

de Vaudreuil, named the Red Lake, where the waters commence to flow northwards, as the northernmost point of Canada; and therefore, so far, conceded that the political boundary of the French possessions did not extend higher than the Red Lake. He now came to what really was the meaning of the charter of the Hudson Bay Company. That charter gave the Company all the country, all the coasts, and all the rivers flowing into Hudson Bay and Hudson Straits. Whatever questions might arise as to that definition, about the rivers there was no difficulty whatever, because after the Treaty of Utrecht all the rivers flowing into Hudson Bay were conceded to be British rivers. It seemed to him, therefore, that the historical view was opposed to what Captain Synge had stated, further than the fact of the extension of French settlements of hunters as far as the Lake Athabaska. Nor was the argument quite consistent with the legal interpretation of the word "rivers." At the same time what he had told us was extremely interesting, because of the great prospective importance of that country; it possessed enormous mineral wealth, which would one day be explored and worked.

Captain SYNGE expressed his satisfaction that the question had been taken up in the manner in which it had been dealt with by Dr. Twiss. The opening of the country as a route to the Pacific appeared close at hand, and it was this circumstance that gave so great, immediate, and practical an interest to the subject. He had been greatly struck eleven years ago when first bringing before the Society the physical geography of the country of interior British North America, as proving the feasibility of such a route, and the particulars of the direction-posts and characteristics of the latter, that the discussion which ensued instantly took the form of an attack on the Hudson Bay Company. He subsequently found all those who were in favour of the country were strongly under the impression that the Company was the obstruction really in the way. Now he himself at that time knew the Hudson Bay Company only by name. He had not then examined the charter at all. Satisfied that no such antagonism existed between the assumed proprietary of so magnificent a territory and those who were strenuously seeking to develop its resources to the utmost, he