

a large portion of their English goods into the country *via* Hudson's Bay and York Factory. In 1862 the Hudson's Bay Company placed a steamer, called the "International," on the Red River, for the purpose of bringing in supplies and taking out their furs, and after this the steamboat gradually took the place of the Red River ox cart.

We now come to the time immediately preceding the transfer of the North-West to Canada.

In 1868, Sir George E. Cartier, and Honourable Wm. McDougall were appointed a delegation to England to arrange the terms for the acquisition of Rupert's Land by Canada. For some time previous to this, negotiations for the opening up of the country to settlement had been going on between the Canadian and Imperial authorities, and on the 16th August, 1865, Lord Monk forwarded copies of papers on the subject to Right Hon. E. Cardwell, Secretary of State. While, however, Canada was thus stirring herself in the matter, others were not asleep as to the importance and value of the great North-West. In 1858 a plan was submitted to Lord Stanley, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, for the purpose of opening communication with the Red River, in which it was proposed that a company should do the work with the aid of a land grant of forty million of acres in the neighbourhood of the Saskatchewan River. It would seem from this that there were capitalists in those days who had some faith in the future of the North-West. Then, again, in 1866, an application was made to Sir Edmund Head by one Alex. McEwen, to know whether the Hudson's Bay Company were willing to dispose of its cultivable territory to a party of Anglo-American capitalists, who would settle and colonise the same, etc., etc. A favourable reply was given by the Hudson's Bay Company to Mr. McEwen, but as the Canadian Government and the Imperial authorities had held a conference in 1865 on the subject of transferring the North-West, nothing could be done with Mr. McEwen's proposition pending further negotiations with Canada.

The mission of Sir George E. Cartier and Hon. William McDougall, of 1868, was successful, and as the result of it the great North-West became a part of the Dominion of Canada on the 15th July, 1870. The Hudson's Bay Company surrendered their rights to the territory in consideration of the payment to them by Canada of £300,000, and a reservation for the benefit of the company of a twentieth part of all lands set out for settlement within fifty years after the surrender.

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