

in 1869. The details of the difficulties are matters of history. The price paid for our acquisition it is said amounts to one-half cent per acre, or one-fifteenth of what the United States paid for Alaska. Two rebellions have added to the price of the purchase. The first was put down by Lord Wolesley to be renewed by the half-breeds in 1884, of the Saskatchewan and Assiniboine territories.

They claimed that they could not get titles to their lands, and the grants to the land companies were over-lapping their holdings. These complaints were unheeded. Riel returned from Montana, where he had found shelter from his first rebellion, to champion the endangered rights of his friends. Again the rebellion was put down, and Riel perished on the scaffold. It seems as though there should be included in every fresh acquisition of territory a consequent rebellion soon to follow.

THE HUDSON BAY COMPANY.

Canada is no debtor to the Hudson Bay Company. The conquest of Canada made its strength greater and more secure, increasing the number of stations and the Company's wealth. The Indian brought his furs to the Company, while the world was kept out, and its great wealth remained unknown. The rights of other companies were absolutely forbidden. Companies were formed and after unsuccessful efforts were amalgamated. This combine was as complete as the combine of our day—the prohibition of seal fisheries for the benefit of one nation. The Indians of the north were brought under civilizing influences no more than they were under the rule of France. Lord Selkirk's attempt to bring Scotch emigrants ended in ruin to himself and misery to those who joined him. Both French and English raised barriers to prevent civilization. As the history of the past is having its resurrection it causes no surprise that the kings of France and England, with their Ministers, looked upon their American possessions as a bottomless pit into which the treasures of both lands were thrown and brought no returns.