

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir EDMUND HEAD Bart. to the
Right Honourable Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON Bart.
(No. 44.)

Government House, Toronto, Canada West,
April 4, 1859.

(Received 19th April 1859.)

SIR,

I REGRET very much that I have not been able before this to send any definite reply to your despatches (the dates and numbers of which are marked in the margin) relating to the Charter of the Hudson's Bay Company.

The first of these despatches was laid before my Council on the 11th of January, and I have repeatedly pressed the members of that body for their formal opinion on this important matter. They have frequently discussed the subject, and I fully admit that it is one which requires careful consideration.

I am now for the first time able to inform you that the Executive Council will not advise steps to be taken for testing the validity of the Charter by "scire facias," but they are strongly of opinion that it is most desirable on all accounts that the boundaries of Canada should be accurately and speedily defined.

It is probable that the Hudson's Bay territory will again form the subject of discussion by the Provincial Parliament in the course of the present session.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) EDMUND HEAD.

No. 102,
Dec. 22, 1858,
page 6.
No. 25,
Feb. 11, 1859,
page 6.
No. 37,
Mar. 10, 1859,
page 7.
No. 43,
Mar. 18, 1859,
page 7.