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in a great measure, on unrestricted freedom of intercourse with the natives.

Upon the application for a renewal of the charter, Mr. Roebuck moved a series of resolutions in the House of Commons to the effect—

1. That the privileges of the Hudson's Bay Company, about to expire, ought not to be renewed.

2. That the legal validity of the exclusive rights claimed by the Hudson's Bay Company under their charter ought at once to be determined by process of law.

3. That so much of the territory hitherto held by the Hudson's Bay Company as may be needed for the purpose of colonisation ought without delay to be resumed by the government of this country.

An interesting discussion ensued, in the course of which Lord Bury asserted that a large portion of the territory now claimed by the company was in the occupation of France at the time the charter was granted by Charles II., so that the King could not have given them a country which was the property of another state. He endeavoured to prove, by a variety of details, that the country was fertile, and in all respects fitted for colonisation; the prairie districts, and offered ample means of internal communication. Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, in explanation of the intention of his colleagues, stated that the charter of the company gave no territorial rights, and involved no question of compensation for lands that might be withdrawn. The government had made up their minds not to renew the license over any part of the Indian territory which was adapted for colonisation. The question of the validity of the company's right under their charter would be, however, submitted to the present law officers of the crown, and that next session they would be in a position to propose a scheme on the subject which would satisfy all parties. It was also intimated that, in the event of the Canadian government declining to take the Red River Settlement, the Imperial government was prepared to consider the expediency of creating these districts into a distinct and independent colony. On

Tuesday, July 27th, the Earl of Carnarvon, in requesting the House of Lords to permit the "Government of New Caledonia Bill" to be read a second time, merely recapitulated the arguments adduced by the Colonial Secretary in the other house, but in conclusion said that, objections having been taken to the name of New Caledonia, though it seemed to be the first title given in the old maps, and it was also used by Humboldt when speaking of the territory, Her Majesty, however, had been graciously pleased to signify her pleasure that henceforth the colony should be known by the name of British Columbia. The Duke of Newcastle availed himself of the opportunity to eulogise the advantageous position of this valuable acquisition to our colonial possessions, as offering facilities for a better system of colonisation than the mere eruption of gold-diggers. It was not like other gold-bearing districts, barren and rocky. It was a singularly fine country, apart from the gold discoveries in it. It possessed a fertile soil, magnificent woods of the finest timber for shipbuilding purposes, abundant and excellent fisheries, and coal in large quantities of a nature to generate steam. It contained all the elements of a prosperous colony, and he could not help thinking that some of the difficulties attending its first settlement would be obviated if an attempt were made to lay out a town, to allot land in connection with it, or in some way to attract persons to settle there permanently instead of merely going to search for gold. They might introduce at once by those means habits of civilisation, instead of only establishing a government with sufficient force to coerce the population into decency and order.

(To be continued.)

WEIGHT OF THE ATMOSPHERE.—Pascal shows that all the phenomena and effects hitherto ascribed to the horror of a vacuum arise from the weight of the mass of air; and after explaining the variable pressure of the atmosphere in different localities, and its different states, and the rise of water in pumps, he calculates that the whole mass of air round our globe weighs 2,662,000,000,000,000,000 French pounds.