

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 colonization, ought without delay, to be resumed by the government of this country.

After able speeches by Mr. Roebuck and other gentlemen, the Colonial Secretary thus defined the policy of the Government:—

SIR E. B. LYTON—Sir, it is with some reserve that I approach the great and difficult questions involved in the resolutions of my honorable and learned friend. The government, as yet, are in the condition of negotiators. Certain distinct propositions, as the right honorable gentleman who spoke last told us, were made to Canada by the late government with regard to any districts now covered by the charter of the Hudson's Bay Company, which she might desire for the purpose of settlement. And whatever cause there may be to suppose that Canada will reject those proposals, still every motive of policy, as well as of respect to that great colony, would make us desire that any other scheme for colonization in that region may have her own sympathy and concurrence. (Hear, hear.) Still, Sir, I own that the probability that Canada will reject the proposals made to her is so notorious, and the interests involved in this vast question are so great, that I cannot hesitate to state, at least, the general views by which I venture to think that we ought to be guided. (Hear, hear.) In glancing over the vast regions devoted to the fur trade, which are loosely said to be as large as Europe, the first thought of every intelligent Englishman must be that of humiliation and amazement. Is it possible that so great a segment of the earth, under the English sceptre, can have so long been abandoned as a desolate hunting ground, for wandering savages and wild animals? I put aside, for a moment, excuses of soil and climate; it is always presumptuous to decide hastily between man and nature—to say what man may or may not do to conquer those obstacles of soil and climate which nature may raise against him. It is enough for us to cling to the grand principle that civilization should be left to find its own voluntary channels; that we should not force it, but should take care not to obstruct it. (Hear, hear.) No one can deny that a trade which preserves wild animals and has a direct interest in excluding civilized men does obstruct civilization if it claims territorial rights in any district which civilized men are disposed to cultivate and inhabit. (Hear, hear.) The right honorable gentleman the member for the University of Oxford summed up the general evidence before our committee in the first two of a series of resolutions which he proposed to that committee; first, that the country capable of colonization should be withdrawn from the jurisdiction of the Hudson's Bay Company; secondly, that the country incapable of colonization should be left to that jurisdiction. In the two abstract principles involved in these propositions lies the readiest solution of the gravest difficulties that beset the question; it is the attempt of a practical statesman to effect a compromise, by which civilization may gain all it asks at present, and humanity may not only preserve to the savages scattered over frozen deserts, inaccessible to regular government, the trade on which they depend for existence, but guard them from the terrible demoralizations produced by rival tribes, by ardent