

ed. That license, which was for 21 years, gave to these two companies the monopoly of the trade in regions lying to the west and northwest of the Hudson Bay Company's grant. That is the origin of this intrusion by the Hudson Bay Company upon the country that was then known as the Indian country, and that has become known as the Northwest Territories. In 1830, the Hudson Bay Company acquired all those trading rights for itself by arranging with the Northwest Company, and obtained a new license for 21 years. Those who are interested in pursuing this inquiry further, I would refer to the report made in 1857 by Chief Justice Draper, to a committee of the British House of Commons then charged with the duty of investigating this question of the title of the Hudson Bay Company, and to the more detailed report prepared by the Commissioner of Crown Lands of that time, Hon. Jos. Cauchon. In Mr. Cauchon's report we find the first evidence of a desire on the part of Canada to acquire these Territories. In that report we find it stated:

That it would be difficult to conceive that it would be adverse to the interests of the country or of the community if the Indian Territories were incorporated with this province.

That is, with the old province of Canada. For ten years thereafter a continuous correspondence was maintained between the Colonial Office and the Canadian parliament upon the subject of the opening up of the western country, and providing by legislation for its welfare and good government. Then we find that in the confederation debates, the subject was pursued further, and Hon. George Brown stated that:

When recently in England I was charged to negotiate with the imperial government for the opening of the Northwest Territories.

On motion of Hon. A. T. Galt, Minister of Finance in Canada, the Quebec conference resolved:

That the communications with the northwestern territory and the improvements required for the development of trade of the great west with the sea-board are regarded by this conference as subjects of the highest importance to the confederation.

During the confederation debates it was made evident that the construction of the Intercolonial Railway and the opening up of the west with an improved canal system had been decided upon by the conference as being works devolving upon the confederation at an early date, and these propositions met with general approval in the legislature.

Then in the order of time, the next provision we find with reference to the Northwest Territories, is contained in the British North America Act, section 146 of which provides for the admission of Rupert's Land and the Northwestern Territories into the union upon such terms and conditions as

are expressed in petitions to be presented by the Houses of parliament of Canada. And here, Mr. Speaker, I will ask the close attention of the House. It is to be observed that the terms on which the provinces of Prince Edward Island and British Columbia entered the union require the assent of such provinces to be embodied in addresses from their respective legislatures, as well as the assent of the Dominion to be expressed in an address from the Dominion parliament. But the terms and conditions on which Rupert's Land and the Territories entered the union, as well as their constitution, depend solely on the terms and conditions to be set forth in the address from the Houses of parliament of Canada.

In 1867, on the 17th of December, in pursuance of the terms of this section 146, an address of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada was prepared based on a resolution that had been passed the day previous, from which address I venture to make a few extracts. This address set out in the first place that it would—

(a) Promote the prosperity of the Canadian people and conduce to the advantage of the whole empire if the Dominion of Canada were extended westward to the shores of the Pacific ocean.

And next.

(b) That the welfare of a sparse and widely scattered population of British subjects of European origin already inhabiting these remote and unorganized territories would be materially enhanced by the formation therein of political institutions bearing analogy as far as circumstances will admit to those which exist in the several provinces of the Dominion.

I attach much importance to that paragraph, contained in an address presented by the House of Commons of Canada under the terms of section 146 of the British North America Act, 1867, asking that these Territories should form part of our Dominion, and draw special attention to the fact that the imperial authorities are therein asked to cause these Territories to be joined to the Dominion, the Dominion undertaking on its side to give to them political institutions 'bearing analogy as far as circumstances will admit to those which exist in the several provinces of the Dominion.'

Then further on in the same address I find this paragraph:

And that we do most humbly pray that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased, by and with the advice of your most honourable Privy Council, to unite Rupert's Land and the Northwestern Territory with this Dominion and to grant to the parliament of Canada authority to legislate for their future welfare and good government.

As will be seen by these addresses, the imperial authorities were moved to unite Rupert's Land and the northwestern territory by Order in Council to the Dominion of Canada.