

C A N A D A

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 18 July 1864;—for,

“COPY of all CORRESPONDENCE which has taken place between the Imperial and Canadian Governments respecting the NORTH-WESTERN BOUNDARY of CANADA; and of any MEMORIALS forwarded to the Colonial Office from the Inhabitants of the Red River Settlement.”

[*So far as the same can be complied with.*]

Colonial Office, }
26 July 1864. }

FREDERIC ROGERS.

— No. 1. —

(No. 33.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. *Edward Cardwell*, M.P., to
Governor General Viscount *Monck*.

No. 1.
Right Hon.
E. Cardwell, M.P.,
to Governor General
Viscount Monck.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 1 July 1864.

I HAVE had under my consideration your Lordship's Despatch, No. 18,* of the 19th February, enclosing to the Duke of Newcastle the Minute of your late Executive Council on the subject of the pending negotiation between Her Majesty's Government and the Hudson's Bay Company for the cession of the rights of that Company in the Hudson's Bay Territory to the Crown.

* *Vide* H. C., No.
402, of 1864,
page 15.

In that Minute the Executive Council say they “are of opinion that, in view of the recent change in the constitution and objects of the Hudson's Bay Company, which, from the correspondence laid before the House of Lords, appears to have been effected, and the claims which the new organisation have reiterated, with the apparent sanction of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, to territorial rights over a vast region not included in their original charter, it is highly expedient that steps be taken to settle definitely the North-Western Boundary of Canada.”

“The Committee therefore recommend that correspondence be opened with the Imperial Government with the view to the adoption of some speedy, inexpensive, and mutually satisfactory plan to determine this important question, and that the claim of Canada be asserted to all that portion of Central British America which can be shown to have been in the possession of the French at the period of the cession in 1763.” 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.

The Committee of the House of Commons, which, in the year 1857, considered the state of the British Possessions in North America which are under the administration of the Hudson's Bay Company, expressed themselves in the following terms: “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 neighbourhood as may be available to her, for the purposes of settlement, with which lands she is willing to open and maintain communication, and for which she will provide the means of local administration. Your Committee apprehend that the districts on the Red River

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