

and the establishment of local Government in its settled portions. The government looks forward with interest to the day when the valley of the Saskatchewan will become the back country of Canada, and the land of hope for the hardy youth of the Province when they seek new homes in the forest; and it anticipates with confidence the day when Canada will become the highway of immigration from Europe into those fertile valleys. To attain these ends the Government is prepared to render all the aid in its power towards opening up the Country.

The Committee of Council are however clearly of the opinion that the first step towards the settlement of the Territory is the extinction of all claim by the Hudson's Bay Company to proprietary rights in the soil or exclusive right of trade. The Committee do not deem it necessary now to raise the question of the validity or invalidity of the Company's Charter. Were all the pretensions of the company as to their title fully admitted for the sake of argument, the necessity of its speedy extinction would still remain. It is not to be entertained for a moment, that half a Continent should continue to be shut off from the world on the strength of a parchment title, however good.

The Committee are however conscious that it is for the Imperial Government and not for the Government of Canada to assume the duty of bringing to an end a monopoly originating in an English Charter, and exercised so long under Imperial sanction; and while acknowledging with thanks the courtesy of Mr. Cardwell, in inviting the Government of Canada to assist in negotiations with the Hudson's Bay Company for the cession to the Crown of their claims, the Committee are of the opinion that the negotiations will be advantageously left in the hands of the Imperial Government, when the negotiations have been brought to a close the government of Canada will be ready to arrange with the Imperial Government for the annexation to Canada of such portion of the land in her neighborhood as may be available for settlement as well as for the opening up of communications into the Territory and providing means of local administration, or should the Imperial Government prefer to erect the Territory into a Crown Colony, the Government of Canada will gladly co-operate in the opening up of communication into the Territory and the settlement of the Country.

The Committee express the hope that until the Government of Canada has been communicated with, no cession of large sections of land will be made by the Imperial Government for any purpose or any right of way granted through the Territory. The history of the American Continent is replete with examples of the great evils resulting from the locking up of extensive tracts of land in the hands of wealthy corporations, whose whole object is the realization of large profits. The existence of such an evil in these North-Western regions would seriously embarrass the efforts of any Government for the early and satisfactory settlement of the Country.

In suggesting that the negotiations with the Hudson's Bay Company should remain in the hands of the Imperial Government, the Committee are anxious that Mr. Cardwell should not interpret this as arising from any