

2719. Mr. Gordon.] Do the people in your district find a sufficient market at the Company's stores for the produce which they raise?—By no means.

2720. Is there a quantity of surplus produce?—There is not a great quantity, because they say, "If we raise it we cannot sell it." Consequently we cannot depend upon them for our supplies; therefore a good deal of our time is obliged to be directed to agricultural pursuits, which time might be devoted to educational pursuits if the people were sufficiently encouraged in raising their grain.

2721. It is your opinion, that if there were a sufficient market, even with the present population, agricultural pursuits might be profitably followed to a much larger extent?—Yes, to an almost unlimited extent, up to a certain line of latitude in the north, and still further north I believe as we advance to the western part of the continent.

2722. Mr. Grogan.] What latitude are you referring to?—Perhaps four degrees or five degrees north of the boundary line, beginning at 87 degrees west longitude, about two or three degrees north of the line, and widening up to five degrees in advancing as far as 127 degrees west longitude.

2723. Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.] Will you tell us what the nature of the soil is about Red River; you say there is a large extent of country there which could be cultivated with advantage; what sort of country is it?—The soil is alluvial; they cultivate the soil without manuring it; they sow it for 12 and 14 years together, and produce for four quarts, 12 bushels of wheat, 65 or 70 lbs. to the bushel, which I am told by the farmers of England really exceeds the returns in many parts of Great Britain.

2724. You say that there is a large extent of country about Red River which is capable of cultivation; is there water in that country?—Yes.

2725. There are streams running to the Red River?—Yes; fine streams.

2726. Are those streams timbered streams, or is there no wood?—There is a fair quantity of wood along the rivers.

2727. What timber is it?—There are oak, elm, birch, pine, and white-wood.

2728. What is white-wood?—It is something like poplar.

2729. What are the other natural vegetable productions of the country; what is the nature of the grass?—Timothy grass grows, I think, and other kinds.

2730. Is it a country which will naturally support cattle?—Yes.

2731. Hay can be cut?—Yes.

2732. Cattle can live there in the winter?—Yes. They have only to cut their hay; they have not to make it by turning it over, and so on, but have simply to cut it down and let it remain one or two days, and then go and collect it in.

2733. Is it necessary to house cattle in the winter?—No, not the whole of the time. They house them at night, but not by day.

2734. We have heard something of the floods in that country, are they of frequent occurrence?—A flood had occurred previously to my arrival; but, I believe they rarely take place. I think there have been only two or three floods there since I have had any knowledge of the country. Since the formation of Red River Settlement, there have been only one or two floods.

2735. Of course the floods occur in the spring time?—Yes.

2736. Has there been any extraordinary fall of snow in the winter when there has been a flood?—I believe that has not been generally noticed; they cannot attribute the cause solely to the larger quantity of snow; sometimes it has been stated to be the case.

2737. Mr. Gordon.] Do not large numbers of the settlers and half-breeds go to St. Paul's for their supplies, instead of getting goods out, *via* Hudson's Bay, by the Company's ships?—Yes.

2738. What is the cause of that?—The dissatisfaction which they feel at present with the Hudson's Bay Company's system.

2739. But why should that dissatisfaction make them seek their supplies at St. Paul's?—Because they cannot get supplies at a reasonable rate by the Hudson's Bay route.

2740. Why?—They have again and again asked the Hudson's Bay Company, as far as I have been given to understand by the settlers themselves, to improve the inland communication up to York Factory by Lake Winnipeg. The interruptions only cover a distance of about 400 miles; the other 400 miles might be navigated by a little steamboat, over Lake Winnipeg, which is

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a lake 300 miles in length. They have again and again told me that they have asked the Hudson's Bay Company to improve the inland communication. They have expressed a willingness to pay a small tax to the Hudson's Bay Company for so doing, but the Hudson's Bay Company have not done so. One attempt I believe was made by them at one time to some extent, because the people became so very clamorous upon the subject, but they failed in carrying the thing out to completion; and the people now say, "We cannot ask for any further improvement; we will go down to the United States of America and get up our things." Hence, perhaps, 200 carts and men, and horses and oxen, are united together, and formed into a large party; they cross the plains and they travel not much less than 1,400 miles backwards and forwards, and expose themselves to great danger and peril, in order to get their supplies at a reasonable rate in Red River Settlement. I came over with a party numbering 200 carts altogether.

2741. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] That is, from St. Paul's?—To St. Paul's, from Red River.

2742. Mr. *Gordon*.] You have stated that the settlers have made representations, and petitioned for an improvement in the communication between York Factory and Red River: have they ever done so with regard to Lake Superior; do they think it possible to improve that route?—There is no interruption all the way from Red River to the north-western boundary on Lake Winnipeg; it is all clear open water; so that the Hudson's Bay Company might at this very hour have steamboats, or better means of conveying supplies up from that lake into the Red River, and the goods might be taken from York Factory to the entrance of the lake.

2743. Have you travelled that country?—No, I have not travelled on the lake.

2744. Surely there is evidence that that route is very much interrupted by rapids and other obstructions?—Not the whole route, only a part of it.

2745. What makes you give so decided an opinion as that?—From constant intercourse with the people upon this very subject, because it has become a matter of public debate in the country.

2746. What route would that follow; not that, I suppose, from Lake Winnipeg down the rivers; I am speaking of the route by Lake Superior; I understood you to say that there was no difficulty in that route, which rather surprised me?—I meant the other route; but as to the difficulties between Red River and Lake Superior, I am told that they are by no means insurmountable. I have recently had a letter from a gentleman on the banks of Red River, who has conversed with a retired chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company upon the subject.

2747. Do you obtain with ease supplies for the use of your station from the forts of the Company?—Even if the Company were willing to furnish us with our supplies (and we are not sure of that) we could not get a sufficient quantity. For example, in the article of tea there is not always a sufficient stock kept in the country. I have a letter in my hands, in which the gentleman says, "You will imagine the panic we are all in at the probability of there not being a ship; the real or supposed straits we shall all be in; and the plans proposed for a partial supply of the wants and necessities of this singularly situated people, dependent on one ship. Oh the casualty, the risk, the uncertainty!—but so it is. Pray God for us, that we may not this year feel the sad experience of so serious a state of things consequent on such inadequate means of supply. But it looks gloomy at present; everything is out; all the stores are bare, and were it not for what the importers from the States brought in, there would now be little or nothing for the people's use."

2748. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] What is the date of that letter?—September the 24th, 1855.

2749. Mr. *Loze*.] Do you object to give the name of the gentleman who wrote it?—The same gentleman.

2750. The Rev. Mr. Taylor?—Yes.

2751. Mr. *Gordon*.] The Company sell goods to you, do they not?—Yes, some things.

2752. Is there a regular tariff at their forts by which you know the fixed price for goods coming from Europe?—The agent at the fort tells us that he has not a fixed tariff himself, therefore we cannot get it. There are certain things

things which are fixed; for example, for salt we have to pay 1 s. a quart; and for sugar, 1 s. a pound; and for rice, 1 s. a pound; that is fixed.

2753. Then there is a fixed tariff for some articles, but not for others?—Yes.

2754. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] But all those things are also brought in by the community from the States?—Not English salt, that comes from England.

2755. Is there any obstruction to their being brought in?—Recently, since the large caravans have come in from the States, they have imported all they have required.

2756. Is there any obstruction on the part of the Company to the bringing in of those things if the people choose to do so?—I think there is none on the part of the Company in bringing goods in from the United States, with the exception of efforts recently to put on a very heavy import duty.

2757. What import duty?—I have been informed they proposed 10 or 20 per cent.

2758. Do you mean the Hudson's Bay Company?—Yes.

2759. For what purpose was that duty put on?—I think ostensibly for the improvement of the roads.

2760. As you say ostensibly, have you any reason to suppose that it is turned to any other purpose, whatever the duty may be?—I will just state a circumstance, if you will allow me, which will illustrate the case.

2761. Just answer my question first; you may state the circumstance afterwards. Have you any reason to suppose that that money is appropriated to any other purpose than that for which it is stated to be raised?—I cannot always say how money is appropriated.

2762. Why do you say "ostensibly"?—For this reason, because from Fort Garry, the seat of government, in a southern direction down to the boundary line, there is no improvement of the roads whatever.

2763. Mr. *Roebuck*.] Do they improve the roads?—By no means in that direction; because the settlers with whom I travelled held a council, and they debated whether they would pay the import duty or not, and they said, "The roads are not improved; we are obliged to make our own bridges as we cross; we are obliged to wade across with our carts; we will not pay the import duty." That was the resolution which was passed.

2764. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] Have you ever heard that the Hudson's Bay Company pay for their own goods to that same ostensible fund, the same duty that is charged upon goods coming in from America?—I think the Hudson's Bay Company get their supplies chiefly from Hudson's Bay.

2765. I ask you whether the Company pay upon their own imports by Hudson's Bay the same duty that they charge upon the imports from the American frontier?—They may do so, but I have had no fact to show it.

2766. Have you ever heard the circumstance of their having done so?—No; they may do so; I have no doubt but what they comply with those rules.

2767. You know that there are rules?—There may be rules; at least the party with whom I travelled said that they would have to pay so much for importing their own supplies.

2768. You said that the Company complied with the rule?—I have not said that they actually did; but that I had no doubt they did.

2769. Have you any reason to believe that the rule applies to the Company as well as to those parties with whom you travelled; do you believe that that rule is a common one?—I am not aware how the Company act with reference to these rules at all.

2770. Do you know that those rules apply to the Company; I am not talking of whether the Company have complied with them or have not?—The rules apply to all parties I should think.

2771. Mr. *Gordon*.] To revert to the subject of the tariff, what price do you pay for cloth; is that one of the articles upon which there is a fixed price?—No, I think not; there is no fixed price on cloth and blankets.

2772. Do you know what sort and number of articles have a fixed price; you mentioned salt and sugar and some other article; are there a great number of articles in common use that have a fixed tariff?—There may be; I have simply sent on some occasion for the tariff, or a statement as to the price of certain articles, but I have not been able to get it.

2773. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] You stated that 20 per cent. was charged upon

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goods coming into the colony: do you state that as a fact within your own knowledge?—I said that it was proposed that 10 or 20 per cent. should be charged. This was probably assumed from the York factory import duty, fixed at 20 per cent. by the Council of Rupert's Land, of 10th June 1845.

2774. Do you know whether 10 per cent. is charged?—The people resolved not to pay the duty, whatever it was; I do not know whether it has been paid since.

2775. Do you know whether 10 per cent. is charged upon goods coming in from States?—I am not sure, because the people with whom I travelled held a council when they got to the boundary line, a small river: they said, "We are upon the boundary, shall we pay upon returning or not?" They said, "We will not pay because there are no roads improved."

2776. Do you know that that which they debated about and refused to pay was 10 per cent?—It was 10 or 20.

2777. Are you sure?—I have no doubt of it.

2778. Mr. *Roeback*.] Was there a demand of any payment made by any officer on that occasion? when you were crossing the boundary and came to that resolution, was that resolution put to the test by a demand on the part of any authority?—It was made public, and doubtless became known to the Company's officers.

2779. Was any demand made by the authorities of the Hudson's Bay Company for any duty upon your imports?—I went down with that party and did not return with them, so that I do not know.

2780. Mr. *Love*.] Where is the duty paid?—I suppose at Fort Garry.

2781. Mr. *Roeback*.] Did they make this arrangement upon leaving the province?—Fort Garry is situated a degree north of the boundary line, and it was after we had passed out of the settlement, or when we had reached the boundary line, that they held a council and said, "Shall we, when we are going back again, pay, or shall we not?" and they said, "No, we will not;" whether they did or did not I cannot say, because I have not been in the country since.

2782. They made that resolution, then, upon leaving the territory?—Yes.

2783. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] Are you sure that you are not confusing the export duty with the import duty, or rather that you are not confusing the import duty into the States with the import duty into Red River?—I am speaking now about the payment levied upon goods imported from America into Red River: and I have been since informed that 4 per cent. was paid on the return of the party from the States.

2784. Mr. *Gordon*.] How do you settle your accounts with the Company for goods?—Formerly we used to settle them annually; recently we have done so half-yearly, by a bill of exchange.

2785. Do the Company charge any per-centage upon the bills of exchange?—Just before leaving the country I believe 10 per cent. was proposed.

2786. You say "proposed," and I observe that you have several times used that word: what do you mean by "proposed"?—It was a proposition made when the Governor-in-Chief visited the colony.

2787. Made to whom?—To the Council which he meets at the Red River colony, as I understood.

2788. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] Did the Council adopt the proposition?—Five per cent. was paid; the 10 per cent. was tried as a kind of feeler for the public. There was a feeling of indignation against it, and five per cent. was I believe ultimately paid; but there was so much opposition, even against the five per cent., that I am not sure but that the five per cent. has been practically nullified, however much the rule may remain in force by the bills being sent through another channel.

2789. Mr. *Gordon*.] That is a profit to the Company?—Yes.

2790. Then if I understand that system rightly, as it comes before us in the Evidence, the Company first get a profit by selling the goods to you, and then a further profit by the bills which you give them in payment?—Yes.

2791. How is the post carried on?—There is a monthly mail, which has been established by the United States Government; the people became tired of the yearly mail, and the American Government made an appropriation, and despatched a mail up to the highest post in the Minnesota territory, Pembina, and some of the intelligent portion of the laymen and clergy of the Red River people met together, formed a little committee, and that committee resulted in the

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the formation of a little post-office at Red River; by means of that little post-office the letters are sent from Red River to Pembina to meet the American mail, and in that way letters go to and fro. In the recent letter which I received from Red River the gentleman seemed to rejoice in the fact that they were soon to have a letter-bag and a stamp, by which letters would be stamped, and would be sent backwards and forwards in a leather bag.

2792. You say that the mail is sent up by the American Government to the American post, is there an American post at Pembina?—Yes.

2793. Is Pembina within the American frontier?—Yes.

2794. Is it occupied now?—Yes.

2795. By whom?—By the Americans.

2796. By American settlers?—They have a fur trading post, a fort, and also a little settlement there; there is also a garrison there.

2797. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] That fort is not occupied in winter, is it?—It is occupied all the year round; I camped there myself; I slept there two or three nights.

2798. Mr. *Charles Fitzwilliam*.] Is it a military post?—There are a garrison and a fur post, and a settlement of Indians and half breeds there. I believe some of them have gone over the frontier from Red River.

2799. Mr. *Gordon*.] How far is Pembina from Red River?—Seventy or eighty miles from the seat of Government.

2800. But from the boundary line?—It is as close as possible to the boundary line.

2801. Do you know whether any facilities for settlement are afforded near the frontier by the United States at the present time?—I believe they are giving every facility. When I came down I found gentlemen from America up as far as Otter-tail Lake making claims, and thence as far up as Pembina.

2802. Where is that?—I suppose it is 150 miles at least to the north of St. Paul's; it is a lake well marked upon the map, I think.

2803. Mr. *Charles Fitzwilliam*.] Is it another St. Peter's, or on the Mississippi?—It empties its waters into the Red River, I believe.

2804. Mr. *Loze*.] Is it one of the head waters of the Red River?—Yes, one of the sources.

2805. Mr. *Gordon*.] Have you, during your stay at the Red River, known parties of settlers, with whom you were personally acquainted, leave the Red River for the United States or elsewhere, from dissatisfaction with the Government?—I met with a gentleman at St. Paul, Mr. Doll, a stationer and bookseller at St. Paul, who has a flourishing business, and he told me that, from the inconveniences which he had found at the Red River Settlement, and the discouragements thrown in his way, he had left; but he is now doing well at St. Paul; other parties also have left.

2806. To your own knowledge?—Yes.

2807. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] What had Mr. Doll been at the Red River?—I believe a portion of the time he had been in the Hudson's Bay Company's service.

2808. What was the discouragement which he met with?—The usual discouragements experienced by people in the colony.

2809. Mr. *Gordon*.] What are they?—The difficulties they have of getting their goods; the difficulty of getting representations from the colony, &c. &c.

2810. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] What do you call "representations from the colony"?—The people think that they ought to have a voice in representing their grievances; that, in short, there should be a representative government in the colony.

Luna, 9^o die Martii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bell.
Mr. Blackburn.
Mr. Edward Ellice.
Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.
Mr. Gordon.
Mr. Gregson.
Mr. Grogan.

Mr. Percy Herbert.
Mr. Kiessid.
Mr. Labouchere.
Sir John Pakington.
Lord John Russell.
Viscount Sandon.
Lord Stanley.

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY LABOUCHERE, IN THE CHAIR.

The Rev. *Griffith Owen Corbett*, called in; and further Examined.

Rev. G. O. Corbett.

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2811. Mr. Gordon.] HAVE you ever travelled in company with the American fur traders?—Yes.

2812. For any considerable distance?—For upwards of 1,000 miles.

2813. Near the frontier?—Yes.

2814. Had you any opportunities of observing their manner of trading in furs?—I had opportunities obtained from tenting with them night after night, and camping near their forts on the western route from Minnesota up to Red River, and on the eastern route from Red River down to Crow Wing.

2815. Mr. Edward Ellice.] That is in the American territory?—Yes.

2816. Mr. Gordon.] Did you ever see them engaged in trading for the furs?—Not a great deal.

2817. Did you ever see them make use of spirits as a means of barter for furs?—No; I never saw any spirits among any of them.

2818. Have you reason then to believe that spirits are not used by them as a means of barter?—I never saw a drop of spirits in any of their camps or tents, but I have heard the Honourable N. W. Kitson, the representative of Minnesota, remonstrate against the use of spirits as used on the northern side of the boundary line.

2819. Mr. Edward Ellice.] Whom did he remonstrate with?—He has remonstrated in the presence of the camp.

2820. But with whom?—I cannot say that he has remonstrated with any individual in particular; but he has expressed himself in very indignant terms in my presence.

2821. Mr. Gordon.] Whom did he remonstrate against?—Against the Hudson's Bay Company's fur traders.

2822. Mr. Edward Ellice.] How did the remonstrance arise?—He spoke of the increasingly large quantity, as he represented it, of rum which was employed amongst the Indians, and he spoke of the demoralising effects.

2823. Where?—On the frontier.

2824. Mr. Gordon.] Has anything ever come under your own personal inspection of the demoralising effects of ardent spirits on the Indians?—Yes.

2825. Mr. Edward Ellice.] Who is that Mr. Kitson that you spoke of?—He is, I believe, the representative for the Minnesota territory.

2826. Is he not a trader on the frontier in opposition to the Hudson's Bay Company?—I cannot say that he is engaged in opposition to the Hudson's Bay Company.

2827. Do you know that he is not?—I do not think that he is a fur trader in opposition to the Company.

2828. Do you not know that Mr. Kitson is a trader in competition with the Company?—He is a trader, I believe, in the Minnesota territory, in connexion with the fur-trading Company in that country.

2829. Is Mr. Kitson at Red River as well as in the American territory?—He does not reside at Red River, I believe.

2830. Do

2830. Do you know whether he frequents Red River?—He visits Red River backwards and forwards, I believe, as often as he accompanies the mail up from Minnesota towards Red River.

2831. Have you not reason to believe that Mr. Kitson is a trader in competition with the Hudson's Bay Company, not only in the American territory but in the territory as far north as Red River?—Not on the British side. I do not think it at all.

2832. Do you know what his occupation at Red River is when he is there?—The most, I believe, that I have heard respecting his visits at Red River is —

2833. Just answer the question; do you know what his business is when he goes so frequently to Red River; why does he go there?—I believe that he has relatives at Red River, and that he visits those relatives; and he takes an interest in forwarding goods, and letters, and mails up to Red River, and visits Red River; and the people of Red River take an interest in all his visits as a consequence.

2834. Do not you know that he trades there?—He may privately enter into arrangements for that, but I have no fact before me to prove it.

2835. Mr. Gordon.] Do you believe that he trades in furs there?—I do not believe that he trades in furs on the British territory.

2836. Have you seen any instances of the use or abuse of spirituous liquors in dealings for furs by the agents of the Company?—I have seen Indians intoxicated within the gates of the Upper Fort Garry.

2837. What reason have you to suppose that that liquor came from the Company?—It must have come from the fort; there is no other source for it within the immediate vicinity of the fort; and I have seen Indians in their encampments, in the neighbourhood of the fort, in a state of intoxication, and so wild that I myself have ridden out of my way to be secure in travelling.

2838. Mr. Edward Ellice.] Where?—In the neighbourhood of Fort Garry.

2839. Were you encamped there?—No; I have passed by them.

2840. Mr. Gordon.] Could not they have procured those spirits from the settlers?—They may have obtained a little from some of them; and very likely some of the settlers use rum as well as the Company.

2841. Mr. Edward Ellice.] There are grog-shops there, are there not?—Not that I am aware of.

2842. Not in Red River?—Not in Red River.

2843. Do you know Mr. Philip Kennedy?—Yes.

2844. Does not he keep a grog-shop?—He never did when I was at the Rapids, and I resided close to his residence; there was no grog-shop there then, nor the slightest appearance of grog. I have seen Indians intoxicated in my own district; there was a case that happened in my own district.

2845. Mr. Gordon.] Is it within your personal knowledge?—Yes. I had left my own station, and after returning to it, I found that a woman and children had left their cottage, and taken refuge underneath our own roof. I inquired the reason of it, and they told me that it was because they had been excluded from their own dwelling. I then went to the husband, and inquired the cause of it, and he said the cause was this, that the Indians and half-breeds, on returning from the fort of the Company, at Fort Garry, after having taken down their furs, sought admission into his warm room to warm themselves; and after staying to warm themselves a little they then began to hand round the rum.

2846. Mr. Edward Ellice.] Who did?—The Indians and half-breeds inside this cottage; and after drinking the rum for some time they came to high words, and from high words they came to blows, and a regular fight took place; and so dreadful was this fight that the man said he did not know what to do to get them out of the house: the thought struck him that he would pull down the stove piping and stove; and he set to work, and pulled down the stove piping and stove; and in consequence the room was so completely filled with ashes and smoke that all the Indians and the half-breeds, his wife, and family, ran out into the air.

2847. Mr. Gordon.] What reason have you to suppose that those spirits were procured from the Company's agents?—The statement of the man was, that they had taken down their furs and had returned with rum, as well as other

Rev. G. O. Corbett. things; as to the man, he in consequence of that dispute and fight is at variance with an individual a little distance from where he resides in the neighbourhood.

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2848. Have you a school in your district?—Yes.

2849. Is it numerously attended?—It would be numerously attended if we had the means to carry it on, but we have not had the means to carry it forward.

2850. From what causes?—Partly from the inability of the society to afford means, and partly owing to the effects of the war upon the societies.

2851. Is it attended by Indians and half-breeds, or by whites?—My station includes the half-breeds, the settlers, and the Indians; we have a large number of French half-breeds in the neighbourhood.

2852. Do you find the half-breeds anxious for education at your station?—Very anxious.

2853. *Mr. Blackburn.*] I think you mentioned the war as affecting the station; will you be good enough to say what you meant by the effect of the war upon the station, on account of which you stated that you could not get more children to the school?—I referred to the effects of the late war in the Crimea upon societies in depressing their funds.

2854. *Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.*] You have travelled up the Red River, have you not?—Yes.

2855. Are there many small streams running into it on either side?—There are a great many on the western route; on the western side of the Red River, and numerous streams on the eastern side.

2856. You have travelled on both sides?—Yes.

2857. How many such streams are there from the mouth of the river at Lake Winnipeg to the boundary line?—I should think there are 20 or 30.

2858. That is in a distance of 60 miles, is it not?—No, there would be more than 60 miles to Winnipeg from the boundary line; I believe that the boundary line is one degree south of Fort Garry, and Fort Garry is on the Red River, about 30 miles from the mouth of Lake Winnipeg.

2859. What is the nature of those streams?—They are not very large; some of the beds are very rocky, and others have beds of clay and gravel.

2860. Are they timbered streams, or is there no timber on the banks?—I saw timber on most of them; there is timber, particularly on the eastern side of the Red River; not so much on the western side.

2861. Is it heavy timber?—Some of it.

2862. So that in the country from Lake Winnipeg to the boundary line there is plenty of wood for the use of settlers?—There is plenty of wood, especially on the eastern side.

2863. But not so much on the western side?—Not so much on the western side, although there is a great deal on the western side.

2864. Have you travelled up the Assiniboine?—I have travelled about 80 miles up the Assiniboine.

2865. What is the furthest point to the west where you have been?—The neighbourhood of Portage-la-Prairie.

2866. *Mr. Grogan.*] Is that midway between Fort Garry and Brandon House?—Yes; it is not far from Fort Pelly, I think; I think Fort Pelly is the nearest fort one meets in advancing westwards; I am not sure.

2867. *Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.*] Is that a timbered country?—It is very well timbered, I believe; all the way up to Portage-la-Prairie there is a good deal of timber. There is a good deal of timber on the other rivers.

2868. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] Were you ever at Fort Pelly?—I have been as near it as Portage-la-Prairie.

2869. *Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.*] You think that all this is a country with sufficient wood for the use of settlers?—I think so, and the land is also good; hence luxuriant vegetation, which, when dry, forms fuel for the great burning prairies. I have a picture here of burning prairies on the Assiniboine River.

2870. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] Do not you know that Fort Pelly is 250 miles, and Portage-la-Prairie only 60 miles from Red River?—It may be as far as that, but I believe that Fort Pelly is the nearest fort to that neighbourhood in the western direction.

2871. *Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.*] Are there frequent fires on those prairies?—Yes; for three weeks together.

2872. Do

2872. Do you think that that is the reason why there is so little wood in the country?—One reason. Rev. G. O. Corbett.

2873. If the fires were stopped would it spring up?—Yes. I travelled through a forest which took us six days to travel through, and a great portion of that forest was on fire; many of the young trees were damaged and dying, and many of the other fine trees in the forest were on fire; I travelled over 600 miles of burnt prairie. 9 March 1857.

2874. Where was that?—From the British side down into Minnesota.

2875. Mr. Grogan.] You resided for three years in and about the Red River Settlement?—Yes.

2875*. What facility had you for transmitting your letters from that settlement?—At the early stages, I believe, of my residing in the neighbourhood of Red River, I had to avail myself of the half-yearly communications through the Hudson's Bay Company's territories.

2876. How did they go?—They went I believe from fort to fort through the Hudson's Bay Company's territory; once a year, I believe, the custom was to send letters from Red River to York Factory and thence to England by the ship; the other route was *via* Lake Superior, twice a year. Since the Americans have been approaching towards the borders, and the Government of America has been affording facilities for the transmission of settlers and letters and those kind of things, we have sent our letters through America down by Crow Wing to St. Paul and thence to England.

2877. You have sent your letters as far as Pembina, where you join the American post?—Yes.

2878. In regard to the Lake Superior district, how often were the letters or despatches sent on that route?—I believe half-yearly was the rule.

2879. Are you speaking of a matter within your own knowledge?—I believe it existed when I arrived; I am not sure that it does not exist at the present time; the annual communication of course exists at the present time *via* the ship.

2880. An observation has been made in this Committee that letters written at the Red River Settlement were examined or inspected by the authorities there. Does that come within your knowledge?—It has not come within my knowledge, but I have heard settlers again and again say that they have been afraid to send their letters; that they have therefore been the more anxious to see the other route opened up so that they might send their letters without the possibility of inspection.

2881. Do you mean to say that they were afraid of their letters being inspected by the authorities before they were dispatched?—They were afraid of it.

2882. Mr. *Edmond Ellice*.] Will you tell us the names of any settlers who have expressed to you those fears?—I prefer not doing so; they are in the territory.

2883. *Chairman*.] Are you able to adduce any evidence to substantiate the grave charge which you have made in your previous answer?—The charge has not been brought forward by me; but rests entirely on the evidence to which the Honourable Member's question refers (a). I could mention the names of the parties, but I should prefer not doing so, because they would say at once that they should have no market for their goods in the country. They would not be tolerated in freedom in the country if their names were known. There was one settler in particular who wished me to bring a letter to England to represent his case; but he said, "If I allow you to take that letter I shall not be able to sell my bushels of wheat, and I shall not be able to get clothing for my poor children." So that that is the reason. I could not mention the names.

2884. Mr. *Edmond Ellice*.] Have you that letter in your possession?—No.

2885. If you are not prepared to substantiate that allegation will you withdraw it?—I simply express my impression from what has been said in the country; that is all that I can say upon the subject. I repeat, the charge has not been adduced by me.

2886. Had you ever any fear yourself of your letters being opened?—I really

(a) See Question 1895 in Sir George Simpson's Evidence. Letter of Mr. R. Lane.

Rev. G. O. Covert. really have had such fear that I obtained a special stamp for my own letters.

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2887. What do you call "a special stamp"?—One with my own initials, &c.

2888. *Chairman.*] Has any case ever come to your knowledge in which it was clearly proved that a letter had been thus opened?—No.

Sir John Richardson, c. n., called in; and Examined.

*Sir J. Richardson,
c. n.*

2889. *Chairman.*] WHAT opportunities have you had of becoming acquainted with that portion of British North America which is under the administration of the Hudson's Bay Company?—I have made three several journeys through it, and have resided altogether in the country about seven years during those journeys.

2890. Have you only known it in your capacity as a traveller?—In no other capacity.

2891. Have you never been connected with the Hudson's Bay Company in any manner?—In no manner as a servant, or paid in any way by the Hudson's Bay Company; I had some share in the Hudson's Bay stock at one time, which is now transferred.

2892. You are not a proprietor at this moment?—I am not a proprietor, although I have a life interest in a few shares.

2893. Under what circumstances were the journeys that you allude to undertaken?—I went out first in 1819 with Sir John Franklin, and we travelled from York Factory to Lake Winnipeg, and from thence to Great Slave Lake, and down the Copper Mine River to the Arctic Sea, and then back again by nearly the same route; that was the first journey, which occupied three and a half years.

2894. What was the second journey?—The second journey was in 1825; I went out by the way of New York, and travelled by Montreal, Lake Huron, Lake Superior, Fort William, Winnipeg, Churchill River, Athabassen, Great Slave Lake, and on to Great Bear Lake, upon the Mackenzie. Then I descended the Mackenzie River and travelled to the eastward along the coast to the Copper Mine River, which I ascended, and came back to Great Bear Lake. I returned homewards by the same route, except that I diverged at Isle à la Crosse over the prairies to Carlton House, and descended the Saskatchewan from thence to Cumberland House.

2895. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] How long did that occupy?—I was two and a half years in the country upon that occasion.

2896. *Chairman.*] Will you describe your third journey?—The third journey was in 1848 and 1849; I went out to search the coast for Sir John Franklin; I made very nearly the same journey that I did upon the second occasion, only the route through the United States was different.

2897. Were you ever on the west side of the Rocky Mountains?—I have never been on the west side of the Rocky Mountains.

2898. Will you have the goodness to state to the Committee any general opinion which you have formed of the capabilities of any considerable portion of the country which you have traversed, for the purposes of settlement and colonisation?—With regard to the production of cereals, wheat may be grown up to the 58th parallel of latitude, in favourable places, but only in parts.

2899. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] Probably you will tell us the general aspect of the territory, taking it as a whole. It has been stated here that it is divided into three distinct divisions?—In giving a general idea of so extensive a country, I should take the Rocky Mountain chain as a nucleus of the description. Its peaks rise from 12,000 to 15,000 feet above the level of the sea; on the eastward it has an inclined base of about 150 miles wide, composed of sandstone, and lying 8,000 feet above the sea; then there is a sloping prairie land from 600 to 800 miles wide, called rolling prairie, on which there are some bluffs but no peaks and no hills of any note; that is mostly grass land; then there is a tract of rocky country, extremely uneven, but not rising very high, about 200 miles wide, bounding a chain of lakes which separates it generally from the prairie land, although there is a little woody country intervening between these lakes and the prairie; then there is a very uneven country of equal width descending to Hudson's Bay, partly limestone; all that 200 miles wide tract

tract is composed of granite, and is totally unfit for cultivation, except a very few spots where there is some little alluvial soil collected.

2900. Mr. Grogan.] Is that the district of the Great Lakes?—The district of the Great Lakes runs about south-west from the mouth of the St. Lawrence, and does not interfere with it; the district of which I have been speaking is separated from that of the Great Lakes by an elevated rocky ridge, not nearly so high as the Rocky Mountains, but by a ridge in which the pass over which the Hudson's Bay Company travel to the north, and which, I suppose to be well chosen, is 820 feet above the level of Lake Superior, which itself is about 640 feet above the sea; the pass is probably about 1,460 feet altogether above the level of the sea. The summit of the watershed at Thousand Islands Lake is 40 or 50 miles from Lake Superior in a direct line, and the much longer and circuitous canoe route rises at least 800 feet within the 50 miles.

2901. Mr. Edward Ellice.] Is that territory divided; we have had it in evidence that it is divided into the barren grounds, the thickwood, and the prairie country?—The prairie country is grassy, and extends, as I have said, from the inclined base of the Rocky Mountains for 600 or 800 miles to the eastward; next comes the wooded limestone country in the middle part of the Saskatchewan, a very flat country, in which the stone is very near the surface, and there is very little soil. In fact, in some parts there is almost no soil; in others there is a considerable quantity of marshy alluvial soil collected upon the banks of the river, flooded almost every spring; indeed I have seen the whole country almost under water for many miles on each side of the Saskatchewan. Then going on northwards, and crossing a very slight elevation of land at the Frog Portage, you enter upon the valley of the Mississippi or Churchill River, which crosses the country from west to east, and flows into Hudson's Bay, a narrow valley; but after crossing the Methy Portage, in about latitude 56 degrees, there is a descent for about 1,200 miles to the Northern Ocean, down which the Mackenzie flows on nearly a north-west course. From latitude 61 degrees, on Hudson's Bay, a little to the north of Churchill Port, to the north end of Great Bear Lake, in latitude 67 degrees, there is a line beyond which the woods do not extend; the north-eastern corner of the continent contains no wood whatever, and is totally barren; it will not produce grain under any circumstances, nor any kind of vegetable food for man, except lichens.

2902. In those three districts, assuming them to be the barren ground, the thickwood, and the prairie country, will you give us your opinion of the relative capability for the settlement or abode of Europeans?—If, under the name of "settlement," is meant the means of subsistence simply, I think that a considerable population might subsist as high as Peace River upon the alluvial points and the skirts of the prairie land, but if it is to be a productive or progressive colony, I think that there are no means, and that there are not likely to be any means of producing a flourishing colony without some market or some conveyance for the grain; they would only raise grain enough to support themselves, but could not export grain without better roads than exist at present; a railroad from Canada, if such a thing could be constructed, might offer an outlet, but until the settlement of Canada has advanced close to the Red River, I do not think that any wise settler would go beyond that place, there being so much better land much nearer the market to be had at a very moderate rate.

2903. We hear that the limestone prevails in a considerable part of that prairie country and also to the northward of Lake Superior; limestone is generally a fertilizing agent; in that country do you think it can be made so?—The limestone which prevails all along the west bank of Lake Winnipeg, and from thence up to Cumberland House and on to the Rivière Maligne at Beaver Lake, is not a fertile limestone; it contains a large quantity of magnesia, which is generally thought to be very injurious to agriculture; the greater portion of it is magnesian, and very near the surface, a great part of it being quite naked, with no soil at all; and cultivation at Cumberland House, which is a post which has been established for a very long period, has extended in a very small degree; there are only a few fields round that post which have been found productive.

2904. Have you ever travelled by land on the northern shore of Lake Superior between Sault St. Marie and Fort William?—I have been four times along that coast in passing to and from Canada.

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2905. What is the character of the country there?—It is very hilly, very rocky; it is mostly primitive rock; that is to say granite and porphyry with some conglomerates, gneiss, and talcose slates; it is a very hilly country, with deep valleys and very precipitous cliffs.

2906. Is there anything in that country which you think tempting or beneficial to a settler?—There are a few alluvial points at the mouths of the rivers which flow into Lake Superior which would be productive, but the greater part of the country which one sees in passing along Lake Superior is entirely destitute of soil. The fires have spread, and destroyed the trees, and burnt up the soil, so that the naked rock is the most prevailing thing over a great portion of that district. There are some parts which are still covered thickly with wood, but I think the general character of a very large portion of the north shore of Lake Superior is a naked rock, with but little soil, and very rugged.

2907. Proceeding westward from Fort William, what is the character of the country between the west end of Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg?—The canoe route, which is all that I know, ascends the Dog River, about 50 miles, to Dog Lake; that is a rapid river, with rich woods on each side, and there is some capability of producing grain on the banks of the river; but at Dog Lake the land is elevated; it is 1,300 feet above the sea, and the season is very late; the ice does not break up till the end of May generally. From that the canoe route leads over a rocky country, intersected by very numerous lakes and grassy swamps.

2908. Is there anything in that country which has particular capabilities for a settler?—I saw no spots which would tempt a settler there.

2909. Were you at Rainy Lake?—I passed through Rainy Lake.

2910. What is the character of Rainy Lake?—The banks of Rainy Lake are of a better character; there being more alluvial soil, and many points on which grain might be produced. I cannot speak to any great extent of country away from the canoe route; I only saw it on each side for a few miles. I think that many of the points might produce grain.

2911. You say that you were various times in the Saskatchewan; without going to particular points, taking the general character of the banks of the River Saskatchewan, what are its capabilities as regards settlement?—Of all the lower part below Cumberland House, I think there are only two or three points which would maintain a family of farmers; there is no place which I saw that would maintain a colony of any size. I think three or four farmers might occupy the whole of the points that are productive. I believe that Mr. Leith, who left a sum of money to found a church for the benefit of the natives of that district, and who wished to collect them into a village, found only one spot which was available for that purpose.

2912. That was near Fort Cumberland, was it not?—It was at the Pas, some distance below Fort Cumberland; but the whole of that country about the Pas is intersected by lakes, and in the spring and a great part of the summer it is under water; it is very level. Although the limestone comes near the surface, the country is easily flooded. You may travel almost in any direction, as far as my view extended, with canoes; the spring floods leaving only a few elevated alluvial points upon which the Indians have built their huts.

2913. Passing from the banks of the River Saskatchewan, have you been up into the prairie country for any distance?—Not higher than Carlton House; just upon the verge of the Great Prairie district, and I have travelled from thence to Lac la Crosse across that part of the prairie. The alluvial points of the Saskatchewan there might be productive; they are wooded; and if it were worth while clearing away the wood they would produce grain, but the prairie itself, although fit, probably, for sheep pasture, is not of a soil that I think would be productive for cereal cultivation.

2914. Is that from the nature of the soil or from the shallowness of it?—It is a sufficiently deep soil; it is a sandy soil; it produces grass, but I do not think it is rich enough to produce grain; I have not seen it tried; near the Hudson's Bay posts the traders cultivate the low alluvial points, which contain a rich soil, and they are productive enough.

2915. When you were there what did you hear of the existence of coal in the Saskatchewan?—There is tertiary coal, I am told, in the upper branches of the Saskatchewan, but I did not travel in that route. I had specimens of the coal, which were clearly of a tertiary nature.

See Murray description

2916. Coal of a tertiary formation is not very combustible, is it?—It is not used generally. There is coal of the same kind upon the Mackenzie, which is exceedingly disagreeable to burn, owing to the quantity of sulphurous vapours which it emits; and it will not do to work iron; it makes it short; but it has been very little tried as a fuel, as the fur posts are placed in well wooded localities.

2917. What is the character of the wood on the Saskatchewan, up in the prairie land towards the Rocky Mountains, and in that direction; is there much of it?—On the alluvial points, in the narrow valleys of the river and its tributaries there is a good deal of wood; all the alluvial points are covered with wood; but if you go into the prairie there is no wood; there are a few clumps at first, and then one comes into the prairie, in which there is no wood whatever to be seen.

2918. Is that for a great extent?—A great extent, I understand. Wherever a stream crosses the prairie there is generally wood upon the alluvial points; but a man may travel a number of days, as I understand, though I have never travelled that distance myself, without seeing a bit of wood; and the traveller is obliged to burn the dung of the buffalo for fuel.

2919. One of your great objects, I believe, in going out was for scientific observations?—My object in going out the last time was to look for Sir John Franklin's ships.

2920. What was your object previously?—Previously I was attached, as surgeon, to the expeditions. I made the observations as having an opportunity of doing so, but I did not go out solely for that purpose.

2921. Have you made any observations respecting the existence of what is called ground-ice, or permanently frozen soil?—Yes, I made some few observations myself, and at my suggestion the Hudson's Bay Company instituted a pretty extensive series of observations, to ascertain how far the ground-ice corresponded with that in Siberia. The conclusion to which I came was that there is permanently frozen ground almost everywhere near Hudson's Bay north of 56 or 57 degrees of latitude; north of the mean temperature of 32 degrees a portion of the ground is frozen the whole year.

2922. What is the limit of that isothermal line of 32 degrees?—In crossing the American continent it ascends to the north as it goes to the westward; it comes much lower upon the side of Hudson's Bay, and ascends obliquely from Rupert's House, on the 51st parallel of latitude near the bay, crossing Beaver Lake, in latitude 55 degrees, and following the valley of the Mississippi to Isle à la Crosse in latitude 56 degrees; but the mean limit may be considered as 55 degrees. There is permanent ice at York Factory, a very thick bed of it, which is never thawed; south of Fort Chipewayan it runs across to the Rocky Mountains; then, upon the other side of the Rocky Mountains it is deflected again to the south; the lines do not run in parallels of latitude, they run obliquely across.

2923. Has there come under your observation at all the relative degree of frost in the same parallel in the open country and in the wooded country?—In the immediate neighbourhood of trees, where one could observe the difference between an open plain and woods, the thaw always commenced over the roots of the trees first.

2924. But with regard to the frost itself, is the frost less severe where it has the protection of wood or otherwise?—The frost caused by the winter does not penetrate so deep in the woods as it does in the open country; but that is a distinct kind of ice; the permanent ice that I speak of is beyond the reach of the alternation of the seasons; it is the result of the mean temperature, and the thickness to which the frost penetrates in the winter and is thawed in the summer is a distinct thing.

2925. It has been suggested here, that the clearance of wood would mitigate the severity of the climate in these countries. In Canada, or in places which have been cultivated, is the winter frost less severe in the open country than in the wood country?—My observations were not carried on with that view, so as to give a decided opinion with regard to what occurred in that country; but observations elsewhere, in our own country, show that when the wood has been cleared away the climate has deteriorated. In the Orkneys, and in many parts where you cannot get a tree to grow now, there is evidence that at a

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previous period trees grew abundantly; they are found in every bog; the climate has deteriorated; I will not be positive as to the cause.

2926. What was the length of the winter at the different posts, say Fort Franklin, York; Fort Liard and Fort Simpson?—I did not winter at York Factory.

2927. Take any spots which you know?—At Fort Franklin, on the Great Bear Lake, the winter may be said to be ten months, counting from the fall of snow to the disappearance of the ice and the snow again.

2928. What is the difference between the mean annual heats of summer and winter in the same degrees of latitude in Europe and in North America?—As a general answer to that question, I should say that Europe has the advantage over the mean heat of America of nine degrees of latitude; but that answer will not extend across the American continent; upon the west side of the Rocky Mountains, the temperature is greater than to the eastward, so that the mean temperature at Fort Vancouver exceeds the mean temperature at New York in the United States.

2929. That is to say it is milder?—Yes.

2930. *Chairman.*] How is the mean temperature of the western coast of North America, as compared with the mean temperature of Europe in similar latitudes?—The mean temperature on the west coast of America is lower than that of Europe, but higher than that of the east coast of America.

2931. How much lower than that of Europe?—Fort Vancouver probably would be equal to two degrees of latitude, that is to say, its mean temperature.

2932. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] I believe it is a fact that in Europe the vine, for instance, grows in the parallel of 51 degrees?—I believe the northern limit for the profitable cultivation of the vine in Europe is in the valley of the Rhine.

2933. And in America it is at 43 degrees?—In America there is no vine growing naturally beyond 43 degrees.

2934. In a great part of this territory of which you are speaking, the trees in winter are frozen to the heart, are they not?—They are frozen throughout the whole country, more or less in the middle of winter; but upon the Mackenzie the largest trees are frozen to the heart.

2935. Therefore in breaking wood for fuel, or anything else, you have to use particular instruments for the purpose?—The hatchets require to be peculiarly tempered; the European hatchet breaks immediately when it is attempted to be used for that purpose.

2936. You having been in that country at different periods, occupying a long series of years, I suppose you have had some opportunity of judging of the influence of the Hudson's Bay Company over the population of that territory; will you tell us what your opinion of it is?—The best way, I think, of answering that question would be to describe what I saw when I first went out. In 1819, when I accompanied Sir John Franklin out upon his first expedition, the two companies, which were then opposed to each other, the Hudson's Bay Company and the North-West Company, were at war. Landing at York Factory we found several of the members of the North-West Company prisoners in the fort; they had been captured shortly before we arrived there. One of them, a Mr. Frobisher, escaped with some men and perished; he died for want of food in attempting to make his escape. There had been a fight previously at Red River, in which 21 people and the governor were killed; and I think 14 or 15 were starved to death upon the Peace River in consequence of the contest. That was the state of the country when we went in. We found both parties supplying the Indians liberally with spirits. The Indians were spending days in drunkenness at the different posts, and a contest altogether shocking to humanity was carried on. At that time it scarcely appeared that the Indians had any capability of being civilised at all. When we went out upon the second occasion, the Hudson's Bay Company having the sole trade of the country, and the sole management of the Indians, there was an improvement; spirits were no longer carried to the north, or they were carried in small quantities then. I think that at that time the traders themselves were supplied with a little spirits for their own use; but there was a manifest improvement, although none of the natives of pure blood had become Christians. The missionaries had been out for two or three years, but had made no progress beyond converting one or two of the half-caste Indians, I believe. Upon the last occasion in 1848 a generation of the Crees had passed away,

away, 25 years having elapsed, and the new generation were mostly able to read and write (all those that I came in contact with); many of them were labouring for wages for the Hudson's Bay Company, and altogether the country was peaceable from one end to the other. I saw no riot and nothing unpleasant throughout the whole journey. The Indians, in speaking of the Company, do not speak of them in the abstract; they talk of the different gentlemen at the posts, and the individual character of the gentleman has a great deal to do with their opinions; if he is liberal and kind to them they speak highly of him. As far as I could judge they seemed well pleased with their condition. I heard no great complaints, except the complaint which Indians always make, that they are poor, for the purpose of receiving presents; but a large number of their young men, were then employed in the Company's boats, and working for very good wages. We had to pay those whom we employed for the service of the expedition wages which would be thought very good in this country, at the rate of 30 *l.* a year besides feeding them.

2937. *Chairman.*] From what part of the country did those Indians come?—I speak of the Crees and the Northern Indians.

2938. I refer to the party of Indians that you employed in your canoes on your journey?—The crews of the canoes were partly Iroquois and partly Crees or Chippeways; we also employed the Northern Indians almost throughout the whole length of their country.

2939. Did you pay them all in money wages?—We paid the Northern Indians by orders upon the Company; money did not pass.

2940. Were they ultimately paid in money, do you suppose?—I do not know for certain; I believe they pay in goods in the north; I do not know that the Indians know the value of money properly there; they reckon by beavers; a beaver has a certain money value; and they are paid by so many beavers.

2941. Do not the Indians nearer to the settled districts know the value of money?—I think they know the value of money very well at Red River. Those from Red River that we saw were paid in money, and the Iroquois and Chippeways that came from the south were paid in money.

2942. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] While you were there did you hear any complaints of the rule of the Company being oppressive?—I heard no complaint of that. I had conversations with some of the half-castes from Red River that we employed; and they told me that they had a right to the country in virtue of their parentage, and wished, if they could, to get possession of it. They look upon the exclusive fur trade much as our poachers do upon the game laws in this country, and they wish to have the fur trade to themselves.

2943. Do you think, from your experience of the matter, that you could suggest any other way of keeping that country (I will not call it governing it) so well as by means of the traders?—I have thought upon the subject; I think that Canada could not do it, seeing how that government has failed already with the Indians that came under its rule upon Lake Superior. The Chippeways came down in a body the year after we passed down, and destroyed a mining settlement at Mical Bay, without the Canadians being able to prevent it; that was upon the north side of Lake Superior.

2944. *Chairman.*] When did that take place?—I think it was in 1849. A regiment was sent up from Canada to suppress the foray; but the Indians were gone, and several soldiers died from the severity of the climate in going up. I was told by an officer who conducted a part of the force that the poor men actually died of the cold in going up to suppress these Indians, who had retired to a distance, and were never seen at all after they had unfortunately destroyed the settlement.

2945. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] Is there any way which you can suggest of governing that country better than by means of the Company?—I can suggest no way; the country I think is perfectly quiet under the government of the Hudson's Bay Company at present. I see several objections to annexing it to Canada: in the first place, the Canadians will not pay any of the clergy on either side; and as there are both Roman-catholic and Protestant clergy to be supported, and they are partly supported by the Hudson's Bay Company, and patronised by them, I think that the religious bodies would be in an inferior condition if the country were annexed to Canada, and that the missionary service would suffer. If the Imperial Government were to take the country into its own hands, I think there would be an immense staff of magistrates, and

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people to feed them, to be scattered over that very thinly peopled country, otherwise they could neither subsist in it nor govern it. I look upon it that the opening of the trade would bring in rival parties; and from what I saw formerly I cannot doubt but that the same scenes would recur which I witnessed in 1819 and 1820.

2946. You have spoken of the means of living. I think you wintered for two or three years in the country; can you give us an idea of how you lived in any one of those winters; of course you were kept in the best way that you could be?—We lived in different districts in the different winters; in the winter of 1819–20, when I accompanied Sir John Franklin, we lived at the Hudson's Bay Post, upon the Saskatchewan, at Cumberland, and were fed by the Company, principally upon fish, and partly on meat; but the next winter, of 1820–1821, we lived upon the verge of the barren grounds, where there are reindeer, and we fed upon the reindeer and upon such fish as the small lakes yielded.

2947. Sir J. Pakington.] Where was that?—At Fort Enterprise, some distance north of the Great Slave Lake.

2948. Mr. Edward Edlice.] Had you any farinaceous food or vegetables?—We had none whatever; no vegetables of any description.

2949. Nor flour?—Nor flour; and we lived that year entirely in the same precarious way that the Indians themselves did; towards the spring frequently passing two or three days without anything to eat at all.

2950. Mr. Bell.] In what latitude was that?—It was in 64 degrees.

2951. Mr. Edward Edlice.] You wintered one year up at Great Bear Lake, did you not?—Yes.

2952. I think there was one winter that you were there when you had hardly anything but fish to live upon?—We passed an entire winter at Fort Franklin, almost wholly upon fish; only in the spring we got a little animal food.

2953. In fact, there were six or seven months in which you tasted nothing but fish?—More than that; I should say we were eight months at least without tasting anything but fish, except a hare occasionally, and a little moose meat towards the beginning of summer.

2954. That may be the fate of any people I suppose who go up to live in that country?—Any one wintering at the west end of Great Bear Lake would have to depend entirely upon fish.

2955. Mr. Kinnaird.] Is that fish dried or fresh fish?—It is frozen; it keeps the whole winter.

2956. Chairmen.] When you talk of transferring the country, do you mean the whole country?—The whole country.

2957. Do you think it would be desirable, if it could be done in an equitable manner, to separate any portion of the country now administered by the Hudson's Bay Company which would be available for the purposes of colonisation and settlement, leaving the rest to be managed as mere hunting ground by the Hudson's Bay Company?—There is no doubt that the Red River and Vancouver's Island might be separated, but I do not think that settlers would go to the Red River until the progress of settling in Canada had advanced so far.

2958. Would there be any harm in making such arrangements as would enable settlers to go there if they wished to go there?—I see no objection to it, provided there is an arrangement made to govern the colony sufficiently.

2959. You mean that if the internal administration of such districts could be sufficiently provided for, you see no difficulty, so far as the Hudson's Bay Company are concerned, in their surrendering the administration of such districts, maintaining their administration over land which was calculated for nothing but for the fur trade?—I can see no possible objection to separating the Red River if such is desired, provided a sufficient number of troops are sent; there must be a military force, I think, otherwise it would not be safe.

2960. Why would that be more necessary in the event of a separation than it is now?—At present the Hudson's Bay Company's influence over the Indians is beneficial; the natives are dependent upon the Hudson's Bay Company for supplies; but if they could get supplies elsewhere, and if spirits were brought in (for there is nothing which will prevent the introduction of spirits but the resolution of the Company not to take them in) I think it would require a strong military force to keep the Indians in subjection.

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2961. You believe that it would be more difficult to govern that district under something in the shape of an independent government than it is while it forms a part of the Hudson's Bay Company's territory?—It would be more difficult than it is at present, owing to the introduction of spirits and the advent of designing people; throughout Canada, when Indians receive the presents which the Imperial Government gives them, they part with them within 24 hours for spirits, contrary to the law, but still the Indian superintendents cannot prevent the people crowding to the neighbourhood and supplying spirits for the blankets and the other presents which the Indians receive from the Government.

2962. Is it not the case that the settled population at Red River is, upon the whole, a well ordered and moral population?—I cannot speak personally; I have had to do with a number of half castes from Red River who conducted themselves very well in our service; I believe that two-thirds of that colony consist of the descendants of Canadian settlers who are hunters; and from all that I have learnt by reading about it, the remaining third are the descendants of Orkney men and other Europeans, and are the possessors of the property, and the more resident cultivators of the soil, and are well conducted, but I have heard of the half-castes taking the law into their own hands; I do not know how far it is true.

2963. Mr. Kinnaird.] I think you have stated that during the last 20 years you have seen a very marked improvement in the Indians?—Yes; during the last 29 years a very great improvement.

2964. Would not some of those lands which you have described as not suited for Europeans to colonise and settle upon, do for an Indian settlement?—The Indians do settle upon the lands as far as they choose; there is no prohibition to that, and whenever they are inclined to form villages, they choose the land where they please at present.

2965. If you have seen such a marked improvement within the last 20 years, do you not think that additional efforts by the Company, by facilitating settlements, would greatly improve them?—If the Company were to devote their energies entirely to missionary purposes they might do more probably than they have done, but at present they facilitate the admission of missionaries of both religions, both the Protestant and the Roman-catholic.

2966. All round their forts, we have it in evidence that during the winter a great number of these poor Indians perish for want of food; if the Company encouraged village settlements of Indians, in whom your evidence tends to show that for the last 20 years there has been a great improvement, might they not make them refuges for the aged and the sick, where by accustoming them to habits of industry, as at the Red River, they might grow food enough to supply these starving people in the winter?—It is extremely difficult to convert a hunting people into cultivators of the ground; in the case of those who have led an independent life I believe it is one of the most difficult things to induce them to settle and to cultivate the ground; for instance, there is a large body of Indians in the immediate vicinity of the Red River who refuse to cultivate the ground, but prefer leading the precarious life of fishing the sturgeon, and hunting occasionally, or living upon the wild rice which is produced upon Rainy Lake; there is a large body of Chippeways or Sotoos there whom the French missionary Roman-catholics and the Protestants have tried to convert, and have not succeeded.

2967. You are aware that there is a flourishing settlement of Indians, in connexion with the Red River, who cultivate the soil?—Yes.

2968. Is it not likely that what is done in one place might be done in another by using the same means?—There is some reason why missionary exertion does not everywhere succeed; it succeeds with one tribe of Indians, but not with another. I cannot assign a satisfactory reason for the difference, but so it is.

2969. Do you mean to say that the same efforts which have been made at the Red River for the settlement of the Indians have been made in other parts?—The endeavours to proselytise the Sotoos and other Chippeways have been continued longer, I believe, than at Red River, but with little or no fruit.

2970. That was, I believe, because there were no attempts made or facilities given for settling the population on good land?—The land is very good on Rainy River, for there are very good points on which Indians could settle, and where settlements have been made and abandoned. The churches built by the

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Roman-catholics have been abandoned, because they could not get the Indians to settle round them. The reason of the failure probably is that the native tribes in that locality are independent of the Hudson's Bay Company, and therefore not amenable to their advice. They have abundance of sturgeon and great quantities of wild rice, so that they can feed themselves without having recourse to the supplies of ammunition or clothing with which the Hudson's Bay Company supply their Indians.

2971. What ammunition have they which does not come from the Company?—They do not require ammunition.

2972. You used the word ammunition?—I said that that tribe of Chippeways did not require the supplies of ammunition. They feed upon the sturgeon, which is so abundant upon Rainy River and the River Winnipeg, where they live.

2973. Some of the Red River settled Indians still go out to the hunting regularly, you are aware of?—I believe that two-thirds of the population go out to the hunting.

2974. And the other third remain at home?—The other third, who are of a different origin, remain at home.

2975. What do they hunt with?—They hunt with the gun; with firearms.

2976. Mr. Bell.] Which are the tribes that you have mentioned which are independent of the Company?—They are Sotoos and other Chippeways.

2977. Where are they located?—Upon the banks of the Rainy River and River Winnipeg.

2978. Are the Chippeways independent also?—Partly.

2979. You say that there is a great difference between the different tribes of Indians, with regard to the civilising of them?—Yes.

2980. What tribes do you consider as most readily adopting the habits of civilised life?—The Swampy and Saskatchewan Crees have adopted them more extensively than any other tribe.

2981. Where are they located?—They are located from Lake Winnipeg to the English river, called also the River Mississippi, or the River of Churchill.

2982. In a north-easterly direction from Lake Winnipeg?—Northerly; and in a direction from east to west from Hudson's to Carlton House.

2983. Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.] Can you give any reason why the Crees more readily adopt civilised life than the other Indians in the country?—Speaking of the Crees, there are a great many families of the Crees, the Sotoos, whom I have mentioned, and the Chippeways, who speak the same language, and are the same people, only using different dialects. The Crees in the lower part of the Saskatchewan, the district which I have just defined, have been long dependent upon the traders for their supplies, and therefore they have the more easily assumed the habits of civilised life. But the Crees upon the upper part of the Saskatchewan, who associate with the Stone Indians, are very turbulent and very difficult to manage.

2984. Are not most of the Red River half-breeds, half-breed Crees?—I suppose they are.

2985. Do you not think that that perhaps is a reason why they more readily adopt the habits and customs of civilised man?—I cannot think that that is a reason.

2986. Mr. Bell.] Have you reason to believe that the Company encourage the settlement of the Indians, wherever it is practicable, and assist the missionaries; or rather, do not discourage the missionaries, in any attempts which they make for settlement?—I believe that they assist the missionaries to a certain extent (I do not know to what extent), in a pecuniary point of view.

2987. But you have no reason to suppose that they throw any obstacles in the way of the missionaries?—On the contrary; I had a good deal of conversation with the Roman-catholic missionaries at Lac La Crosse, and they expressed themselves highly pleased at the attention which was shown to them.

2988. Have you ever had occasion to witness cases of famine among the Indians?—I have seen the Indians come in to the expedition posts suffering from famine, and they were relieved.

2989. Have you seen any cases of starvation, of Indians having absolutely died from want?—No, I have witnessed no instances of that; I have heard of many.

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2990. In what districts particularly have you heard of that occurring?— I think mostly among the northern Indians; I have heard of several cases.

2991. Upon the Mackenzie River?—Upon the Mackenzie River, and eastward of Fort Chipewyan, when they have been out hunting, and have destroyed their property very often. When a northern Indian dies, the habit is to destroy everything at the encampment, and to make for the nearest post of the Company, and they very often starve on the way. That and other causes, such as a bad hunt, a bad season, or epidemic disease, will produce famine in a country where the natives depend almost solely upon hunting or fishing for support.

2992. Mr. Grogan.] Those Indians could not go on their hunt without the supplies which they receive from the forts, could they?—Not now that they have been accustomed to firearms.

2993. Are not the Indians supplied with the ammunition in barter for their skins or the products which they are able to exchange with the Company?— I believe ammunition is never supplied by the Company in exchange for skins, as far as I understood. The traders give ammunition for provisions, or supply it to the natives gratuitously if they require it; they barter goods, blankets, and other articles of clothing for furs.

2994. Is the ammunition supplied as a kind of present, then, or is there a kind of right in the Indian to get it?—The ammunition is a present if the Indian is in want. If he has provisions, they give it for provisions; if he has a quantity of meat to dispose of, they give ammunition for meat, but if he is destitute he receives it gratuitously.

2995. So that there is a distinction; they will not sell ammunition for skins, though they will for the other Indian products?—I do not know as to their not being willing to sell; but the fact, I believe, is, that they do not; as far as I can learn, the Indian never parts with his skins for ammunition.

2996. Have any instances come within your knowledge in which ammunition has been refused to the Indians for the furs?—No; as far as we were concerned ourselves in the expedition, we have been compelled to refuse ammunition from not having it to give; but I think that when ammunition is abundant in the trading forts it is never refused.

2997. It is given away gratuitously?—Provided the Indian is in want and he cannot subsist without it, the Company find themselves bound to support him in some way or another, and give him ammunition, but it very frequently happens that the ammunition at a post is exhausted.

2998. You have said, "provided the Indian be in want of the ammunition;" how is the Indian's want of ammunition ascertained?—What I mean by his being in want is, if he has no provisions to dispose of. An Indian, if he has a successful hunt, kills more provision than he requires for his own use, and he barter it for ammunition. It is a common thing. We frequently purchased geese and fowl and deer from the Indians, and gave them ammunition for them.

2999. I am speaking exclusively of the establishments of the Hudson's Bay Company?—I am merely illustrating the practice. Not having resided at the trading posts of the Hudson's Bay Company for many seasons, I cannot tell whether it is invariably the case or not; but I was told in the country that they never do purchase furs with ammunition. How far that was correct information, I cannot say.

3000. My question was, whether any instances had come within your knowledge in which ammunition had been refused to the Indians?—No; nothing has come under my knowledge as to the refusal of ammunition.

3001. Lord Stanley.] But it might very well happen that ammunition should be refused to a party of Indians at one of the forts in consequence of the supply at the fort itself being short?—Yes, I dare say that has frequently occurred. I have known the posts without ammunition, and in descending the Mackenzie's River the last time we supplied one of the forts with ammunition, because theirs was exhausted, and the Indians were remaining at the post waiting for the supplies coming in. Upon our having supplied the fort they were enabled to give ammunition to the natives, and send them off to their hunts.

3002. In reference to what you said about the famines among the Indians, were these common in the southern part of the territory, or only in the far

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north:—I did not hear of them in the south; they are mostly amongst the northern Indians.

3003. In countries where all cultivation of the soil is impossible, and where human subsistence can only be obtained by hunting or fishing:—In a country where cultivation cannot be carried on advantageously.

3004. Mr. Grogan.] You gave us an account of your journey from Fort William towards the settlement of Assiniboine, and you described some parts of that country up as far as the Rainy Lake; you said that there were occasional parts where you thought settlement might be made:—I did not go to the Assiniboine at all; I came down the River Winnipeg, to the eastward of it.

3005. You went through Rainy Lake:—Yes.

3006. Did you descend the river from that to the Lake of the Woods:—Yes.

3007. What is the nature of the country about there:—The Rainy Lake River is more fertile than almost any other part of that district which we saw.

3008. And that would be adapted for settlement:—That would be adapted for settlement, and that is precisely the country which the tribe of Chippeways, of whom I spoke, inhabit. The Canadian missionaries have been trying to make villages there, and failed.

3009. Can you give us a description of the country from the Lake of the Woods to Lake Winnipeg:—The descent of the River Winnipeg is through a very rocky country, and full of rapids, and it is a very dangerous river to descend; no cultivation, as far as I know, can be established upon the immediate banks of that river.

3010. You passed some time at Fort Cumberland:—Yes.

3011. Have you any reason whatever to doubt that that district is capable of settlement and cultivation:—Portions of it are capable of cultivation; it is not a district which a farmer would choose.

3012. Will you explain why:—I have already mentioned that the substratum is magnesian limestone; there is very little soil over it; the soil is shallow.

3013. There has been cultivation at Fort Cumberland, at the station of the Hudson's Bay Company, I believe:—There have been fields cultivated.

3014. To any extent:—I cannot speak of the extent, probably 20 acres.

3015. Quite sufficient, however, to show that both climate and soil were suitable for cultivation:—It produced grain for the use of the post.

3016. At the time you visited it, was it on your first, second, or last expedition:—The first year that we were there was the winter of 1819 and 1820; we wintered there.

3017. Was that the only occasion on which you resided there:—It was the only occasion on which I resided there; we passed to and fro upon every other expedition.

3018. From your knowledge of the country, has any progress been made in that settlement by the Hudson's Bay Company, in the spread of cultivation:—The introduction of cattle was the only great progress that I saw; they had introduced cows in great numbers.

3019. Was not it at Fort Cumberland that Governor Williams used to reside when he was governor:—Yes.

3020. Did he not go to a good deal of trouble and expense in getting up an agricultural establishment there:—He cultivated several fields, but I do not think that he was very successful.

3021. Was it from the crops failing:—The extent was not great; I do not think that altogether he cultivated above 20 acres.

3022. Were there farm buildings and things put up:—There were no farm buildings when I was there; there was a stable for horses.

3023. In what state was it when you visited it; was the agricultural colony endeavoured to be extended, or was it retrograding:—It was not improved the last time I visited it. It was not of so great an extent, I think; but a few miles lower down, at the Pas, there was an Indian village established.

3024. Near Fort Pelly:—No, lower down the river; above Cedar Lake.

3025. Were they encouraged there:—They were encouraged. A church was built, and a school was established, and the Indians collected in the village near the church.

3026. Were

3026. Were the Indians becoming agriculturists there, and depending upon the soil more than upon the hunting?—They were agriculturists to a certain extent; but they did not remain there the whole season; they would go to hunt occasionally.

3027. Was it that the quantity of produce which they got from the soil was insufficient for their maintenance?—They did not cultivate to the extent to produce vegetables for their whole maintenance, and I do not think that Indians would consent to live entirely upon vegetables.

3028. Lord *Staley*.] Even among the settled Indians, I suppose, there is no tribe which lives entirely by cultivation; they look to it rather as a resource when hunting and fishing are not sufficient for their support?—I do not know any tribe which does it. Even in Canada they have their hunting grounds reserved to them.

3029. Mr. *Grogan*.] Was Governor Williams at Fort Cumberland on your first visit?—Yes.

3030. How long after your first visit did he remain as governor?—He remained as governor, but he moved to the south part of James's Bay; he moved down to Moose Factory.

3031. He was residing there as governor also?—At that time there were two governors; Governor Simpson became governor of the northern district; the amalgamation of the companies took place during the time that we were in the north, and when we returned again we found Governor Simpson governing the northern part of the country, and Governor Williams the south.

3032. Was the appointment of governor of the south considered promotion, or the contrary?—It was divided between the two; I do not know whether Governor Williams chose the south in preference or not.

3033. If I understand you correctly, a part of your evidence is, that as regards the Red River Settlement and districts about it, there is a considerable tract capable of being brought into colonisation, but the want of a ready communication to export the produce is the great drawback:—The want of communication; and from what I observed in Canada no settlers will go a great distance from the settled posts; they creep along more or less rapidly, but a settler does not like to go into a wilderness away from a neighbourhood; and there is a large district along the north side of Lake Superior which must be settled before settlers will flock to the Red River.

3034. Mr. *Bell*.] Is that in Canada or in the Hudson's Bay territories?—It is in Canada; I do not know exactly the boundary.

3035. Sir *J. Pakington*.] It is in both, is it not?—The Hudson's Bay Company have posts there; but I suppose it is under the Government of Canada.

3036. Is not the country on the north of Lake Superior, both that part which is in Canada and that which is in the Hudson's Bay territory, at present wholly unsettled?—It is not wholly unsettled; I do not know what it is at the present moment; at the time that I passed there were five or six mining companies located upon it.

3037. At what distance from Lake Superior?—Upon the borders of Lake Superior.

3038. But the district of country to the north of Lake Superior is wholly unsettled, is it not?—It is wholly unsettled, except by the Indian native tribes.

3039. The frontier between Lake Superior and the Red River is also unsettled, is it not?—The only fixed residences which intervene are the Hudson's Bay posts.

3040. What is the distance in miles from the nearest point of Lake Superior to the Red River Settlement?—I should say from 250 to 300 miles.

3041. Mr. *Edmond Ellice*.] I think we have it in evidence that it is about 500 miles?—Yes; that is following the canoe route.

3042. Mr. *Grogan*.] In your journeys to that country I believe you travelled from Fort William to Lake Winnipeg very much the same district?—Yes.

3043. Upon all occasions?—Upon all occasions.

3044. That covered a space of nearly 30 years?—Yes, 29 years.

3045. When you first went there the dispute between the North-Western Company and the Hudson's Bay Company existed?—It did.

3046. The North-Western Company had a station at Fort William, had they not?—They had.

3047. Had they stations along this route which you have described to us

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towards Lake Winnipeg?—The Hudson's Bay Company and the North-Western Company had parallel stations. In 1819 I did not travel up that way; it was from 1825 that I travelled that route; it was only in two journeys to and fro that I travelled that route.

3048. When the North-Western Company were hunting for furs in Rupert's Land, and that district, was it by Fort William that they got their supplies into that country?—Yes.

3049. As considering it the most convenient for the supply of their stations?—It was the only one that was open to them; they had no other route.

3050. Was not it the most convenient also?—No; they would have got their supplies in cheaper by Hudson's Bay if that route had been open to them. It was not the most convenient, because the moment that the companies amalgamated they ceased to get their supplies by that route.

3051. Might not there be another reason besides that; the exclusive privilege of the Bay, for instance?—A mercantile company would take the cheapest route, I suppose, for carrying in their goods.

3052. But, in point of fact, the North-Western Company, when they hunted that country, sent in all their supplies to it by Fort William and the river which you have described?—Yes, that was their only route.

3053. It is all canoe work, is it not?—It is canoe work entirely.

3054. On the last occasion when you travelled there, was the river in a better state or in a worse state than when you first visited it?—The route, I think, is not in a better state; I think it is worse from the progress of time; the portages are worse.

3055. There has been no expense or trouble taken, in fact, to keep the route open?—I cannot speak as to the expense; but I think that the route was not improved.

3056. Could it, in your opinion, have been improved?—There is no doubt that roads could be made at an enormous expense.

3057. I think you said something about the portages not being in a very good state; could not they have been maintained at least in the state that they were in at first?—They could; but the Americans travelled the same portages in part; it must be a joint thing their doing it, I think.

3058. Do you mean that it would not be right that the entire expense should be thrown upon the Company on one side of the river?—Yes.

3059. If that route were opened, and some expense incurred in the improvement of these portages, and in making that route more perfect, would not it conduce very much to what you say is the absolute *sine qua non* of the country, namely, an improved communication with the settled parts of Canada?—If you could make a railroad; but there is no route in which canoes are exclusively employed which will ever make the carriage of grain profitable. The expense of a canoe for a single season (and a season is always implied in it) is never less than 300 *l.*; it is from 300 *l.* to 500 *l.* for the wages of the men and their maintenance. One of these large canoes will carry about 50 or 60 pieces of goods of 90 lbs. weight each; that would make the grain excessively expensive; I believe the expense was enormous in endeavouring to carry grain up to supply the troops at Red River. That route was chosen, and the grain was carried up at a vast expense. Such a canoe as I have spoken of is manned by seven to fourteen men.

3060. How far does a canoe, such as you have described, travel?—The large north canoe goes only to Fort William; there it is changed for small canoes. The same 14 men who man one of the large canoes to Fort William man two small canoes. But the expense of the two small north canoes would be the same as the expense of one large canoe with 14 men, because there are seven men to each small canoe.

3061. Have you travelled through the parts of Minnesota and the United States which adjoin our boundary there?—Yes, I have been through Lake Huron, and have seen that part of Michigan.

3062. In the country which you speak of about Lake Huron and Michigan, are there a variety of American settlements and resident establishments which have grown very fast indeed?—Very fast.

3063. Have they the facilities of roads, or is it by canoe work that they are obliged to derive their supplies?—They have railroads and steamboats; there are some of the finest steamboats in the world running to those settlements upon

upon Lake Michigan; there is a succession of large steamboats, three or four running in a day to Michilimackinac on Lake Huron; and there is a railroad from New York to Chicago and Illinois.

3064. Mr. Bell.] There are steamboats on Lake Superior, are three not?— Now there are steamboats on Lake Superior.

3065. But they only go to the American settlements; there are none to the English settlements?—They were not running when I was there.

3066. Mr. Grogan.] You have described these powerful steamboats and railroads also to some of the new American settlements; were the settlements in existence before these steamers went there, or did the steamers create the settlements?— Michilimackinac has been in existence since the time of the conquest of Canada.

3067. Have you ever been at a town called Superior, on the American side of the upper end of Lake Superior?—No; I have not been at Fond du Lac at all.

3068. Have you been at Chicago?—No; I have been at Michilimackinac only.

3069. We find settlements on the American territory which grow very rapidly indeed, and steamers and railroads running into them; why are there not settlements of the same description on the British side of the line?—That is the great thoroughfare for emigrants to the Mississippi Valley; they go from New York by that route to the Mississippi; there is a constant passage of travellers. I have conversed lately with a farmer from Illinois; he told me that in that very fertile country, where they could take 20 crops in succession without manuring the ground, their grain was of no value without a railway, and settlers were very scarce; they ran a line of railway through a part of the country, and instantly villages sprang up on both sides, and bags of grain were piled up on each side of the railway, more than they could carry away.

3070. Would not the former part of your description of Illinois exactly apply to the Red River Settlement, that the inhabitants there were few, and that the land was fertile, but that they wanted a mode of exporting their produce?—If you carried a railway to the Red River, I think you would have settlers.

3071. Previously to the establishment of a railway, however, to the Illinois district which you spoke of, people went and settled in that district?—They did settle, but not in the same numbers; they were in smaller numbers; the numbers increased rapidly after the opening up of the railroad.

3072. They were all free settlers, of course?—Yes.

3073. Are there any considerable numbers of free settlers in the Red River?—I do not know. I am not able to speak as to the number of free settlers.

3074. Is there any part of the river where it runs through into Lake Winnipeg navigable for steamers?—I cannot tell; I never ascended the Red River; I do not know what rapids there are in it; but I should suppose that steamers, with a shallow draught of water, might ascend it.

3075. You seem very apprehensive of the introduction of spirits into the Hudson's Bay Company's territory in the event of part of it being thrown open for colonisation?—Yes.

3076. Would they be introduced, do you apprehend, by the British settlers, or from the American side?—I think both ways.

3077. In point of fact, are ardent spirits used in the country now?—There are none in the interior. I do not know what is used upon the boundary line. I did not visit the Red River Settlement.

3078. Mr. Blackburne.] Do you compare Illinois and the Red River Settlement at all in point of agricultural capability?—Not at all. Illinois I suppose is the most fertile soil in America.

3079. So that there is no chance of the Red River being settled so rapidly as Illinois?—I should say not the least; but I speak of the Red River mostly from the information which I have gathered.

3080. Mr. Bell.] You do not speak of the Red River from personal knowledge?—No.

3081. It has been stated in evidence, I think, that the Red River will afford crops twenty times in succession without manure?—The Red River is at least 1,000 feet above the level of the sea, and very much higher than Illinois; that is a great element against cultivation.

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3082. Mr. *Gregson*.] Are you of opinion that no settlement, either of Europeans or of Indians, could be formed without the protection of a military force?—I am of that opinion.

3083. Mr. *Bell*.] What other productions of the country are there which you are acquainted with; are there any other mineral productions at the settlement of the Mackenzie River; I think in your journal you mention plumbago?—I have seen specimens of plumbago found near Fort Chipewyan.

3084. Was it of good quality?—The piece that I saw was of very good quality.

3085. Do you think it is found in considerable quantity?—That I cannot say; I was unable to visit the spot.

3086. You spoke of the inundations on the Saskatchewan River; do they leave a deposit?—They do.

3087. What description of deposit?—They leave alluvial deposit, but it is swept away in the spring floods again; there are large alluvial flats produced, and they are constantly changing their situation.

3088. So that they do not leave any great body of soil?—It would not be safe to build on many of them; but there are bluffs, such as that occupied by the Indians, raised four or five feet above the level of the floods; there are villages located there.

3089. You were speaking of ground-ice; it has been mentioned in the Committee that there are swamps, between Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg, frozen permanently throughout the year; have you found that to be the case?—I have found late in the summer, when wading in lakes to collect water plants, ice under my feet, but I cannot speak as to the extent. There is one lake called Cold Water Lake, which has an exceedingly low temperature at all seasons of the year; upon the height of land there.

3090. The subject of the influence of climate upon the cultivation of the ground has been mentioned several times; you say that clearing woods rather deteriorates the climate; what do you think is the effect of draining marshes and swamps?—I should think that it would improve the climate.

3091. Should you imagine that any of this marshy country would, if settlements were carried into that neighbourhood, be capable of drainage, so as to have that effect?—Yes; I think that it would improve the climate if it were thoroughly drained; but it must be a very remote thing; the country must be settled previously.

3092. Mr. *Charles Fitzwilliam*.] Have any geological surveys been made of that country?—No, unfortunately not; the north shore of Lake Superior has been thoroughly surveyed by Mr. Logan and his assistants.

3093. What has been the result of that?—They found some minerals, which have been worked; they found lead and copper.

3094. Any iron?—I dare say there is iron; I saw plenty of iron ore in some places; but that has not been worked, so far as I know; there were four or five Canadian companies formed for working minerals, and they all failed.

3095. Mr. *Bell*.] Do you understand why they failed, seeing that there are successful companies on the south shore of the Lake?—But that is a very different deposit; that is native copper.

3096. Mr. *Charles Fitzwilliam*.] Were those mining companies which failed under the direction of competent persons?—That I cannot tell; they had miners from this country; there was a mine which I saw carried on, and apparently there were a great many people employed—the Bruce mine upon Lake Huron; that has failed, I understand, as a speculation, and the shares have fallen to a nominal price.

3097. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] But the Hudson's Bay Company had nothing to do with any of these mines?—No; in the case of a mine established on Lake Superior, the Colonial Legislature granted the mine to a company, without buying the Indian right, and that was the cause of the Indians coming down in force and dispossessing the miners and burning the whole village.

3098. Mr. *Bell*.] Then you have no reason to suppose that if the Indians had their rights purchased fairly they would disturb any mining operations?—No; I think a small amount of purchase-money would have contented them.

3099. And this mining settlement was broken up entirely from the want of taking that prudent and reasonable precaution?—From want of management.

3100. Mr.

3100. Mr. Grogan.] Would the failure of these mining companies to which you refer have occurred if that precautionary step had been taken?—I cannot say; I believe they were not productive as mercantile speculations.

3101. You describe that the Indians came down *en masse* and burnt and destroyed the whole settlement?—They destroyed one mine; but there were several mines at various distances.

3102. Was the destruction of the settlement and of the machinery, and so on, the cause of the failure or abandonment of the mine, as far as you know?—I suppose the miners would have resumed it had it been remunerative; and that it was not worth their while to incur the expense a second time.

3103. Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.] So that you think that the country to the north of Lake Superior is not sufficiently rich in mineral produce to repay mining companies?—Minerals have not as yet been found in sufficient quantity. It is very probable that if that country were thoroughly explored there might be workable minerals discovered. I think the geological formation is promising.

3104. Mr. Bell.] You do not know of any extensive examinations of that part of the country; you are not aware that the Hudson's Bay Company have taken any trouble in it?—The Canadian Legislature have had a thorough survey by a competent and able man, Mr. Logan, with a staff of assistants.

3105. Mr. Edward Ellice.] All these mines of which you have spoken, where there has been either failure or success, are in Canada, and not in the Hudson's Bay territories, I believe?—They are all in the Canadian territory.

3106. Mr. Bell.] Then there has been no mine opened on the Hudson's Bay territory?—Not that I know of; the watershed into Hudson's Bay, I suppose, divides the two Governments; the watershed into Lake Superior belongs to Canada, and the watershed into Hudson's Bay to the Hudson's Bay territory.

3107. Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.] But I see marked on the map Fort William as a Hudson's Bay post?—They have posts all along the Labrador coast and northern shores of the Great Lakes.

3108. I find the following passage in your book: "It would be true economy in the Imperial Government or in the Hudson's Bay Company, who are the virtual sovereigns of the vast territory which spreads northwards from Lake Superior, to ascertain without delay the mineral treasures it contains. I have little doubt of many of the accessible districts abounding in metallic wealth of far greater value than all the returns which the fur trade can ever yield"?—Yes; that was the opinion I formed from seeing it, but I did not find these minerals myself; I only judged from the nature of the geological formation.

3109. Mr. Grogan.] But you see no reason to change the opinion which you there expressed?—I have not changed it; I think if the country were thoroughly explored minerals would be discovered. We find in our own country that valuable minerals are discovered every day.

3110. Mr. Bell.] How far have you traced copper in your journeys; there is a considerable quantity, I believe, in the north, on the Copper Mine River?—There is a large copper district on each side of the Copper Mine River.

3111. Between these copper deposits on Lake Superior and those in the north, have you met with any intermediate ones?—There is no mineral, as far as I know, in the limestone districts.

3112. This is your map, and the pink colour shows the primitive rock?—Yes, that shows the course of it, but it is exceedingly difficult to traverse that upper part.

3113. You do not know of any other veins of metal which have been met with?—I know of none until you get to the Copper Mine River.

3114. With regard to the coal on the Saskatchewan, I do not think your answer was perfectly clear as to the quality of it?—The specimens which I saw were tertiary coal.

3115. Was it all inferior coal?—It is all inferior coal; it is not similar to the large coalfield which is worked in England; it is a kind of fossilised wood, a lignite.

3116. Is it not good for combustion?—It burns, but it could not be used for purposes of art. It would not heat a steam-engine well.

3117. You said that the coal on the Mackenzie was bad, from the quantity of sulphur?—Yes.

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3118. Is that on the Saskatchewan liable to the same objection?—It is liable to the same objection, but I did not visit the deposits upon the Saskatchewan; I do not know their extent.

3119. You do not know of any secondary coal formations in the Hudson's Bay territories?—None. There are coal formations in the Arctic Sea of the proper coalfield.

3120. Near the mouth of the Mackenzie River?—No, they are further north still; on Parry's Islands.

3121. Near Melville Island?—Yes, at 74 and 75 degrees. There is some also in Greenland, I understand.

3122. You have mentioned Fort Liard in your book as the northern limit of the economic cultivation of grain?—Yes.

3123. I do not quite understand what you mean by economic cultivation?—Where the return will be sufficient to induce people to sow.

3124. Supposing it was found that there was any mineral wealth in that district up as far as Fort Liard to induce settlement, the country and the soil would enable the cultivation of grain to be carried out sufficiently to support a settlement, though it would not be sufficient to induce people to go as agriculturists?—I did not visit Fort Liard, so that I cannot tell what extent of ground is available; I only know that it has been cultivated there; but at Fort Simpson, which is not far from it, a little more northerly, they cultivate barley and rear cattle, but they bring their hay 150 miles down the river to feed their stock during the winter of nine months. They actually cut their hay 150 miles distant from the post.

3125. With regard to the banks of the Peace River; have you travelled up the Peace River at all?—A little way; it crosses through a prairie country, much of it.

3126. Does the river run principally through a prairie country, or are the banks wooded?—The banks are wooded, but there is an elevated plateau of prairie land.

3127. Would you not consider that that would be a favourable agricultural country, supposing it was more accessible; that is to say, that the prairies might be used for sheep and for pasture, and the wooded portions might be cultivated?—They could cultivate grain, so far as I understand, upon the alluvial points of the Peace River; but the existence of wolves over the whole prairies completely precludes the depasturing of sheep. The wolves are too numerous for any domestic cattle to be turned out upon the prairies.

3128. Lord John Russell.] With regard to the prospects for the future, supposing that no change was made by the Government or by Parliament in the authority which the Hudson's Bay Company have hitherto had, do you think that they would be able to preserve that authority as well as they have hitherto done?—I think so. Judging from the past, I think they would be able to preserve it in the future. The only disturbance of the peace which I expect might arise would be from the Red River, from the half-caste settlers there wishing to interfere with the fur trade; I think they would be likely to give some trouble.

3129. Would not persons from the United States or from Canada be likely to wish to settle there, and settling there interfere with the fur trade?—I think the fur trade is the only thing that would bring them there; I do not think they would come as settlers for any other reason.

3130. Supposing that they settled for the reason of interfering in the fur trade, which seems very possible, would not their attempts to get possession of the fur trade or to interfere in the fur trade, a good deal disturb the authority of the Hudson's Bay Company?—As long as the Hudson's Bay Company retain their influence over the Indians, I think they can prevent the people from passing into the interior and disturbing them much, but if the trade were opened, I think that a contest would arise.

3131. Do you think that in the present state of that district, and of the neighbouring country, the trade can be kept closed?—I think so for some time, until settling advances nearer to them; at present they are at such a distance from any populous country, that they are secluded as it were from the world.

3132. Do you contemplate preventing settlement as far as possible, or allowing settlement, endeavouring to prevent that settlement being turned into interference

interference with the fur trade?—I do not see that settlements at the Red River would interfere with it, but settlements further north, I think, would interfere with the fur trade.

3133. Therefore, you would not object to see settlement make progress at the Red River?—If the Red River were put under a sufficiently powerful government, apart from the Company, I see no reason why it should not be settled, if they could get settlers to go there; but I do not think that settlers will go, except, as I said before, to carry on the fur trade.

3134. Supposing the Red River Settlement to be a separate territory, could there be a frontier between the Red River Settlement and the country to the north of it which would be available, and could be sufficiently marked to be observed?—There is no natural boundary; the only thing is that the Indians are under the control of the Hudson's Bay Company, and they could remove them from the immediate vicinity of the settlers.

3135. Are you aware whether the fur trade which has been carried on by citizens of the United States within the borders of the Hudson's Bay Company's territory has been very profitable to the individuals?—I cannot speak as to that; my information is very imperfect upon that subject; I have no personal knowledge of it; the United States Fur Company have posts in the immediate vicinity of the Hudson's Bay posts, and they will give a high price for the furs of course, and use every means to get the Indians to bring the furs to them, but how far it is profitable I cannot say.

3136. Do you see any objection to giving every facility in order to promote communication between Lake Superior and the Red River Settlement, to promote roads and other means of intercourse?—I see no objection to improving the communications at all; naturally if the Government were to make a road there they would wish it removed from the United States frontier.

3137. Could there be a good communication from Lake Superior without at all touching upon the United States territory?—I think it would be difficult to find a good route; the country is very hilly and rocky.

3138. The country in that part near Lake Superior is very difficult and rocky?—It is very difficult. The watershed is close to Lake Superior, and the ascent very sudden; within a distance of 50 miles, the ascent is from 600 to 900 feet.

3139. Supposing the communication were through the American territory, would there be much difficulty in paying tolls or rates of duty for the transit?—I cannot answer that question. The easiest communication to Red River is through the American territory by way of St. Paul's, I believe. That is the easiest ascent, but it is by no means a safe route, I am told. Travellers are subject to the hostile incursions of Indians.

3140. Would not it be possible to make some arrangement between the Government of this country, the Government of the United States, and the Hudson's Bay Company, which might be advantageous to all three?—I dare say that that might be done. There is an arrangement for the transit of goods from Canada through the United States by way of New York. The goods are carried free of duty for embarkation there, and merely pay for the transit. They are sealed up.

3141. British manufactures are now carried in that way sometimes from New York, are they not?—They are carried to New York by the Genessee from Canada, and in the same way the American ships descend the St. Lawrence; ships that have come from the American coasts of the Great Lakes.

3142. Mr. Bell.] Do you think that any scheme which might be proposed for cultivating the country, and taking advantage of its natural products, would be incompatible with the fur trade; that it would collect settlers and make it impossible to keep the fur trade closed?—I think that if settlers were to come in in sufficient numbers the fur trade would suffer.

3143. And that would lead to disturbance throughout the country, and it would be impossible to preserve tranquillity?—Without a strong Government.

3144. Lord Stanley.] In the event of a considerable influx of settlers taking place at the Red River, would it be necessary to remove the Indians from the Red River, or do you consider that a European settlement could co-exist with the Indian population?—I do not think, as far as I understand it, that it would be necessary to remove any Indians from the Red River; but (I am only speaking now from supposition) I think that the Company would remove the Indians

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from Lake Winnipeg, and send them to hunt a little further north, to cut off the communication.

3145. Mr. Bell.] Would you consider that there was any advantage in removing Indians who were settled and had become cultivators of the soil?—I do not think they could remove them; they would not move.

3146. It has been done in the United States, and also in Canada?—That was done by force.

3147. The Indians when they had settled the country and brought it into cultivation objected very much to be removed?—Exceedingly.

3148. Mr. Edward Ellice.] Do you not think that if the Red River Settlement were an open colony the Indians from all parts of the territory would flock towards it in the hopes of getting liquor?—That I cannot say; if liquor were easily acquired I think that a great part of the furs would be carried in that direction to procure liquor.

3149. Mr. Grogan.] The great want in that country in the way of colonisation is the means of a ready communication for the transit of their goods?—The means of exporting the produce; the want of that would bar cultivation.

3150. A project has been mentioned here as being contemplated for a canal somewhere from Fond du Lac to communicate with the lower end of the Rainy Lake in the British territory; if such a navigable canal were constructed, for instance, would that in your opinion answer the purpose?—It would not answer the purpose for Red River without passing through the American territory, and from Rainy Lake the route would be through a part of the American territory, unless they descended the difficult river Winnipeg.

3151. I should tell you that the project is American; to construct it through American soil as far as it goes?—If they could construct a canal there, it would make the communication with Red River easier; but it would be through American territory.

3152. But would it not have the effect of opening up that country for settlers?—I think so. If it is worth while to make a canal, the projectors must see their way to the settling of people there; but that would be in the American territory, as I say.

3153. Is it within your knowledge that there is any communication by the Rat or Reed River, Lake Winnipeg, and Red River?—I have heard that there is a canoe route in that direction.

3154. But you have never traversed it?—I have never traversed it; I have heard that there is a canoe route across there, and that the Americans travel in that direction.

3155. Mr. Edward Ellice.] For how many months in the year would the route be open by canal, by ordinary means?—Between four and five months; I suppose five months.

3156. And for the other seven months it would be closed?—Yes.

3157. Mr. Blackburn.] How many feet did you say the level of Rainy Lake was above Lake Superior?—I do not know without reference; I suppose that Rainy Lake would probably be 500 feet; it is upon the other side of the water shed, upon the descent to Lake Winnipeg.

3158. So that there is no great probability of a canal being made to rise to a superior level of 500 feet?—No, I should think not; there would be a great many locks.