

Kings of England and France to consider the complaints made by the Company against the French. The English Commissioners reported their opinion that His Majesty (James the Second) and his Subjects had a right to the whole Bay and Straits of Hudson, and to the sole trade thereof. They further advised His Majesty to support the Company of Hudson's Bay in the recovery and maintenance of those rights. A remonstrance was subsequently addressed to the the French King asserting this claim, and demanding full satisfaction for the wrongs done to the Company. None appears to have been given; and in 1689 these wrongs were mentioned in the declaration of war against France made by William the Third. They were afterwards considered in the Treaty of Ryswick, in 1697.

1689

1697

1713 The French continued to hold hostile possession of the Forts of the Company until the Peace of Utrecht, in 1713, when the Bay and Straits of Hudson, together with all lands, seas, sea-coasts, rivers, and places situate in the said Bay, and which belong thereunto, were restored to Queen Anne. By a commission under her royal hand and seal, Queen Anne gave the territories up to Capt. Knight and Mr. Kelsey, who were appointed by the Company as their Agents to regain possession.

1744 In 1474 Parliament voted a sum of £20,000 for the discovery of the
1746 North-West passage, and in 1746 an expedition was set on foot by some private adventurers in hopes of obtaining this reward. That expedition was unsuccessful, but its originators applied to King George the Second for a Charter similar to that possessed by the Company, in order to enable them to prosecute further their attempts. His Majesty referred this petition to the Law Officers of the Crown, acted on their advice, and did not assent to its prayer. Another petition being afterwards presented to Parliament, and a Committee appointed to enquire into its merits, evidence was taken, and a Report presented to the House. Upon consideration of that Report in a Committee of the whole House, the House refused, on a division of 65 to 29, to interfere with reference to the rights claimed by the Company under their Charter.

As long as Canada was held by the French the opposition of wandering traders (*coureurs de bois*) was insufficient to induce the Company to give up their usual method of trading. Their servants waited at the Forts built on the coast of the Bay, and there bought by barter the furs which the Indians brought from the interior. But after the
1763 cession of Canada to Great Britain in 1763, British traders, following