

STATEMENT of LOSS and DAMAGE sustained by the HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY at Red River, in consequence of the occupation of Fort Garry by the French Half-breeds, 1869-1870.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Actual loss on the Red River District Outfit, 1869				19,729	8	9
Amount of Goods taken from Red River District Outfit, 1870, ⁷⁰ / _{NR} ^{SP ..}	635	14	8			
Amount of Goods taken from Athabasca District Outfit, 1870, ⁷⁰ / _{IBC} ..	22	1	0			
Amount of Goods taken from Saskatchewan District Outfit, 1870, ⁷⁰ / _{IBC}	667	6	6			
Amount of Goods taken from Athabasca District Outfit, 1871, ⁷¹ / _{IBC} ..	339	7	8			
Amount of Government Stores, property of the Hudson's Bay Company, not included in Red River Inventory, 1st June, 1869	450	0	0			
Amount of Ransom to Provisional Government	5,000	0	0			
Amount of Provisions to ditto	4,164	9	10			
Estimated damage to Buildings, Houses, Furniture, &c. ..	1,500	0	0			
				12,778	19	8
				32,508	8	5

E. E.
Fort Garry,
October, 1870.

Hudson's Bay House,
London, October 20th, 1874.

SIR,

The Governor and Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company desire to bring under your notice the claims of the Company against the Government of Canada, for losses sustained in 1869-70. They have purposely refrained from urging these demands of late on the Canadian Government, partly because they were unwilling to trouble the present Ministers immediately on their accession to office, when they might be occupied by a large amount of other pressing business; but mainly because the Committee wished to allow the investigation conducted by a Committee of the Canadian House of Commons respecting the Red River troubles, to precede the consideration of the Company's claims by your Government.

The Committee felt that an impartial enquiry could not fail to satisfy the Government and Parliament of Canada that the Hudson's Bay Company and their Officers had not only been innocent sufferers, and that throughout the troubles they had given their best assistance to preserve order, and restore the legitimate authority of the Government, but that on all occasions since, they had evinced a cordial promptitude in performing every service in their power to aid the operations of the Government for the completion of the communications between Canada and the interior of the country. It has been the desire of the Committee to place all their available means and the service of the Company's officers, servants, and establishments, in so far as they could properly do so, at the disposal of the Canadian Government, not only when required to further the material development of the country, but in preserving order and giving renewed confidence (which past events may have somewhat tended to weaken) among the Indian tribes.

The Committee were anxious that I should advert to these topics, because they felt that, if anything has occurred, either previous to or since the policy of incorporating the Company's Territory with Canada was decided, from which inference of conduct different from what I have expressed could be drawn, such occurrences have been wholly without warrant, either from them or their principal representatives in North America, and in direct opposition to the principles by which they desire to be governed.

It is unnecessary for me to trouble you in this communication by enumerating the exact details of the claims of this Company, or with a recapitulation of the reasons which have always impressed upon the minds of the Committee the conviction that justice, and that sense of right which they are persuaded animates your Government, would lead to a recognition and settlement of them.

I will content myself with referring you, for a summary of the claims, to a letter from my predecessor, Sir Stafford Northcote, dated the 23rd December, 1873, and addressed by him to the Secretary of State for the Provinces, which will be delivered to you with this communication. Mr. Donald Smith had received instructions that this letter, for the reasons I have already assigned, should be temporarily withheld, but I now trust that the consideration of the case may engage the early attention of the Government.

The Committee will be happy to give any proof or supply any further information which may be needed. They believe, however, that the Government of Canada fully recognise the fact of the losses, and I have every confidence that the justice of granting indemnity will meet with no less ready recognition at your hands.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN,
Governor.

The Secretary of State for Canada, Ottawa.