

diminution of interest on the part of Canada in the just and speedy settlement of this great question; on the contrary the public interest in the question and the desire for the early occupation of the Country, have of late much increased, and the best proof of this is furnished in the desire unanimously expressed by the recent Conference of the Atlantic Provinces, for a political union with the great Western Territories. The Government will observe the progress of the negotiations with profound interest and will most gladly communicate with Mr. Caldwell on any point which he may deem proper to submit to it. The Hon. the President of the Executive Council of Canada [Mr. Brown] sails for England on the 16th instant; he has given much attention to the Hudson's Bay question, and will be able to communicate more fully to Mr. Cardwell the views of the Government on the subject, of which he is fully possessed.

Certified,

WM. H. LEE,
C. E. C.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA IN COUNCIL.

Quebec, 26th January, 1865.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to report that while recently in England, in compliance with your Excellency's instructions, I placed myself in communication with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of opening up to settlement the North-Western Territories.

In your Excellency's Despatch of 19th January, 1864, to the Colonial Secretary, the anxious desire of the Canadian Government was communicated "for some speedy, inexpensive and mutually satisfactory plan," for "settling definitely the North-Western boundary of Canada," and the "claim of Canada was asserted to "all that portion of Central British "America, which can be shown to have been in the possession of the "French at the period of the cession in 1763."

In reply to this Despatch, Mr. Cardwell on 1st July, 1864, requested to be informed whether the Government of Canada was prepared to assist in negotiations with the Hudson's Bay Company, with the view of accepting any portion of the Territory now claimed by that Company, and providing the means of local administration therein; and he suggested that if so prepared it would be desirable that some person duly authorized to communicate the views of the Canadian Government should be sent to England for that purpose.

On the 11th November 1864, a minute of Council was approved by Your Excellency, in reply to Mr. Cardwell's Despatch. It set forth that the Government of Canada was ready and anxious to co-operate with the Imperial Government, in securing the early settlement of the North-West

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