities of valuable timber land, but it is as yet almost wholly unexplored. A great timber trade with western points is possible on Hudson Bay. A new possibility has also arisen, a problem of navigation, or rather of transportation. Cannot even the short summer be utilized for the shipment from Hudson Bay ports, of the export wheat to Europe, *via* Hudson Straits? It would be an immense saving in distance were the bay and straits made safely navigable for ocean-going ships. It would remove the congestion of traffic from eastern ports and equalize the stress of transportation rates. It would involve an international situation by the diverting of Canadian export grain from American ports. Likewise, by a possible trade in timber from the eastern shore to the west, a flourishing business may eventually spring up in this hitherto supposedly cold, uninhabited, and valueless region. The future will speak for itself. Whatever may be American feeling regarding Hudson Bay, Ungava, Franklin, or even the North Pole itself, Canadians may rest at ease. There will be no court of arbitration over Hudson Bay or any adjacent territory. Our American friends have nothing whatever upon which a claim may be based. Had it been so, we would have heard the eagle scream long before this.

