

interest taken in the development of the Hudson's Bay Railway scheme by the people of Manitoba and the North-West, impel me to urge upon the Government the expediency of at once directing some vessel now ready for sea at Halifax, or some other Atlantic port, to proceed by the way of Hudson's Bay Straits into Hudson's Bay, to the neighborhood of Fort Churchill on the West coast, and return and report to Parliament before the close of the present session, which voyage, I am credibly informed, can be performed within a space of three or four weeks.

But previous to this in March, 1883, Mr. Norquay reported to the Lieut.-Gov.-in-Council as follows:—

The undersigned would also again urge the desirability of extending the Province of Manitoba as far west as the one hundred and second meridian and northerly to Hudson's Bay.

While at Ottawa in January, 1884, Mr. Norquay brought the Hudson's Bay question forward, so that on Feb. 11, 1884, the House of Commons ordered:—"That a select committee be appointed to take into consideration the question of the navigation of Hudson's Bay."

This committee reported as follows:—

"To declare that it will be time enough to pay attention to the question of navigating Hudson's Bay when railways become insufficient to move the traffic of the North-West appears to us to be an erroneous view to take of the matter, what we have to do is to promote production by offering to it new and more favourable conditions.

"There also results from the evidence gathered by your committee, a necessity for the Government to examine a great number of questions intimately connected with the navigation of Hudson's Bay and Strait.

"Without the intervention of the State, this navigation will remain what it is at the present moment, uncertain, of short duration without any attraction for capitalists. In this direction several have set forth their opinions as to the nature of the examinations, which the Government might have made, and as to the organization and character of a proposed surveying and exploring expedition.

"They almost all agree in stating, that these observations should cover a period of at least three years, and should be conducted by means of observatories erected on the shores of the Strait, as well as on certain places on the coast of Hudson's Bay." (Vol. 18, appendix 2, page 7, Journals of H. of Commons.) And the result was the formation of the