

some person duly authorized to communicate with me upon the subject, in order that the negotiations may be proceeded with during the Recess, and the necessary measures prepared for obtaining the sanction of the Imperial Parliament and of the Legislature of *Canada*. If they are not prepared to assist in the negotiations, I shall be glad to hear from you their views upon the subject of the North-Western boundary of *Canada*.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

EDWARD CARDWELL.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the 11th November, 1864.

The Committee of Council have had under their consideration the Despatch of the Right Honorable *Edward Cardwell*, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, of 1st July, 1864, in reply to Your Excellency's Despatch of 19th February, 1864, transmitting Minute of Council on the subject of the pending negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and the *Hudson's Bay Company*, for the cession to the Crown of the rights of that Company in the North-Western Territories.

In the Minute of Council transmitted by your Excellency, the Government of *Canada* recommended that "Correspondence be opened with the Imperial Government with a view to the adoption of some speedy, inexpensive, and mutually satisfactory plan" to "settle definitely the North-Western boundary of *Canada*," and that "the claim of *Canada* be asserted to all that portion of Central *British America* which can be shewn to have been in the possession of the French at the period of the cession in 1763."

Mr. *Cardwell*, in acknowledging this Minute, remarks, that "if the proposed cession shall take place, it will be necessary to make provision for the future government of the *Red River Settlement*; and prospectively of such parts of the territory as may from time to time become the seats of settled occupation and industry." He quotes from the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons of 1857, in which it is said:—"Your Committee consider that it is essential to meet the just and reasonable wishes of *Canada*, to be enabled to annex to her territory such portion of the land in her neighborhood as may be available to her for the purpose of settlement, with which lands she is willing to open and maintain communications, and for which she will provide the means of local administration.

"Your Committee apprehend that the districts on the *Red River* and the *Saskatchewan* are among those likely to be desired for early occupation. It is of great importance that the peace and good order of those districts should be effectually secured. Your Committee trust that there will be no difficulty in effecting arrangements as between Her Majesty's Government and the *Hudson's Bay Company*, by which those districts may be ceded to *Canada* on equitable principles, and within the districts thus annexed to her, the authority of the *Hudson's Bay Company* would, of course, entirely cease." And Mr. *Cardwell* concludes by asking, whether the Government of *Canada* are prepared to assist in those negotiations with the view of accepting the government of any portion of the territory, and undertaking the duties contemplated by the Committee, in case sufficiently favorable terms can be obtained; and he suggests that if prepared so to do, it would be desirable that some person, duly authorized to communicate the views of the Canadian Government, should be sent to *England* for that purpose.

The Committee of Council recommend that Mr. *Cardwell* be informed that the Government of *Canada* is more than ever impressed with the importance of opening up to settlement and cultivation the lands lying between Lake *Superior* and the *Rocky Mountains*. The great extent of these lands and their adaptability for settlement are now established beyond a doubt; and it is not to be contemplated that a region so fertile and capable of sustaining so vast a population, should longer be closed to civilization for the benefit of a trading company, however long established and respectable that company may be. The rapid progress of *British Columbia* adds to the expediency of opening, without delay, an overland route to the *Pacific*, and gives feasibility to the hope long cherished by many, that the *Atlantic* and *Pacific* Oceans, ere many years elapse, may be connected by one direct line of Railway through British territory, from *Halifax* to *British Columbia*. The close relations springing up between the *Red River* settlers and the Americans of