

Her Majesty's Government to complete the transfer by accepting the surrender of the Company and issuing the requisite Order in Council, but that, for reasons mentioned in the letters, his Lordship was of opinion that a short delay in the completion of the contract was advisable. The Committee, as you will perceive by my letter of the 21st January, did not assent to the opinion thus expressed, but they were of course unable to enforce the acceptance of the surrender in the face of Lord Granville's decision.

The Committee refer to this correspondence, not for the purpose of re-opening the discussion as to the course which ought at that time to have been pursued, but simply to show to Lord Kimberley that the action of Her Majesty's Government was far more than formal, and that it was they in fact who took upon themselves the responsibility of stopping the transfer, and thereby, as the Committee contend, prolonging the interregnum of authority in the Settlement, and exposing the Company and other private persons to additional losses.

It may well be that the considerations which determined Lord Granville's policy were sufficient to outweigh the damage occasioned to the Company; but that policy was at all events pursued by Lord Granville's own discretion, and not in accordance with, but in opposition to, the suggestions made by this Committee. The Committee therefore trust that the Earl of Kimberley will reconsider the decision announced in Mr Holland's letter, and will consent to deal with the claim put forward in my letter of the 1st instant on its merits; and that, if his Lordship should be of opinion that the claim should be preferred against the Canadian and not the British Government, he will at least afford the Company the benefit of his moral support in their endeavour to procure redress for the non-execution of a contract entered into under the influence of his predecessor.

I am to remind you in conclusion, that the equitable character of one part at least of the claim which I have had the honor to submit to Lord Kimberley was recognised by Lord Granville in your letter of the 26th January.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

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Hudson's Bay House,  
London, 29th November, 1870.

The Honorable JOSEPH HOWE.

SIR,

I am instructed by the Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company to address you on the subject of the representations which the Committee have recently made to Her Majesty's Government with respect to the loss and damage which the Company have sustained in consequence of the late disturbances at Fort Garry, and the delay which took place in the completion of the transfer of their territorial rights to the Dominion.

It appeared to this Committee that inasmuch as the communications connected with the transfer of the North-West Territory had all been carried on through the Colonial Office, it would be most proper for them to forward their present claim through the same channel, leaving it for Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Canada to decide in what manner the claim should be investigated, and by whom it should be met. The Earl of Kimberley has, however, expressed his desire that I should address myself to the Government of the Dominion, which is the occasion of my now communicating with yourself.

As Lord Kimberley states that he has already forwarded to the Canadian Government a copy of my letter of the 1st instant, in which the nature of the Company's claim is set forth, it is unnecessary that I should take up your time by recapitulating it. I have only to say that since it was written, the Committee have satisfied themselves that the Stocks of Furs, seized by the so-called Provisional Government, and afterwards put by them to ransom, have been restored intact. The Company's claims are therefore limited to the amount of the interest on the purchase-money, the ransom paid in money and in goods for their stock of furs, the damage done to buildings, and the amount of stores taken out of their storehouses, which they have proposed to leave to be ascertained by Commissioners.

The Committee trust that you will kindly bring this matter under the consideration of the Dominion Government. They have sent a copy of the correspondence to Mr. Cyril Graham, and have instructed him to seek an interview with you, in case of your thinking a personal conversation desirable.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.