

royal will and pleasure that no Governor or Commander-in-Chief in any of our colonies of Quebec, East Florida or West Florida, do presume upon any pretence whatever, to grant warrants of survey, or pass any patents for lands beyond the bounds of their respective governments, as described in their commissions, as also that no Governor or Commander-in-Chief of our other colonies and plantations in America, do presume for the present, and until our further pleasure be known, to grant warrants of survey or pass patents for any lands beyond the heads or sources of any of the rivers which fall into the Atlantic Ocean, from the west or north-west, or upon any lands whatever, which, not having been ceded to, or purchased by us as aforesaid, are reserved to the said Indians, or any of them. And we do further declare it to be our royal will and pleasure for the present, as aforesaid, to reserve under our own Sovereignty protection and Dominion, for the use of the said Indians, all the land and territories not included within the limits of our said three new Governments. or within the limits of the territory granted to the Hudson's Bay Company, as also all the land and territories lying to the westward of the sources of the rivers which fall into the sea from the west and north-west, as aforesaid, and we do hereby strictly forbid, on pain of our displeasure, all our loving subjects from making any purchases or settlements whatever, or taking possession of any of the lands above reserved without our especial leave and license for that purpose first obtained.

*By Mr. Robinson :—*

1. What was the occasion of your writing that report?—Sir J. A. Macdonald requested me to look into the matter and make a report.

2. When is it dated?—In 1871.

*By the Chairman :—*

3. In your remark you seem to consider that the height of land is the southern boundary of the territory granted to the Merchants Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay?—I do.

*In answer to Mr. Trow :—*

4. I set out with the proposition that the Quebec Act fixed the westerly boundary of Quebec. The question, then, appeared to me to be, whether it was a due north line or whether the banks of the Mississippi were the boundaries?

*By Mr. DeCosmos :—*

5. What do you call the banks of the Mississippi?—The boundary of the river.

6. How do you find the river?—The Mississippi, as shown upon the original map of Mitchell, is the first large river westerly of the head of Lake Superior. Therefore, I take it, the present Mississippi is that river, because that is the first large river west of Lake Superior, and that was therefore the river intended in the Quebec Act.

7. If it is alleged that the banks of the Mississippi form the western boundary of the Province of Quebec, it is desirable we should have some evidence as to the latitude and longitude of the banks of the Mississippi; and then, knowing there are various tributaries, we require to know what tributaries constitute the Mississippi. Where is the real source of the Mississippi? Can we trace it back to the source defined by the original explorer?—I had no difficulty in identifying it.

8. The Mississippi of to-day may be one river, and that of last century quite a different river?—Not so late as 1774. Jeffery's map of 1762 fixes the present Mississippi as the Mississippi of that date.

9. We know that map-makers have a fashion of guessing at locations. I was looking not later than to-day at a map that came from Col. Dennis' office, and I saw the head-waters of a branch of the Yukon rises in Francis Lake, whereas I have the best evidence that Francis Lake forms one of the sources of the Liard that falls into the Mackenzie. I mention this to show how little dependence can be placed on maps.—The map to which you allude was traced from a copy of the latest map of Alaska issued by the United States Land Department.

10. It will require to be shown that Jeffrey's map is the one accepted at the time of the legislation in question and on which the Orders in Council have been based?—I think the wonder is that in these remote days they should have approximated as nearly as they did to the geography of the country.