

half ago, "the navigation of these unknown seas was characterized as safe and comparatively easy," "and if the number of vessels sent out by the Company is less in our time, it is because since the establishment of railways to the south of Manitoba it costs them less to export by this route a great portion of the goods that they formerly despatched by way of Moose or York Factory,* *viâ* Hudson's Bay.

The writer has ventured to quote much from the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, because he believes it to have been undertaken without reference to preconceived opinions, and at a time when the subject was even less trammelled by vested interests than it now is.

Convinced that the navigation of Hudson's Bay and Strait has been proved to be feasible, and may be found easy when worked by modern methods and supplemented by improved internal communications; satisfied, also, from a personal knowledge of the country, that the rapid settlement of the Great North-West of Canada is earnestly to be desired in the interests alike of that colony and the mother country, he advocates the development of the old Hudson's Bay trade-route as a work "which will assure to Canada a fresh pledge of prosperity and grandeur."

* Report of Select Committee of House of Commons, 1884.