

974. Are the outfalls of Lake Winnipeg exclusively into Hudson's Bay?—*Sir G. Simpson.*
Yes. 26 February 1857.
975. Are there several?—No; the lake empties itself by Nelson River into the sea.
976. Entirely?—Yes.
977. *Mr. Kinnaird.*] You say that there is no timber on the Saskatchewan River?—There is very little timber.
978. Has any search been made for coal in that district?—Yes; an inferior description of coal, a lignite, has been found near Edmonton.
979. *Mr. Bell.*] You say there is very little timber in that country; I find that in your Journal of a Journey from the Red River Settlement across the Rocky Mountains, you constantly describe the country in this way; "Picturesque country, lakes with gently sloping banks, the greensward crowned with thick woods;" then you say, "Beautiful country, lofty hills, long valley, sylvan lakes, bright green, uninterrupted profusion of roses and blue-bells, softest vales, panorama of hanging copses"?—Yes, there were a great many flowering shrubs.
980. Then you say that within a day's march of Carlton, on the Saskatchewan, in latitude 53°, there were large gardens and fields, and an abundance of potatoes and other vegetables?—Yes.
981. I understood you to say that there were no woods in that country?—There is a very small quantity of wood, insufficient for the purposes of a large population.
982. About Edmonton, as to the pasturage, your remark is that it is luxuriant, and that the barley is very productive?—Yes, it is very good.
983. *Chairman.*] Will you state to us the system under which the country is managed, with regard to trade and government, with reference to the Indian population; in short, the machinery which is employed; how many officers and servants altogether are employed by you in the management of the territory of the Hudson's Bay Company?—There is the governor-in-chief, to begin with; there are 16 chief factors, who are the principal officers, members of our council; 29 chief traders, five surgeons, 87 clerks, and 67 postmasters; the last rank between the labouring man and the clerk.
984. How many are employed at your trading posts?—Those people are all employed at our trading posts.
985. How many other agents are there employed at your trading posts?—We have no other agents; we have servants.
986. How many servants have you?—There are about 1,200 permanent servants.
987. Does that include voyageurs and people of that sort?—No; there are about 500 voyageurs, and other temporary servants beside.
988. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] How many are employed besides those occasionally?—There are 150 officers and crews of vessels.
989. What number of persons do you think the Company gives employment to in the trading season?—Perhaps about 3,000.
990. *Mr. Kinnaird.*] Is that exclusive of Indians?—That is including Indian labourers.
991. *Chairman.*] Do you mean hunters?—After the hunting season is over the Indians are frequently employed as boatmen or canoeemen; as temporary servants.
992. You do not include in that number, I presume, the Indian population employed by the people from whom you purchase furs?—No.
993. What number of Indians do you calculate are living in the whole of the Hudson's Bay Territory?—The Indian population of Rupert's Land we estimate at 42,840.
994. When was that calculation made?—This season; I collected from different data all the information within reach when I understood that I was required to leave Canada.
995. In the rest of the territory what are the numbers?—In the Indian territory, east of the Rocky Mountains, 12,730; west of the Rocky Mountains, 80,000.
996. What is the whole amount of Indian population within the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company?—130,000.

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997. Does that include the Indians in Vancouver's Island?—Yes.

998. Since you have known that country, has that number been on the increase or the decrease?—For two or three years previous to 1820 there was a great mortality in the northern parts of the country, in the thick wood country, from small-pox and measles; that was in 1816, 1817 and 1818. After that period we introduced vaccine inoculation, and the small-pox has been unknown in the country since then.

999. Since that period, do you believe that the number of the Indians have increased or decreased?—I think the number of the Indians in the thickwood country has increased.

1000. Take them as a whole?—In the prairie country I think they have decreased owing to wars and small pox.

1001. By wars you mean wars among themselves?—Yes.

1002. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] Those are the Indians on the frontier?—Yes, the Blackfoot tribes; they are principally American Indians.

1003. *Chairman*.] What do you mean by the thickwood country?—The thickwood country is a very extensive district of country lying 300 or 400 miles inland round Hudson's Bay; that is to say, to Lake Winnipeg, to the barren grounds and to the height of land dividing the St. Lawrence or Canada from Rupert's Land; that is the thickwood country.

1004. To what do you attribute the difference which you state to have existed in the number of the Indians; the number you say has not diminished in the thickwood country, and has diminished elsewhere?—In the thickwood country they are more under our own care, under our own eye; we have a certain control over them; among the prairie Indians we have no control.

1005. Do you mean that there are not wars between themselves in the thickwood country?—There are no wars, and there is no loss of life arising from wars. There has been no small-pox; the country has been healthy, and the means of living, if not very abundant, have been sufficient.

1006. To what extent have you been able to prevent the introduction of spirits among the Indians?—Spiritous liquors have never been used as a medium of barter for furs, within my knowledge.

1007. What is your system with regard to the Indians in connexion with the fur trade?—Our mode of management is this: the Indians are usually outfitted from the establishment in the fall of the year with such supplies as will enable them to get through the winter in comfort and make their hunts.

1008. How do you pay them for the furs which they bring?—We pay them by barter entirely; money is not known in the country; they do not know money; it is a barter trade on a tariff of very old standing, varied from time to time according to circumstances.

1009. Do you ever encourage them to resort to agriculture under any circumstances, when it can be done?—Always; we have encouraged them by every means in our power.

1010. Where?—At the Rainy Lake, Cumberland, Swan River, Norway House, and the seats of all the missions. We are exceedingly anxious that they should give their attention to agriculture.

1011. Have they to any extent adopted agriculture?—Not to any material extent; they have a distaste for field labours.

1012. You state that there are wars in some parts of the country between different tribes of Indians?—Yes.

1013. I believe you have managed to preserve peace as between the red man and yourselves?—Decidedly.

1014. It has been almost entirely preserved?—Yes; for 37 years, during which I have had the principal management, there have been very few cases of crime, considering the character of the population and the extent of the country.

1015. I believe during the last few years there has been a warfare of the most dreadful description carried on between the inhabitants of the United States in Oregon and the Indian tribes in that neighbourhood?—There has been.

1016. It has extended to your frontier, has it not?—Yes.

1017. But has never passed that frontier?—It has not gone beyond; we have sufficient influence with the Indians in the British territory west of the mountains to keep them out of it.

1018. In what way is justice administered in that country which is under your control?—As nearly as possible according to the laws of England; we have a very competent legal officer, who fills the office of recorder at Red River Settlement.

1019. Supposing an outrage takes place in a distant part of the country, what happens?—The case would be tried probably at Red River or at Norway House.

1020. How can that be done; when a murder, for instance, takes place in a very distant part of the country, what is then done?—In one case three parties who were concerned in a murder were removed to Canada for trial, all the way from Mackenzie's River, at great difficulty and great expense.

1021. I suppose in very distant parts of the country you administer justice as best you may?—In many instances we have brought cases to Red River, where the parties have been regularly tried by jury.

1022. For minor offences what proceedings do you adopt practically?—The Indian is reprimanded and held in disfavour for some time.

1023. Mr. *Edward Ellice.*] Will you illustrate that answer by giving a case which occurred at Norway House recently?—Some Indian lads broke into one of our stores and they were regularly tried, and two of them were transported from their own district 300 miles off to another district; that was the entire punishment; it was, in fact, no punishment; they were also severely reprimanded.

1024. *Chairman.*] What system do you adopt in the way of preserving discipline and proper subordination among your own officers, scattered over this vast extent of country, at the different posts?—I do not know that there is any particular discipline; we generally contrive to have respectable men; our officers are always highly respectable men, and we generally keep orderly servants; our servants are orderly and well conducted.

1025. Do you take care to keep a pretty strict supervision over them, and does their advancement depend altogether upon their conduct?—There is a very strict supervision.

1026. Besides your own territory, I think you administer a portion of the territory which belongs to Russia, under some arrangement with the Russian Company?—There is a margin of coast marked yellow in the map from 54° 40' up to Cross Sound, which we have rented from the Russian-American Company for a term of years.

1027. Is that the whole of that strip?—The strip goes on to Mount Saint Elias.

1028. Where does it begin?—Near Fort Simpson, in latitude 54°; it runs up to Mount St. Elias, which is further north.

1029. Is it the whole of that strip which is included between the British territory and the sea?—We have only rented the part between Fort Simpson and Cross Sound.

1030. What is the date of that arrangement?—That arrangement, I think, was entered into about 1839.

1031. What are the terms upon which it was made; do you pay a rent for that land?—The British territory runs along inland from the coast about 30 miles; the Russian territory runs along the coast; we have the right of navigation through the rivers to hunt the interior country. A misunderstanding existed upon that point in the first instance; we were about to establish a post upon one of the rivers, which led to very serious difficulties between the Russian-American Company and ourselves; we had a long correspondence, and, to guard against the recurrence of these difficulties, it was agreed that we should lease this margin of coast, and pay them a rent; the rent was, in the first instance, in otters; I think we gave 2,000 otters a year; it is now converted into money; we give, I think, 1,500 *l.* a year.

1032. Mr. *Charles Fitzwilliam.*] What otter is that?—The land otter from the east side of the mountains; we now pay 1,500 *l.* a year for the use of this margin of coast.

1033. *Chairman.*] Is it a lease for a term of years?—I think the term was originally 10 years.

1034. Mr. *Kissard.*] Have you the whole care of it, or are there Russian officers in the territory?—We have the entire care of it.

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1035. Mr. *Edwards Ellice*.] That was maintained through the last war, was it not, in order that there should be no disturbance among the Indians?—Yes.

1036. *Chalmers*.] Was any inconvenience sustained before this arrangement was made with regard to the management of the Indians, inasmuch as it was found that spirits were introduced among them by parties competing with one another for the fur trade?—Yes, there was a great abuse of spirituous liquors.

1037. Was that the main inducement to you and to the Russian Company to make this arrangement?—It was not the principal inducement, but it was one of the inducements. A year or two afterwards I entered into an arrangement at Sitka with the Governor of Sitka that the use of spirituous liquors should be entirely prohibited. A murderous scene took place under our own eyes at Sitka, arising from a debauch among the Indians, and we came to an agreement then that liquor should no longer be introduced into the country.

1038. Mr. *Kissner*.] Has that agreement been rigidly kept on their part?—It has been rigidly kept, I believe, by them as well as by us.

1039. Mr. *Gordon*.] With regard to the administration of justice, is it not the case that under the Acts by which the Company exercise jurisdiction, viz., the 43 Geo. 3, and the 1 & 2 Geo. 4, the Company are bound, under a penalty of 5,000 *l.*, to transmit cases of felony for trial to Canada?—The ex-recorder of Rupert's Land will be here in the course of a day or two, and I should rather prefer that he should answer the question, and explain all matters connected with the administration of the law.

1040. I suppose you would also wish to defer till the recorder is here, the answer to the next question which I should put, viz., how often that had been done?—There have only been two cases transmitted to Canada in my time; one is the case of those Indians in Mackenzie's River, a few years ago, of whom I spoke.

1041. How long has there been a recorder established at the Red River?—In 1839 the first recorder was appointed there.

1042. Mr. *Grogan*.] What was the name of the recorder in 1839?—Adam Thom.

1043. Mr. *Gordon*.] How was justice administered previously to a recorder being appointed?—There was never a criminal case within my recollection previously to 1839, except the case to which I am alluding, in Mackenzie's River.

1044. With regard to the introduction of spirits into the territory: are spirits allowed to those who are in the employment of the Company?—I may say that the whole importation of spirits, from the year 1847 to the year 1856, averaged under 5,000 gallons into the whole country.

1045. Are spirits habitually allowed to be used by the servants in the employment of the Company?—Certainly not.

1046. Not for their own use?—Not for their own use; not even the officers in some parts of the country are allowed the use of spirits.

1047. I find it stated in a speech made by Mr. Gladstone, on the 10th of August, 1848, that in the year 1837, about 3,800 gallons of spirits had been imported into the Hudson's Bay territory; and in the year 1845, three years before the date of his speech, 9,075 gallons. From the statement which you have just made, I suppose we must conclude that that proportion has diminished a good deal?—In 1845 the quantity was increased, in consequence of a wing of the sixth regiment having been sent to Red River; it was for the use of the troops.

1048. Then we must not take that as representing an increase or decrease in the consumption?—No; the average since 1847 is 4911 gallons, it is under 5,000. Of that quantity, two-thirds are used by the 8,000 inhabitants of Red River; the remaining one-third, or 1,630 gallons, is all that is allotted for the use of our own servants, for an occasional dram to Indians who are employed in transport with our own servants, and for the purchase of provisions in parts of the country where we cannot get them otherwise.

1049. I find in a report which was made by a Committee of the House of Commons, which was appointed to consider the condition of the aborigines in the British Colonies, a statement that the Coppermine Indians had decreased

one-half

one-half; and among other causes which are assigned for that decrease, intemperance is mentioned. Have any but the Company's traders access to that country?—None, except the Company's traders; that statement is not true; no liquor goes there.

1050. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] Is it not the fact that that is one of the districts into which spirits do not go at all?—No spirituous liquors have been sent northward of Cumberland to my knowledge since 1822.

1051. Either for the Company's servants or for the Indians?—Not for anybody; neither for officers, servants, nor Indians.

1052. *Mr. Gordon.*] Then you presume that the Committee of the House of Commons were misled by the evidence before them?—Decidedly.

1053. It has been stated to me by officers in the army who have travelled in those parts of the country where the Company have stations on the Saguenay River, at Chicoutimi, for instance, that though liquor was not traded with the Indians for furs, yet at the time the bargain was concluded a certain quantity of liquor was always given to them as a present; does it appear to you that that differs in anything but name from making spirits a portion of the trade?—I think it very likely that on the St. Lawrence, where we are surrounded by opposition, that may have occurred. Where we have opposition, we must, in order to get furs, do as other parties do; but we never sell liquor. Liquor has never been used as a medium of barter. We are opposed on the St. Lawrence by every shipmaster and every pilot and fisherman.

1054. The greater portion of your European servants, I presume, come from England or Scotland; they are not born of white parents in the country?—The greater portion of our white servants are Orkney men; there are a few Highlanders, and a very few Shetlanders; a large proportion of our servants are half-breeds.

1055. With your Indian servants what sort of contract do you enter into; how long is their term of service?—Merely for the trip; merely for the summer. They are sometimes employed as express bearers going with letters, and they are frequently employed as boatmen, mixed with the Company's servants and with the half-breeds.

1056. Is there any provision made for your servants in case of sickness or old age?—There is no provision made for them. They are paid liberal wages, and our servants very frequently save large sums of money for their walk in life. They generally leave the country before extreme old age comes on.

1057. But there is no regular provision for a person who becomes disabled in your service?—There is no provision.

1058. That happens, I suppose, not unfrequently from accidents?—It does happen, and it frequently happens, that the Company, after their return to England, allow them a small pension.

1059. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] Have you ever known, in any case which was deserving, a small pension refused?—Never.

1060. *Mr. Gordon.*] I suppose this can hardly be considered as administration of justice: I find that in Mr. Alexander's Simpson's "Life of Mr. Thomas Simpson," at page 427, it is stated that the Company has the invariable rule of avenging the murder by Indians of any of its servants, by blood for blood, without trial of any kind. Is that the case?—We are obliged to punish Indians as a measure of self-preservation in some parts of the country.

1061. And without any form of trial?—We seldom get hold of them for the purpose of trial, and they are usually punished by their own tribe. I scarcely know a case, there may have been perhaps a few cases, in which our own servants have retaliated; but the Indians are usually punished by the tribe to which they belong.

1062. *Mr. Gregson.*] What mode have you of ascertaining the population of the Indians?—We have lists of the Indians belonging to various posts; we have compared and checked them with the report of the Government officers who went to Vancouver's Island some years ago, as regards the tribes to the west of the mountains, and with Colonel Lefroy's lists, as regards those on the east side, and we have arrived at this estimate of the population.

1063. You say that you fit out the Indians—is that only for the hunting season?—They do not require any outfit for the summer.

1064. Do they continue throughout the year to be provided for by the

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Company in clothing?—Yes; that is to say, an Indian does not require European clothing; he usually has blankets and a coat.

1065. Do they depend upon you for their support throughout the year?—Entirely, except such as they provide themselves with skins. They are very frequently clothed in skins; rabbit skins and leather; indeed, many of our own servants are clothed in leather.

1066. Mr. *Kinnaird*.] You stated just now the population in rough; would you have any objection to give in to the Committee a copy of the estimated census of the population which you have made. There are some other parts; can you give us your census of the Red River population; you have got it, I presume, in detail?—I think I have; I am not certain; I took these notes previously to leaving Canada.

1067. I think I heard you say that one vessel or more enters Hudson's Bay for the supply of the colony?—We usually employ two ships to York; one ship to Moose, and another to East Maine.

1068. May ships come and trade at York or Moose Bay, if they choose, on their own account; would every facility be given for other ships besides the Company's ships coming?—Not to oppose us in trade, because we conceive that our charter sufficiently protects us.

1069. You conceive that your charter precludes any other vessels but the Company's vessels trading at York and the Moose River?—Yes.

1070. Under those circumstances might not a larger stock of goods be kept at the Company's store at the Red River, so as to supply the demand there?—We keep in store generally a two years' supply of the most essential articles of trade, to guard against the possibility of loss by the wreck of our ships, or the burning down of our establishments.

1071. Are you not aware that you do not sufficiently supply the Red River Colony with goods?—I think the Red River Colony is usually sufficiently supplied.

1072. I thought that a great caravan annually went down, and got their goods from the United States at St. Louis?—Yes; a caravan goes taking buffalo robes for sale in the United States, and cattle for sale and bringing back tobacco in some cases; they likewise smuggle liquor into the country, and there are other supplies which are to be had cheaper from the United States, than from England.

1073. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] With regard to the traders, cannot the traders at Red River get out whatever they like in your ships by Hudson's Bay?—Anything they like except liquor. We object to become the freighters of liquor.

1074. And the traders at Red River may charter ships on their own account, so long as they do not interfere with the fur trade?—Yes; they have never chartered a ship yet, because they get their freight cheaper through the Company than they can by charter.

1075. Mr. *Bell*.] Have you never refused to take goods for any of the traders of the Red River?—I think on one or two occasions we may have done so; perhaps on one occasion. I am not satisfied of that.

1076. Mr. *Gordon*.] Was that in the case of a Mr. James Sinclair?—Yes.

1077. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] That was when it was in contemplation to interfere with the fur trade?—Yes.

1078. Mr. *Lowe*.] Will you state what the case was with respect to Mr. James Sinclair?—There was some objection.

1079. What did he want to do?—We objected to bring out goods for him at one time.

1080. What goods did he want you to bring out?—British manufactures.

1081. You objected on what ground?—On the ground that he was to employ them in the fur trade.

1082. Mr. *Kinnaird*.] The Company does not oppose a passive hindrance to the entrance of goods or of people necessarily?—Not at all; we take their goods out on freight.

1083. If I wanted to bring a mechanic into the Red River, could I do so?—Decidedly; we should afford him a passage.

1084. Then the Company would facilitate the entrance of free labourers of good character who should present themselves, by giving them a passage?—On paying.

1085. Allowing them to have the benefit of the Company's stores upon the terms

terms of the Company's servants?—No, not on the terms of the Company's servants; the Company's servants receive very low wages.

1086. You have told us, I think, that no other ship would be allowed to trade at York?—Yes.

1087. Therefore if I wanted to import a mechanic, you would allow him to come in your ship?—Decidedly.

1088. Might not he trade on the same terms as the Company's servants; might not he buy his things in the same way?—He might buy his things as the other inhabitants of Red River do.

1089. And he might have the benefits of the Company's stores?—Yes; our shops are open to all parties.

1090. He would have to pay for his passage?—Yes.

1091. By a fixed tariff?—There is a regular passage money charged, which I cannot call to memory at this moment. Every facility is afforded; a passage has never been refused to any one that I am aware of.

1092. There is an idea that the Company opposes the settlement of Indians as agricultural labourers or as a Christian community?—It is not the case.

1093. What is the tenure of the land in the Company's territory?—Nine hundred and ninety-nine years.

1094. Is the right of the Indians to sufficient lands for their support recognised?—They occupy lands wherever they please. The Indian has never been required to pay for lands.

1095. Do you pay no chief for the occupation of land yourselves in the Indian settlement?—There is a very old respectable chief, a man who has been very friendly to the whites; we support him principally.

1096. Do you not recognise their holding their possession of land?—No; the land was purchased of them, I think, in the time of Lord Selkirk by a regular purchase; a certain quantity of ammunition and tobacco, and various other supplies being given for it.

1097. What provision is made, or can be made, for the settlement of such as desire to become agricultural labourers, or to live as a community; what would be the facility given by the Company?—They would be permitted to take lands, wherever vacant lands were found, at a price which might be considered nominal; the prices are never exacted.

1098. Is the Indian settlement at the Red River approved of and encouraged by the Company?—Decidedly.

1099. In every way?—In every way.

1100. What provision is made for the instruction of these Indians?—The Church Missionary Society have a missionary in charge of the settlement.

1101. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] Will you state what religious establishments there are?—In the Company's territory there are 19 missionary stations of the Church of England, 12 Roman-catholic, 4 Wesleyan, and 1 Presbyterian, making a total of 36. In Oregon there is a Roman-catholic mission. On the Gulf of St. Lawrence, one. At Albany and Temiscaming, one. At the Pic there is a Wesleyan missionary. At Fort William there is a Roman-catholic missionary; and at Vancouver's Island there is a Church of England missionary, making in all 42 missionary stations.

1102. *Mr. Kinvoird.*] What provision is made for the chaplain?—The Bishop of Rupert's Land has a salary of 300 *l.* a year from the Company. In aid of schools he has 100 *l.* a year. The bishop's chaplain, at Red River, has 150 *l.* a year. At York, 50 *l.* a year. At Moose, 50 *l.* a year. At East Main, 50 *l.* a year. At Victoria and Vancouver's Island, 200 *l.* a year. The Roman-catholic mission at Red River has 100 *l.* a year. At Oregon, 100 *l.* a year. On the Gulf of St. Lawrence, 105 *l.* a year.

1103. *Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.*] What do you mean by Oregon; Oregon is in the United States?—We call it Oregon.

1104. Do you give religious instruction to the inhabitants of the United States?—No; there is a Roman-catholic bishop who was taken across by us a good many years ago to Oregon, and he remains there on the promise that he should be allowed 100 *l.* a year.

1105. *Mr. Roebuck.*] Do you pay him?—We pay him 100 *l.* a year now.

1106. And you maintain him in the United States territory?—We give him 100 *l.* a year.

1107. He being in the United States territory?—He being in the United States territory.

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1108. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] You have possessory rights, I believe, under the treaty?—Yes.

1109. Mr. *Roebuck*.] But has not Oregon been given up by treaty?—By that treaty our possessory rights are retained.

1110. What possessory rights have you?—We have various establishments; pasture grounds; hunting grounds. We claim very large possessory rights.

1111. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] Have you not also the free navigation of the river?—Yes.

1112. Mr. *Roebuck*.] What do you mean by possessory rights; do you mean rights under the charter?—Rights as British subjects previously to the treaty.

1113. Had you possession of land?—We had possession of land.

1114. How did you acquire it?—Under the licence to trade.

1115. But that is not possession of land?—Yes, under the licence to trade we had various possessions in the country.

1116. Do you understand that a licence to trade gives you possession of the land?—We understood so.

1117. That is the interpretation which you give to the words “a right to trade,” that it gives you a right to the land?—We conceive so.

1118. In fee-simple?—I do not say under what tenure, but we consider that it gives us a right to the land.

1119. So that when you received by charter from the Crown a monopoly to trade over certain portions of territory, you believe that the whole of that territory was ceded to you?—No, not the whole of the territory that we trade over, but the territory that we bring into cultivation.

1120. How much land did you bring into cultivation in Oregon?—I really cannot tell.

1121. Did you bring 100 acres?—Five thousand acres.

1122. Into cultivation?—Yes.

1123. And those are all the possessory rights which you have?—We have various establishments all over Oregon; we have them in various parts of the Columbia River and Puget Sound.

1124. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] Are you not aware that in addition there is the Puget Sound Company, who also have those rights reserved under the treaty?—Yes, that is an offshoot of the Hudson’s Bay Company; an agricultural establishment formed by the Hudson’s Bay Company, or parties connected with or interested in the Hudson’s Bay Company, encouraged by the Government of the day.

1125. Mr. *Kissard*.] I gather from your evidence, that in stating the number of people whom you employ, you do not consider the Indians who hunt for you to be your servants?—We do not.

1126. Is not the Company pledged to them by payments in advance?—Decidedly; that is to say, an Indian to make his hunt must be provided with certain necessaries to enable him to live during the winter; he requires a gun; he requires ammunition; he requires blanketting.

1127. Are they not to all intents and purposes your own servants hunting for you, for which you pay them in advance?—There is no contract; there is an understanding that they will pay us if they can. If the Indian is sick, we lose the outfit.

1128. You make him payments in advance; then you settle with him after the hunt, and in the event of any illness, or sickness, or of old age, you undertake to provide for him?—We consider that a dead loss.

1129. What provision do you make for the instruction of these Indians?—In the different parts of the country favourable for settlement we always encourage missions; but in many parts of the country it would be impossible to collect any body of Indians; the means of subsistence are not sufficient to do so.

1130. As the missions extended would you grant assistance?—Decidedly; we are anxious to improve the condition of the Indians.

1131. What grants in aid are given for the education of the half-breeds and the Indians?—We give no grants in aid. The half-breeds are quite in a condition to pay for themselves; the inhabitants of the country; the heads of families.

1132. And the Indians?—They are brought to the missions.

1133. In fact, you think they are able to take care of themselves, and you make no grants in aid for their education?—No.

1134. The

1134. The barter of ardent spirits, you said, was never allowed under any circumstances?—Never for furs. In the Saskatchewan it is necessary to give a small quantity of spirits to the Plain Indians, as an inducement to bring in provisions, otherwise they will not do so; these are principally American Indians. A small quantity is likewise given to some of the Indians at the Rainy Lake, who supply us with dried sturgeon and wild rice.

1135. Have any ordinances or rules been passed by the Council on the subject of ardent spirits?—Yes.

1136. Can you put in copies of your rules with respect to ardent spirits?—The most effectual rule is not to introduce the article.

1137. Have you no written minute from the Council?—No, I think not. There can be very little spirit used, inasmuch as the whole importation is under 5,000 gallons.

1138. What is the amount of ardent spirits imported in the ships?—Four thousand nine hundred and some odd gallons.

1139. How is it distributed in the territory?—Two-thirds of that quantity are for sale to the inhabitants of Red River, who would otherwise distil. We have had great difficulty in preventing them from establishing distilleries in the country.

1140. Are the Company's regulations, to your knowledge, violated in that respect?—I think not.

1141. Have any of the officers of the Company been called to account for bartering ardent spirits where it was not necessary?—No, not that I am aware of. We are so decidedly opposed to the use of spirituous liquor in any of our establishments that no officer would venture to act in opposition to our desire.

1142. I think you said that the government of the country was vested in a council?—Yes.

1143. Are the transactions secret?—Not at all.

1144. Are minutes kept?—Yes.

1145. And is it open to the public; may anybody have access?—All criminal and other legal cases are tried at Red River, and are open to the public. There was a trial by jury last year at Norway House which was open to the public; but our own deliberations with reference to the management of the trade of the country are not open to the public.

1146. Is there any bank out there for the use of the servants; any savings bank or any place where they can deposit their savings?—We have no savings bank; but the Company allow the interest of the day, I think it is four per cent., to any parties who may choose to leave their money in their hands, or they will pay their balances, as they accrete from year to year, as they may desire.

1147. Is every facility given in that respect at the different posts?—In the Red River Settlement we have gold, silver, and copper as a circulating medium, and a paper currency. That paper currency is redeemable by drafts on London at 60 days.

1148. If any of your servants at the different posts wanted to place money at interest, you would allow them four per cent. upon it?—If they choose to leave their money in our hands they get four per cent. for it.

1149. Have you it in contemplation to form a savings bank in any part of your territory?—No; it has never been contemplated; we have never thought of it; it has never been suggested.

1150. Mr. Lowe.] In whom does the executive power reside; in the governor exclusively?—The governor and his council.

1151. The Council of Factors?—Yes.

1152. Consisting of 16?—Yes; and where there is not a sufficient number of chief factors, the number is made up by chief traders; that is as regards the Company's affairs, the business of the country.

1153. As regards the government of the territory, how is it governed; I am now speaking not of trade, but of the general government of the territory?—In the Red River Settlement, in the district of Assiniboia, the present recorder is the governor of the district.

1154. He has the executive power as well as the judicial?—Yes.

1155. What extent of territory is that over?—The district of Assiniboia takes 50 miles by the compass round the Red River Settlement.

1156. Has he any assistance in that, or does he do it entirely himself?—The fact is there is very little to be done in that respect.

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1157. What there is to be done he does?—Yes; our goals are almost always empty; they scarcely ever have an inmate.
1158. As to the rest of the territory, how is that governed?—By myself and the council.
1159. Have you any legislative power?—No.
1160. You cannot make laws in the territory?—We can make laws as far as regards the management of our own affairs, which is the only case in which we have occasion to make laws.
1161. As to the tenure of land, how is it regulated; what law is in force in the territory?—The law of England, I imagine.
1162. Up to what period?—Up to the present time.
1163. You spoke of a lease of 999 years; why is the land not given in freehold?—Our counsel in this country recommended that lease.
1164. Do you know why?—No.
1165. Who grants the lease?—The Company; generally the governor of the district.
1166. Under the seal of the Company?—Under the seal of the Company.
1167. Have you a seal of the Company out there?—Yes, as Governor-in-chief.
1168. Has the Company in London any legislative power; can it make laws for the territory?—It gives instructions with regard to the mode of conducting the business.
1169. There is no power of making laws, then, at all, as I understand, for the territory?—On the subject of the laws, I would beg to refer to the recorder.
1170. Mr. *Edvard Ellice*.] Is it not the case that the directors in London have the supervision of the acts of the council?—Yes.
1171. Mr. *Loce*.] The Governor is the Executive?—Yes.
1172. All over the territory?—Yes.
1173. There is no legislative power at all, as I understand; there is no power to make laws in anybody?—We make such laws as are necessary.
1174. You do not make Statutes at all?—No.
1175. Do you make Ordinances?—No, we have never had occasion to make Ordinances; we have passed certain Resolutions of Council.
1176. Are they considered binding in the nature of laws on the inhabitants of the territory?—They are principally in reference to our own trade; the laws are administered as nearly as possible in accordance with the laws of England by the recorder of the country, and the late recorder is now on his way to London, and will be forthcoming in the course of a day or two.
1177. Where do these 16 factors, who form the council, live?—All over the country.
1178. Are they summoned every year to meet?—A sufficient number assemble for the purpose of holding a council every year.
1179. Where do they meet?—At Norway House.
1180. At what time?—Generally about the 10th, or 15th, or 20th of June.
1181. Mr. *Bell*.] What number is considered sufficient?—I think seven factors with the Governor.
1182. Mr. *Loce*.] Does the public ever attend the discussions of this council?—No, never; the public would be our own servants.
1183. Mr. *Kissaid*.] There is a council at Red River?—Yes, at Assiniboia, where the recorder resides, and where the white population is assembled.
1184. Mr. *Loce*.] Has the recorder a council?—Yes.
1185. What does that consist of?—Certain inhabitants of the colony. I think there are 10 or 12; the clergy, the Roman Catholic and Protestant Bishops, the principal inhabitants of the settlement.
1186. By whom are they selected?—By the Company, on the recommendation of the governor of the country, or the application of any of the parties.
1187. Mr. *Adderley*.] Does the Governor-in-chief sit with the council himself; is he a member of the council?—Yes; he is the president of the council, and the recorder is the law officer.
1188. The members of the council are nominated by him?—He suggests them.
1189. Mr. *Bell*.] Is there a recorder independent of the Governor?—Yes.
1190. At the Red River and at Norway House also?—No; the recorder of Red River goes to Norway House.

1191. Mr. *Loze*.] Have you any magistrates, justices of the peace?—We consider all our factors as magistrates.

1192. Do they hold any commission from the Crown, or from the Governor?—Their commission as factors is understood to answer the purpose of a commission as magistrates.

1193. Have they power to imprison, and to decide any matter?—We have never had any case of imprisonment.

1194. Mr. *Grogan*.] Does the charter specially confer on the Company a power of government, such as we are now speaking of, namely, of imprisoning parties, or is it only a licence to trade?—I must beg to refer you to the charter.

1195. Have you it with you?—I have not.

1196. In point of fact, if an English settler was to go out to the Red River district and settle on a portion of land there, without any reference at all to the Governor of that district (you say it is the recorder in that district), could you remove him?—We have never yet removed anybody.

1197. But could you remove him?—We have never had occasion to examine into the question.

1198. Has the question never been raised?—Never. We have never removed any man.

1199. Mr. *Adderley*.] But is it your opinion that you have the power?—I do not know. I am not clear that we have. Squatters throughout the United States and in Canada are allowed to remain on payment of the established price of land.

1200. Mr. *Roebuck*.] To whom is that price paid?—We have never exacted payment for land in Rupert's Land.

1201. Mr. *Adderley*.] Of no kind?—Of no kind.

1202. Has any payment been exacted by the Company from settlers, either by way of a price per acre, or by way of a licence to purchase?—In cases where our own servants, who are free only upon their return to Europe, go to the Red River, we sell them lands. In some cases they have paid for them; in others they have not, but very rarely.

1203. If I wanted to buy land in the Red River Settlement, should I require any licence from the Company to enable me to buy?—I should think you would. There has never been a case in point.

1204. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] Is it not the fact that the Company claim to be the proprietors of the soil of Red River?—Yes; we have never enforced it.

1205. Mr. *Adderley*.] Has nobody ever paid anything for a licence to buy land?—Not excepting in the cases of our own retiring servants, who are bound to go back to their own country.

1206. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] As I understand it, there is no licence to buy land; it is an actual purchase?—It is an actual purchase.

1207. Mr. *Adderley*.] If I wanted to buy land in the Red River Settlement, upon what terms could I buy it?—Five shillings an acre.

1208. And that would be the only payment which I should have to make?—Yes.

1209. That would be to the Company?—Yes; 5*s.* in one part of the country, and 7*s.* 6*d.* in another.

1210. I should have no other impediment, either in the way of payment or in the way of restrictive regulation to my buying land there?—None at all.

1211. Anybody, from any part of the world, could, by paying 5*s.* an acre, purchase any quantity of land at the Red River Settlement from the Company?—Yes, I believe so.

1212. Mr. *Roebuck*.] The Company sell that land, you say?—Yes.

1213. By what right do they sell that land?—By the right which they hold under their charter.

1214. Does the charter give you land?—We believe so.

1215. Do you know the words of the charter?—No.

1216. Are they not a licence to trade; to hunt?—No; I think the charter gives us a right to the land.

1217. Mr. *Grogan*.] In the event of a person coming from England, for instance, and purchasing land, as you say, at 5*s.* an acre from you, is the land

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conveyed to him in fee-simple, or for any particular term, or under any deed?—It is conveyed to him under a lease of 999 years.

1218. Is there a regular form for all those leases?—Yes.

1219. What are the terms of those leases?—I cannot call them to mind.

1220. Have you a copy of the lease with you?—No.

1221. Will you furnish one to the Committee?—I will.

1222. Are there any conditions whatever in that lease respecting exclusive rights and privileges to the Company?—I think there are with reference to trade, as far as my recollection goes; I have not read the lease for a great length of time; we have so very seldom occasion to issue those leases that I do not at this moment call the particulars of them to mind.

1223. Then, we are to understand that a settler going from this country to purchase land in the Hudson's Bay Company's territories gets a lease for 999 years, at the rate of 5 s. or 7 s. 6 d. an acre, according to the locality?—Yes.

1224. And he is also subject to certain restrictions as regards a particular trade?—Yes; trade in furs.

1225. Simply as regards the trade in furs?—Yes.

1226. There is no other limitation of any kind?—No other limitation whatsoever.

1227. In regard to the exports, which such a settler is permitted to make, is there any limitation whatever on that point?—None at all.

1228. How do you explain then the case of Mr. Sinclair, and the export of tallow, to which you referred a short time ago?—I think in his particular case he had traded in furs.

1229. Mr. Bell.] And therefore because he had traded in furs, you would not allow him to trade in tallow?—No; we did not give him freights. That was not approved of at the time by the Company.

1230. That was the method which you took to punish him?—I did not take it, but the officer in charge at that time.

1231. I mean the Company?—Yes.

1232. Mr. Grogan.] I will read to you a passage from a pamphlet, entitled "Canada West, and the Hudson's Bay Company." "Mr. James Sinclair sent in one of the Company's vessels a small quantity of tallow to London, as an experiment. It proved remunerative, and the next year he sent a much larger venture, but this was not allowed to be taken. In the interim, however, application was made to the Company by other settlers for permission to export tallow at moderate freights; but to this no answer was returned. Subsequently the Company found it necessary to legislate on the subject. From the Minutes of Council on this subject, published June 10, 1845, and from a letter of the governor of the country, in answer to the application of certain half-breeds to have their position with respect to hunting and trading defined, all of which documents will be found given *in extenso* in Fitzgerald's 'Hudson's Bay Company and Vancouver's Island,' we learn that it is the fundamental law of the country, that no settler should trade in furs." Do you remember the transaction relating to the export of tallow?—I do not remember the particulars; I was not in the country at the time.

1233. Mr. Edward Ellice.] Is it the fact, that any trader who was refused by the Company could himself have a vessel to take away his goods from Hudson's Bay?—Yes.

1234. So far as that goes, it is merely a favour that the Company does to the trader?—Yes.

1235. Mr. Grogan.] Is there any limitation with regard to the imports which such a settler might make?—None at all. I have myself suggested to settlers that they should charter a vessel for themselves.

1236. Is any particular licence required for imports by settlers?—No; there has been no application for a licence.

1237. I will read to you another passage, and you will tell me how far it is correct: "Further, that while once in every year settlers are permitted, at their own risk, to import stores, fur traffickers are excluded from this privilege, but that even for this a licence is required." Is that the fact?—No; it is not true.

1238. "Moreover, that while imports to the amount of 50 l. are permitted, they must be purchased only with certain specified productions or manufactures of the settlement, carried away the same season." Are those facts correct to your knowledge?—The only article of import prohibited is liquor, and the only article

article prohibited for export is fur; with those two exceptions, you may import or export anything that anybody requires.

1239. Then how do you explain the circumstance of these parties not being allowed to export their tallow?—I do not exactly call to mind that circumstance. I was not in the country at the time; it led to a good deal of correspondence; the thing is not quite fresh in my memory.

1240. Did you know a retired servant of the Company, Mr. Dunn?—I did not know him, but there was such a man.

1241. In what capacity was he employed by the Company?—I think he was originally a Greenwich scholar; a boy from the Naval School at Greenwich, and taken as an apprentice on board one of the Company's ships, and he was afterwards promoted, I think. I am not quite clear as to his position.

1242. He was promoted to what. Did he become captain of one of the ships?—No.

1243. Supercargo?—Mate, I think.

1244. Mr. *Edvard Ellice*.] How many years ago is that?—A good many years ago.

1245. Is it 30?—About 25 years ago, I think.

1246. Mr. *Grogan*.] Was he in the Company's service during the time that you were there?—No. I never saw him.

1247. You mentioned that 5,000 gallons of spirits are imported into the country. Do you mean that that is the quantity of all the spirits imported?—That is the whole quantity imported from England. Some of the settlers at Red River smuggle spirits into the country. We are unable to prevent it.

1248. Did you ever hear that Mr. Dunn had published a journal, in reference to his experience in the Hudson's Bay Company?—Yes, but I do not think I ever saw it. I do not recollect having seen it. Upon the north-west coast of America, I have not the least doubt that spirituous liquor has been very much abused; that was during the opposition with the United States.

1249. In 1832?—Yes.

1250. You gave us the number of chaplains that were employed and paid by the Company. Are those chaplains required to keep school?—They are encouraged to keep school.

1251. Are they required?—No.

1252. The salary that you pay them has nothing to do with their necessarily keeping a school?—No. They are likewise paid by the societies to which they belong; the Church Missionary Society, or the Wesleyan Society. At Norway House, and at several of the Wesleyan establishments, very large schools are kept.

1253. Are they paid for their services as schoolmasters by you or by the Missionary Society?—They are paid by us in aid of the mission. A salary is given to those parties in aid of the mission, and they keep schools, according to the instructions which they may have from the society to which they belong.

1254. Do they receive any payment from the scholars who frequent the schools?—I think not.

1255. For what period of time do your servants that go from this country engage with you?—Generally five years.

1256. On the average do they return at the expiration of the five years?—No, I think they generally remain; I should say that six out of eight remain; they renew their contract over and over again. There are many servants who have been in the service 25 or 30 years.

1257. As a general average, do they remain, say 20 years with you?—Perhaps barely 20 years at present.

1258. But they remain a long time?—Yes, many of our servants remain a long time. Many of our servants remain altogether in the country. They retire from the service, and become settlers at the Red River.

1259. What is the highest salary that the Company pay their servants?—The price of labour has increased very much. It was some years ago 17 *l.* sterling, and now it is increased to men coming direct from England on their first engagement to 20 *l.*; and it is raised according to their position afterwards. A man from being a common labourer, takes either the stern or the head of a boat; being called the bowsman or the steersman; in that case, he is paid higher according to his capability as a boatman. Fishermen are paid higher; they are paid 30 *l.*, 35 *l.*, and 40 *l.* in many cases; tradesmen also are paid higher.

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1260. The class that you describe as labourers are paid 20 *l.* to 30 *l.*, and 35 *l.*?—Yes.

1261. What may be the salary of the superior officers?—The factors and traders have an interest in the trade; they are partners.

1262. Mr. *Kinnaird.*] The 16 factors?—The 16 factors and the 29 traders.

1263. Mr. *Grogan.*] They are, to a certain extent, partners in the adventure?—Yes.

1264. A witness informed us on the last day that, with regard to the barter between the trader or factor and the Indians, it was all done according to a tariff?—Yes, there is a tariff.

1265. Is that tariff settled by the council, the governor, and factors, or is it settled in this country?—There is a tariff of very old standing; the Indian and the trader perfectly understand each other as regards the tariff.

1266. By whom was the tariff settled?—The tariff was settled originally by the original traders. It has been modified from time to time according to circumstances.

1267. The existing tariff in its modified form is ratified and carried out by the council?—Yes. It varies in different parts of the country.

1268. In the event of a variance of that tariff, who settles that variance?—The council do.

1269. A question was put to you relative to any compensation or pension which might be given by the Company to old officers or servants, and those who might have received injuries in the service, and you stated that many of them were extremely comfortable?—Yes, many of them have retired with means saved in the country.

1270. Do you confine your answer to the superior officers, the factors, and traders, or do you extend it to the servants?—I speak of labourers. I have known labourers retire with from 200 *l.* to 300 *l.*; Orkney labourers, who are extremely economical in their habits. I speak of those who have been in the country for a great length of time.

1271. They have saved that money out of the wages of from 20 *l.* to 30 *l.* a year, and the four per cent. which you allow them for money which they do not draw?—Yes.

1272. Mr. *Gordon.*] I think there is no other settlement of any importance, besides the Red River, of whites living under the government, but not in the service of the Company, in your territory; of course I do not speak of Vancouver's Island?—There is a small settlement at a distance of about 60 miles from Red River, at a place called Portage la Prairie.

1273. How long has that settlement been established?—Seven or eight years.

1274. Mr. *Rosbeck.*] Whereabouts is it?—That is up the Assiniboine.

1275. That is close to the Red River?—Yes.

1276. Mr. *Gordon.*] Is it in your power to sanction such an establishment, or is it only in the power of the Governor and the Company at home?—We were opposed to this settlement in the first instance as being difficult of management. It was at such a distance from the seat of Government, that we had not the same control. If offences were committed, there were no constables within reach. There were no means of laying hold of the offenders.

1277. What reason made it much more difficult to communicate with it?—The distance of 60 miles is considerable.

1278. Is it 60 miles of interrupted river?—I think it is about 60 miles from Portage la Prairie to the Forts (Fort Garry).

1279. And the river communication is not good?—The river communication is not good.

1280. Mr. *Charles Fitzwilliam.*] Is there no communication by land?—There is a communication by land.

1281. Mr. *Gordon.*] Is it in your power to sanction such an establishment as that, or must it be the Governor and Company at home who sanction its formation?—I referred to the Governor and Committee, who thought it desirable that the settlement should not be established; but no step was taken to prevent it.

1282. They permitted it, but did not sanction it?—Yes.

1283. If I went and chose to settle there, might I do so without any opposition?—Yes; in any part of the territory, so far as I am aware, it has never

been

been objected to. There has never been a case where application has been made.

1284. Supposing such application were made, would it be encouraged, or discouraged as you have discouraged it in this latter case?—That would be a matter for consideration. I have not prepared myself to answer that.

1285. Do you consider that your right to sell land is the same in those territories which you hold under your charter, and in those which you hold under your license to trade?—No; we do not consider that we have any right to sell land under our license to trade.

1286. Am I mistaken in supposing that you said that you considered yourselves justified by your license to trade, in selling land in the Oregon country?—A special provision was made in the treaty for such sale, respecting our possessory rights.

1287. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] That related to property which the Company actually created?—Yes.

1288. Mr. *Gordon*.] Which you could occupy, but not sell?—We were proprietors as well as occupiers.

1289. What are the conditions now required of any settler taking a lot of land on the Red River Settlement?—It was arranged, I thought, that I should bring a copy of the deed before the Committee.

1290. What is the usual price of unsettled land now in Upper Canada?—I cannot speak to that.

1291. You do not suppose the land, the price of which you have stated to be 5 s. or 7 s. 6 d. an acre, to be better than that in Upper Canada?—Certainly not; it is not so good.

1292. Are the laws or regulations under which the colony of Red River is governed printed; are they accessible to the settlers?—They are not printed, but they are usually posted on the church doors, and the settlers have copies of them all through the country.

1293. You mean that that is done with any new ones?—Yes; anything that affects the Red River Settlement.

1294. But how do they know old ordinances or regulations?—The settlers there are so very few that that has never been necessary.

1295. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] I suppose there are no newspapers to advertise them?—No.

1296. Mr. *Gordon*.] Then, in short, they may not be aware of the laws and regulations under which they are living?—The laws and regulations are so very few that they know them perfectly.

1297. But they are not accessible?—They are not published.

1298. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] It is a very simple state of society, is it not?—Yes.

1299. Mr. *Gordon*.] There is no newspaper in the Red River colony?—No.

1300. You are aware, I suppose, that a newspaper is generally the first thing introduced in an American colony?—Yes.

1301. Has there never been a wish expressed by the settlers of the Red River colony to have a newspaper there?—Not that I am aware of. I suggested, some years ago, that they should get up a newspaper, but they could not get anybody to take charge of it.

1302. Can you tell me what is the freight per ton on goods imported from London to the Red River?—£.5 a ton, and 1 l. for lighters and storage, and being warehoused; that is 6 l.

1303. It was lately a good deal higher than that, was it not, 8 l. or 9 l.?—No; I think it was lower. I believe there has been very little change.

1304. I have heard it repeatedly stated, that the cheapest way of receiving goods in the Red River for traders there is to have them transmitted by New Orleans, and along the Mississippi; that it is cheaper than their going by York Factory; do you believe that to be the case?—The freight to York is 5 l. a ton. The freight from St. Paul's to Red River is 18 l. a ton, or 16 s. the piece of 100 pounds.

1305. What is the distance from Red River to York Factory?—About 600 miles, I think; and the freight from York Factory is 20 l. a ton to the Red River.

1306. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] With regard to that freight, any persons can take the goods as cheaply as they like?—They can take them any way they please;

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we pay that amount ourselves. We do not do our own transport; we usually employ the freighters at the Red River. Different traders do the transport for us from York Factory to the Red River.

1307. Mr. Gordon.] What is the distance from Red River to Lake Superior?—Six hundred miles.

1308. You think that the distance from York Factory to Red River is not greater than from Fort William to Red River?—It is about the same, perhaps; but the freight from Lake Superior to the Red River in the transport of the flour which I have before mentioned, was 40 s. a piece, or 45 l. a ton.

1309. The route from York Factory to Red River, is not a very good one, is it?—It is very bad as far as Norway House.

1310. Is it not the case that there have been petitions from the settlers in the Red River to have that route improved?—We cannot materially improve it. It is not susceptible of improvement without a prodigious outlay; such an outlay as our traffic would not afford.

1311. Mr. Bell.] Has there been a petition?—I am not aware of a petition. We are very anxious that the route should be improved for our own purposes; but the outlay for improvement would be more the trade could afford.

1312. Mr. Gordon.] You say that it is very bad; do you think it worse, or not so bad as the route to Fort William?—It is not so bad, inasmuch as we can use boats, carrying about three tons, between York Factory and Red River, and the only means of transport between Lake Superior and Red River is a small canoe.

1313. I suppose, if the route to Lake Superior could be improved, it would be the shortest route from England for goods; there would be water communication up to Lake Superior?—Yes.

1314. It would be easier than by Hudson's Bay?—I think the route cannot be improved sufficiently for the transport of goods.

1315. What are the great difficulties on that route which prevent its being improved?—The depth of water in the river, the interruption from rapids and falls, and the swampy character of the country.

1316. Is not that the way which the old North-West Company used to carry all their supplies for the use of the interior?—It is.

1317. Then they must have carried along there nearly as much as you carry from York Factory?—No; it was not one-tenth of the transport that we have from York.

1318. If I understood you rightly, you said that the copy of the resolutions, dated 1845, was not authentic; I have a copy of the resolution with respect to the duties to be paid on all imports into the settlement?—That resolution, I think, was disallowed.

1319. Have you reason to believe that the colonists at the Red River are satisfied with the government of the Company there?—I have reason to believe that they would be perfectly satisfied if their minds were not unsettled by agitators who have an eye upon the trade.

1320. In short, you think that the agitation comes from without, and not from within?—Decidedly.

1321. In your "journey," to which you have referred two or three times before, at page 54 you say, with regard to education, "As to the charges of education, four-fifths of them fall on the pious and charitable association just mentioned; that is the Church Missionary Society; while the remaining fifth is borne by such individual parents as are able and willing to spare 15 s. a year for the moral and intellectual culture of a child." As five-fifths make a whole, I suppose it may be taken that the Company do not pay anything?—No; those are the agricultural settlers of the Red River, who are in a condition to pay for their own children.

1322. Then the Company do not contribute?—Not there; that is under the direction of the bishop.

1323. Is pemican sold to the schools and missionaries at the same price that it is to the Company's servants?—We do not sell it to the Company's servants; we sell it at a very small margin of profit; there is a great deal of waste, and it is necessary to sell it at a very small margin of profit, to cover that waste.

1324. Mr. Garvey.] What do you imagine is the ordinary time which elapses on an average between goods being bought by the Company in England and those identical goods being delivered to Indians within the Hudson's Bay Company's

pany's territory?—It depends upon the locality; in one part of the country, as, for instance, a part of Mackenzie's River, it occupies seven years; that is, from the time the goods are shipped in London until the returns are brought to sale in England.

1325. Then seven years would be the extreme?—Yes.

1326. And what would be the minimum?—From three to four years.

1327. It ranges from three to seven years?—Yes.

1328. Mr. *Kinnaird*.] You have not told us anything about the nature of the population in Vancouver's Island?—I know very little about Vancouver's Island; I have not been there since it was established.

1329. Can you tell me the state of the population on the west of the Rocky Mountains; of the Indians there?—The Indians are all in a state of warfare in Oregon. In the British territory they are more independent; they have a better position as regards means of subsistence than on the east side of the mountains; fish is very abundant; salmon.

1330. Is there no process of settlement?—None. There are Indian villages along the coast, and salmon are very abundant, and deer are very abundant, and on some of the islands they raise potatoes.

1331. Mr. *Charles Fitzwilliam*.] With reference to schools, has any obstacle ever been put in the way of schools being established for the instruction of the Indians?—Never. On the contrary, they have been encouraged.

1332. Did you know Mr. Leith, a chief factor?—Yes, Mr. James Leith. I knew him intimately.

1333. He died some years ago?—Yes.

1334. He had amassed a considerable sum of money?—Yes.

1335. Which on his death he bequeathed to various purposes?—Yes.

1336. Can you tell the Committee what those purposes were?—I think the promotion of religion in the Company's territories; religion or religious instruction; I forget the precise terms.

1337. Mr. *Edmond Ellice*.] The amount was 10,000*l.*, was not it?—Yes.

1338. Mr. *Charles Fitzwilliam*.] Are you sure that it was not for education, and not religion?—I cannot speak to the will, but the executors, I think, were the Bishop of London, the Dean of Westminster, the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, and his own brother.

1339. How has that money been applied?—To the support of this mission.

1340. Of what mission?—The Bishop of Rupert's Land.

1341. But a little while ago you informed us that the Company paid to the Bishop of Rupert's Land a salary of 300*l.* a year?—Yes.

1342. What has become of the income of 300*l.* a year, which is the interest on 10,000*l.*, more or less?—I am not able to answer the question. I cannot state distinctly how the application of this money has been made.

1343. Mr. *Loze*.] You say that it goes to the Bishop of Rupert's Land?—I think it is under his direction.

1344. Mr. *Grogan*.] You spoke of the Company possessing rights in Oregon, which rights were recognised under the treaty with America?—Yes.

1345. What were those rights; a licence to trade?—They were our possessory rights, whatever they were; there is a difficulty as to the interpretation of possessory rights.

1346. Lands which you have improved and cultivated?—Yes. There is a question as to what the possessory rights may be considered; different lawyers give different opinions upon the subject. The late Daniel Webster considered that wherever our trappers wrought, wherever our wood cutters hewed timber, wherever our flocks and herds ranged, we had possessory rights. Other lawyers have given a different interpretation.

1347. Had you the exclusive right to trade in that district?—The same licence to trade as we had on the east side of the mountains.

1348. Do you consider that you have that right now?—Yes; our licence to trade has not expired yet; it will expire in 1859.

1349. If an Englishman went to that district and attempted to trade in furs, do you consider that you would have the power to prevent his doing so?—I think so.

1350. If an American were to do it, do you think you would have the power to prevent him?—I think so.

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1351. Do you think he would be prevented by you?—I do not know that he would.

1352. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] With reference to the council at Norway House, is it not one of the objects of the council to assemble together once a year the persons having charge of the posts in distant parts of the country?—Yes.

1353. In order that they may compare notes, and consult together in the aggregate as to what should be done?—Yes.

1354. That is the only time for bringing them together?—Yes.

1355. The country, I believe, is as large as Europe?—The country is of prodigious extent: I have an estimate of the mileage.

1356. Mr. *Adderley*.] Would it not be possible to govern the country by delegated authority at different distances from the centre; do you suppose that in the general settlement of the whole of this territory as big as Europe, it would be absolutely necessary always to refer home, on every detail of management, to Norway House?—No; I should conceive not.

1357. Is it the case that there is that reference between the government of Red River and Norway House?—No.

1358. Is there none whatever?—No.

1359. Did you not state that the Company opposed themselves to another settlement on the borders of Red River, as being too distant from the seat of government?—They did not decidedly oppose it, but they discouraged it.

1360. On that ground?—As being more difficult of management.

1361. From its distance from Norway House?—No, from Assiniboia. Our gaol, and court-house and police, are all in the settlement.

1362. When you speak of the seat of government, what do you mean?—The seat of government of Assiniboia, which forms a circuit of 50 miles by the compass from the forks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers.

1363. Have the inhabitants of the Red River Settlement any influence whatsoever over the decisions of the council which govern them?—The principal inhabitants of Red River are themselves the councillors of Assiniboia, with the governor.

1364. When you say that the recorder is governor of Red River, do you mean that he is *ex officio* always so?—No; he was considered a very fit man to hold both offices.

1365. He was so appointed?—Yes; he was the recorder originally, and on the retirement of the former governor he had the commission of governor likewise.

1366. Who appoints his council?—They are appointed by the Company, at the suggestion of the governor, or on the application of any of the inhabitants.

1367. But is it an appointment by the governor, or an application by the inhabitants?—Both. The Company is willing to appoint anybody who may be considered a fit person qualified for the office.

1368. What is the name of the present recorder?—Francis Johnson. He was a Queen's counsel in Canada.

1369. For what length of time are the members appointed?—There is no limitation of the time.

1370. Are their appointments for life?—No; there is no fixed period; they are appointed councillors.

1371. During pleasure?—During pleasure.

1372. Are the council at Norway House appointed in the same way?—At Norway House the factors are councillors under their commission.

1373. Are they appointed during pleasure?—No; it is while they hold the commission of factor.

1374. For the whole length of the tenure?—Yes, the tenure of office.

1375. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] That is under the charter?—It is.

1376. Mr. *Adderley*.] Is your appointment an appointment for life?—No; my appointment is by the Governor and Committee.

1377. Mr. *Roesbeck*.] I think it is a double government. You have a government in England and one in Hudson's Bay, have you not?—The Governor and Company are the superiors; they have the supreme direction.

1378. The Governor and Company in England appoint the Governor in Hudson's Bay?—They do.

1379. According

where shown

1379. According to their will and pleasure, and his appointment is revoked at their will and pleasure?—It is so.

1380. So that, in fact, the Governor out there is the downright servant of the Governor and Company here?—He is positively their servant.

1381. And what they desire him to do he is bound to do?—He is.

1382. Where does he live usually when he gets to that country?—I have been the Governor for the last 37 years, and I have lived nearly all over North America. I have lived in Oregon, I have lived in Hudson's Bay, in Red River, at York Factory, and in Athabasca. I have travelled the whole country over.

1383. There are no head-quarters of the Government, then, and the talk about the Governor and council is a mere idle statement?—No. The Governor of Assiniboia is resident upon the spot.

1384. I remark that you always allude to your Red River Government at Assiniboia: did you not just now say that that simply occupied a circuit of 50 miles by the compass?—Yes.

1385. And the whole country, you have told us, and the map tells us also, is as large as Europe?—Yes.

1386. So that when you talk of that small territory, it is like talking of San Marino, in Europe?—Criminals would be sent down to Assiniboia.

1387. If a murder were committed on the shores of the Arctic Sea, would the man be sent down to Assiniboia?—Yes, in the first instance.

1388. Have you ever known an instance of a murder on the shores of the Arctic Sea?—Not on the shores of the Arctic Sea, but within the Arctic circle.

1389. Can you state that case to me?—I cannot give all the details from memory.

1390. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] Was that the case which you spoke of before to-day?—Yes; Creole Le Grasse was one; there were three.

1391. Mr. *Roebuck*.] So that in your long life there of 30 odd years you have known three cases?—That was one particular case; those three persons were accomplices; they were sent to Canada for trial.

1392. Are those the only cases which you recollect?—The only cases in the Arctic regions, that I recollect.

1393. How many criminals do you suppose are annually tried at Assiniboia?—I think the whole of the criminal cases within my recollection, are but 19 in the 37 years.

1394. And that you call administering justice in that country?—Yes.

1395. We may take that as a specimen of the administration of justice in those countries under the rule of the Hudson's Bay Company?—Of the absence of crime, I should hope; we claim to ourselves great credit.

1396. Do you mean to say that in your tenure of office there for 37 years there has been only in fact 19 criminals in that country?—I think so.

1397. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] Are those serious cases or minor offences?—Serious cases.

1398. Mr. *Roebuck*.] Take murders: do you mean to say that in all your term of office of upwards of 30 years, there have been only 19 murders committed in the whole of the Hudson's Bay territory?—There were 11 people killed in this particular case which I am referring to.

1399. Do you mean to say that in the 37 years of your government of that country, there have been only 19 murders committed?—19 cases; I said there were 11 murders in that first case which I spoke of.

1400. I want to ascertain what has been the administration of justice in that country; I want to know how many persons have been brought to justice; you tell me 19?—Since 1821 there have been 19 cases of homicide in which the Hudson's Bay Company's people were concerned; in 11 punishment was inflicted; one prisoner was tried and acquitted; one was a case of justifiable homicide; three accused parties died before being captured, and in three cases there was no evidence to proceed against them; those are the 19 cases.

1401. Do you say that that fairly represents the state of crime in that country?—I do.

1402. Do you mean to say that since 1821, the date that you have quoted, there have been only those 19 cases of murder in that country?—In which the Company's people were concerned; in the wars that take place in the plains among the Blackfeet there are cases in which we cannot interfere.

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1403. I refer to cases over which the recorder has jurisdiction?—Yes.

1404. That is your estimate of the crime in that country?—Yes.

1405. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] In short, it is your knowledge?—Yes, as far as my knowledge goes.

1406. Mr. *Roebeck*.] I have a book in my hand published by you I think in 1847?—Very possibly.

1407. How long had you been then Governor of that country?—Twenty-seven years.

1408. And I suppose that in those 27 years you had acquired a good deal of experience?—Yes.

1409. Are we to take this book as the result of your experience of 27 years?—I think you may.

1410. And all that you stated then was your view after 27 years' experience of that country?—I think so.

1411. So that if you had died at that moment, which I am very happy to see that you did not, we might have taken this book as your view of that country?—Yes.

1412. Has anything happened since that time to alter your views of that country?—No, I do not know that I have materially altered my views in regard to it.

1413. I know that this passage has been read to you before, but its matter has struck me very much, from its poetry as well as otherwise, and I will read it again and ask you why, if you have changed your opinion, you have changed it: "The river which empties Lac la Pluie into the Lake of the Woods, is, in more than one respect, decidedly the finest stream on the whole route. From Fort Frances downwards, a stretch of nearly a hundred miles, it is not interrupted by a single impediment, while yet the current is not strong enough materially to retard an ascending traveller. Nor are the banks less favourable to agriculture than the waters themselves to navigation, resembling in some measure those of the Thames near Richmond. From the very brink of the river there rises a gentle slope of green sward, crowned in many places with a plentiful growth of birch, poplar, beech, elm, and oak. Is it too much for the eye of philanthropy to discern, through the vista of futurity, this noble stream, connecting as it does the fertile shores of two spacious lakes, with crowded steamboats on its bosom, and populous towns on its borders"?—I speak of the bank of the river there.

1414. I am going to direct your attention to the river itself; the river itself was at that time capable of bearing steamboats?—Quite so.

1415. Is it not so now?—It is.

1416. And the land was very fertile then, you say?—The right bank of the river which I speak of, indeed both banks, the lip of the river.

1417. You say, "Nor are the banks less favourable;" you allude to both banks?—Yes; I confine myself to the banks; the back country is one deep morass extending for miles.

1418. So that anybody reading that passage would have very much mistaken the nature of the country if he had thought that that was the description of it?—Not as regards the banks; I confine myself to the banks.

1419. Does a traveller usually give such descriptions of a country as that?—Yes, I, as a traveller, did so.

1420. Then we may take that to be a specimen of your view of the country?—You may.

1421. I will now direct your attention to that portion of the country stretching round the Red River Settlement. Supposing you took the compass as far as the boundary line, and struck a circle round, how far is the Red River Settlement from the boundary?—About 50 miles.

1422. That would be a diameter of 100 miles?—Yes.

1423. Supposing you took a square, and you included Lake Winnipeg, up to the north, and went to Cumberland House, and you then came down the parallel of longitude 105°, making a very large square of 10 degrees of longitude and five degrees of latitude, you would have a large territory, would not you?—It would be a large territory.

1424. A good large colony?—Yes.

1425. Supposing

1425. Supposing that were done, and it were erected into a territory, say at the end of the United States: do you suppose that that country could be self-supporting?—I think not.

1426. Why?—On account of the poverty of the soil; along the banks of the river I have no question that a settlement might be self-supporting; a population thinly scattered along the banks of the river might support themselves, but a dense population could not live in that country; the country would not afford the means of subsistence.

1427. That is your view of the country?—That is my view of the country.

1428. You are here to tell us that the country is very barren and could not support a population?—It could not support a large population, and, moreover, there is no fuel; the fuel of the country would be exhausted in the course of a very few years.

1429. Why is there no fuel; are there no woods?—No woods; all that prairie country is bare of woods.

1430. And yet I see the country upon this map marked green, and they tell me that that signifies the woody country?—Yes, that is the woody country.

1431. Mr. *Gropan*.] You described the river at the Rainy Lake, in the passage read by Mr. Roebuck, as capable of bearing steamboats at the time that book was written?—Yes.

1432. For about 60 miles of its distance?—Probably about 60 miles.

1433. Is it in the same condition now?—Yes; from the outlet of Rainy Lake to the Lake of the Woods, there are four rapids.

1434. But those rapids you do not consider would be an impediment to steam navigation?—Two of them would be, and a third rapid, at the establishment, would be an impediment.

1435. What may be its extent?—It is a waterfall of about 40 or 50 feet.

1436. For a quarter of a mile, or less?—The portage formed by this waterfall is a quarter of a mile.

1437. You would then get into the Rainy Lake; that is navigable, of course?—Yes.

1438. For a steamer?—Yes.

1439. Then I see a series of small lakes going down towards Whitewood; are they navigable?—No.

1440. Am I to understand you that, from the Lake of the Woods down to Whitewood Lodge or House, it would be navigable for a steamboat also?—No, but to the end of Lac la Pluie.

1441. What distance is that altogether; is it 60 miles?—The Lake of the Woods is about 60 miles.

1442. A second 60 miles?—A second 60 miles.

1443. That would be 120?—Yes. The river runs from the Rainy Lake down to the Lake of the Woods, and from the Lake of the Woods the River Winnipeg flows down to Lake Winaipeg.

1444. Is it navigable for that distance?—Not the River Winnipeg. There are a number of portages in it, and the river is not navigable except by boats. The part of the navigation which is fit only for canoes is from the Rainy Lake to Fort William, Lake Superior.

1445. What distance is that?—That is about 300 miles.

1446. Mr. *Edouard Ellice*.] Are reports of the conduct of each servant sent in by the chief factors and traders every year?—No; reports upon the character of the whole establishment are sent in; if there is anything remarkable it is noted.

1447. And each chief factor is responsible for the conduct of the servants under him?—Decidedly.

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Lana, 2^a die Martii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Adley.	Mr. Percy Herbert.
Mr. Bell.	Mr. Kinnaird.
Mr. Blackburn.	Mr. Labouchere.
Mr. Edward Ellice.	Mr. Lowe.
Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.	Sir John Pakington.
Mr. Gladstone.	Mr. Roebuck.
Mr. Gordon.	Lord John Russell.
Mr. Grogan.	Vincent Sandon.
Mr. Grogan.	Lord Stanley.
Mr. Gurney.	

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY LABOUCHERE, IN THE CHAIR.

Sir George Simpson, called in; and further Examined.

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1448. Mr. Edward Ellice.] YOU were asked the other day to hand in a copy of the land deed by which the Company convey land to settlers at Red River?—Yes; here it is. The leading conditions are, not to deal in furs; not to distil or import spirituous liquors; to resist foreign invasion, and to promote religious instruction.—(*The same was delivered in.*)

1449. With regard to the Indian Settlement at Cumberland, you were asked some questions with reference to a sum of money of 10,000 *l.* which was left by the late Mr. Leith, who had been in the Company's service?—Yes.

1450. Will you have the goodness to explain that matter?—The words of the bequest are the following: The legacy by James Leith was "for the purpose of establishing, propagating, and extending the Christian Protestant religion in and amongst the native aboriginal Indians of Rupert's Land." The fund, with the accumulations of interest, now amounts to 13,345 *l.*

1451. Mr. Roebuck.] What are you quoting from?—The words of the will.

1452. Is that the only statement in the will; does the will say nothing of the means by which religion is to be propagated?—No. These are the words: "For the purpose of establishing, propagating, and extending the Christian Protestant religion in and amongst the native aboriginal Indians of Rupert's Land."

1453. Is that all?—That is all that is said upon the subject.

1454. Mr. Edward Ellice.] I think you stated the other day that the money was left to certain trustees?—Yes. The sum now amounts to 13,345 *l.* Three per cent. Consols.

1455. Mr. Roebuck.] That you do not quote from the will?—No.

1456. Mr. Edward Ellice.] That is lodged in Chancery, is it not?—Yes, it is now in Chancery.

1457. By whom is it administered?—It was committed to the Bishop of Rupert's Land by the Court of Chancery, upon the understanding that the Hudson's Bay Company would add to the Bishop's income a salary of 300 *l.* per annum, and provide him with a residence.

1458. Which the Company did?—Yes. The executors are, I think, the Bishop of London, the Dean of Westminster, the Governor and Deputy-Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, and his own brother, Mr. William Leith.

1459. They are the trustees by whom the fund is administered?—Yes.

1460. With regard to the pensions of retired servants of the Company, have you anything to add to your former statement?—Yes. I was asked whether there was any pension for retired servants. There is a sum of 300 *l.* a year set aside from the profits of the trade to pension old and deserving officers. To servants and others not entitled to participate in that fund, special grants are

are made on the recommendation of the council. When servants are incapacitated by age for active duty, they are supernumerated and kept at the posts as supernumeraries, rendering such voluntary service as they please in return for their food and clothing.

1461. You were also asked to put in the census of the Red River population. Have you it?—Yes.

1462. Will you put it in?—(*The Witness delivered in the same.*) The total population shown is 6,500; add the population of Portage la Prairie, Manitobah, and Pembina, 1,500; making a total of 8,000.

1463. Mr. Roebuck.] Will you tell us where those places are, so that we may know the area of country?—They are parts of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. The settlement extends along those rivers, up and down, above and below the fort.

1464. You stated a certain number of names. I want to know where those names are upon that map?—I am stating where the first is.

1465. The first is the Red River Settlement?—Yes.

1466. What is the next?—The next is Portage la Prairie, about 60 miles above Red River, upon the Assiniboine; Manitobah is about 60 miles in a northerly direction, upon a lake of that name.

1467. Mr. Edward Ellice.] Will you point out Pembina. (*The same was pointed out.*)

1468. Mr. Roebuck.] What is the number of the population in those places?—Eight thousand.

1469. Whites and altogether?—Yes.

1470. Mr. Edward Ellice.] Have you put it in in detail?—Yes.

1471. You were also asked to put in the census of the Indian population in detail over the whole territory?—Yes. Here is the census of the Indian population. There is a list of the Company's trading posts, and the estimated number of Indians frequenting those posts. (*The Witness delivered in the same.*)

1472. Mr. Roebuck.] Will you state the total?—The Indians, east of the mountains, 55,000; west of the mountains, 80,000; Esquimaux, 4,000.

1473. What is the date of that census?—Last year.

1474. Have you any census for 20 years back?—We have no regular census. It is a very difficult matter to get a census; the tribes are so migratory that it is impossible to fill up a correct census; this is an estimation.

1475. Did the Company ever attempt to make a census in times past?—We have attempted it in various parts of the country.

1476. Have you that census?—I have no census.

1477. Could you get it?—Not in less than two or three years; two years certainly.

1478. Why would it take you that time to get it?—On account of the distance; sending off now, we could not get the census in the most remote part of Mackenzie's River before 18 months or two years from this date.

1479. I asked you if the Company had made attempts to get a census some years back, and you said they had?—Yes, we have, from time to time, in different parts of the country.

1480. Can you put the Committee in possession of those censuses?—I think not.

1481. Why not?—I do not know that they have been sent here. But our estimate of the population has been confirmed by travellers; for instance, Colonel Lefroy took an estimate of the population.

1482. You give the census now. I want to get the census 20 years back to know whether the population has increased or decreased?—I cannot supply that.

1483. Mr. Edward Ellice.] Colonel Lefroy's estimate was made in 1843, I think; that is 13 years ago?—Yes.

1484. When was Major Warre's made; in 1845, I think?—Yes.

1485. With regard to the use of spirituous liquors, you were asked the other day whether there were any rules in the Council, or any published regulations regarding them; have you got any such rules?—Yes. I have first an extract from the standing rules and regulations of the fur trade, dated 1843, prohibiting the use of spirituous liquors. Likewise, a copy of the 42d minute of the Council for the Southern department, dated 1851, prohibiting the importation of spirituous liquors into that department. Thirdly, a copy of an agreement,

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dated 13th May 1842, between the Hudson's Bay Company and the Russian-American Company, prohibiting the use of spirituous liquors on the North-west coast of America.

1486. Will you hand those in?—(*The Witnesses delivered in the same.*)

1487. You were also asked with reference to the refusal of the Company to export some goods belonging to a man named Sinclair, at Red River?—Yes.

1488. Have you any explanation to give of that circumstance?—In 1844, Mr. Sinclair forwarded to York a quantity of tallow, for the purpose of shipment to England in the Company's vessel. The ship was so full that a large quantity of the Company's property and Mr. Sinclair's tallow were left out; as it was doubtful whether room could be found in the following season the Company took the tallow off the hands of Mr. Sinclair, on his own terms, on the 25th of July 1845. But although the property of the Company it remained there for a year afterwards, for want of room in our ships.

1489. Mr. Roebuck.] Was there any attempt to accumulate tallow by other persons, besides Mr. Sinclair, the next year?—Mr. Sinclair, and, I think, Mr. M'Dermot, collected tallow and sent it down for shipment to York Factory.

1490. The next year?—In the year 1844.

1491. That was the first year; I asked you with reference to the second year?—The second year I am not aware that there was any tallow shipped.

1492. Was there an accumulation of tallow by other parties besides Mr. Sinclair in that territory?—I think not.

1493. There was none brought?—None that I am aware of; Mr. Sinclair and Mr. M'Dermot were the only two parties that I have any recollection of as having collected tallow for the purpose of shipment to England.

1494. I think you say the Company left the tallow there, and they did not buy it until the next year?—They could not ship it; a large quantity of the Company's goods were likewise shut out.

1495. That is to say, the Company having the exclusive right of trading there, did not provide shipping enough to carry it on?—Yes; there was not shipping enough that season.

1496. Mr. Edward Ellice.] But I think you stated the other day that there was no objection on the part of the Company to any other person chartering a freight if he liked; to take away or to bring anything he wanted?—Not at all; I have suggested to Mr. M'Dermot and Mr. Sinclair, and various other people, that they had better charter a ship for themselves.

1497. Mr. Roebuck.] Do you mean to say that the Company would allow anybody to send ships into Hudson's Bay, to trade in that part of the world?—No, not for the purpose of trade; I said that the inhabitants of Red River are quite at liberty to import their own supplies in their own ships.

1498. How much tallow was there?—There may have been a few tons; I do not exactly recollect the number of packages.

1499. And you suggested to the senders that they should get a large ship, to carry 200 tons of tallow?—No; we take out about 10,000 *l.* worth of property for them sometimes.

1500. You say that you offered to those gentlemen, Mr. Sinclair and Mr. M'Dermot, the power to charter a ship to carry that tallow to England?—Yes; at that time they were talking of forming a large association for the purpose of breeding cattle for the export of tallow, and for growing hemp or flax; I suggested that they should charter a vessel for themselves for such purposes.

1501. Mr. Edward Ellice.] Have the Company ever chartered vessels so small as 200 tons to take out their property?—Yes, several; there was a ship called the "George," and others.

1502. Mr. Roebuck.] There were 200 tons of tallow left behind that year?—I do not say there were 200 tons, but there was a quantity of tallow; I cannot fix upon any specific amount.

1503. You say there was no increase of that quantity the next year?—No, I do not think there was any.

1504. And you suggested to those parties that they might then charter a vessel to carry home that tallow?—No, not then, but previously for many years I had suggested it; they talked of forming a large export trade of colonial produce; I said "Very well, there can be no objection on the part of the Company."

1505. We

1505. We are now directing our attention to this portion of tallow, and you tell us that you suggested to these parties that they might charter a ship; did you suggest to them that they might charter a ship to carry home that tallow?—No.

1506. What did they do with that tallow?—They sold it to the Company.

1507. They could do nothing else I suppose?—They might have allowed it to remain there till there was an opportunity of exporting it.

1508. Till it pleased the Company to take it home?—No, not till it pleased the Company to take it home, but till they had an opportunity.

1509. What opportunity could they have?—Their own ships.

1510. That is to say, if they chartered ships according to your suggestion?—The Company have certain ships; they generally send two ships a year to York Factory, and if there was room in those ships, they would naturally take tallow as a matter of course, or any other produce they might have.

1511. Do you not think that a mode of proceeding which would put an end to all trade?—No; I think if the trade was sufficiently extended, the Company would provide shipping, or the settlers might provide shipping themselves.

1512. Was not there more produce than the Company's ships could carry home upon that occasion?—Yes; perhaps there were 30, 40, 50, or 60 tons.

1513. I understood you 200?—You said 200; I said there were a few hundred weight, or possibly tons.

1514. It was for that that they were to charter a ship?—No.

1515. Mr. *Gregson*.] Did you not say that you had not sufficient tonnage that season for your own goods?—We had not sufficient tonnage that season for our own goods; we were obliged to leave out some of our own goods.

1516. Mr. *Roesbuck*.] That is to say, you did not charter vessels enough even for your own trade?—Yes.

1517. And yet you were traders?—Yes; it very frequently happens in the port of London, as in every other port, I believe, that goods are left out.

1518. With respect to the manufactured goods which you take out to that territory, have you any account of the amount of goods which you annually take out to that territory?—No.

1519. Could you get it?—I could; I could obtain an estimate of it.

1520. Possibly, not knowing the actual quantity, you can tell me the mode in which the goods, whatever may be the quantity, are distributed?—I think the imports into the country by the Company are about 60,000 *l.* a year; at the York Factory, Moose and East Main; that is to say, to the Bay.

1521. Can you give me any idea how that 60,000 *l.* worth of goods is distributed over that immense territory?—I think about two-thirds of that quantity of goods is given to the Indians; however, this is merely an approximation; I have no figures.

1522. What was the number of Indians which you just now stated?—On the east side of the Rocky Mountains, 55,000.

1523. I suppose that quantity is confined to the east side of the Rocky Mountains?—Yes.

1524. You distribute 40,000 *l.* worth of goods among 55,000 Indians?—I think that is about the estimate.

1525. What are those goods usually composed of?—British manufactures; the staple articles are blankets, cloths, arms, ammunition, iron works, axes and various things.

1526. I will direct your attention to arms; in what way are they sold; are they sold by barter or for money?—They are sold by barter.

1527. For so many skins?—For so many skins.

1528. When you sell a gun to an Indian, do you ever take inferior skins for that gun?—We outfit the Indian.

1529. Cannot you answer me that question?—We do not sell a gun for skins; we give the gun to the Indian, as everything else, on credit, and he pays for these supplies in the spring of the year.

1530. Supposing a gun is sold to an Indian, would you take in payment an inferior kind of skins?—We take in payment whatever he can give us.

1531. If an Indian had nothing but musk rat skins, you would take those?—Yes.

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1532. Do you mean to tell me that?—I mean to say that we would take from an Indian whatever he could give us. The Indian must have certain supplies.

1533. My question is a very plain one; would you take musk rat skins in payment for a gun from an Indian?—Certainly; we take whatever the Indian can give us.

1534. And you mean to state that to me, that guns are sold to Indians with the full understanding that they may pay you back in musk rat skins?—If an Indian has nothing but musk rat skins, we will take musk rat skins.

1535. Supposing that were to occur with an Indian once, would he be likely to get a second gun?—Yes, decidedly, if he required it.

1536. Do you know the relative proportions between musk rat skins and beavers?—We have a variety of tariffs; it depends upon the part of the country where the goods are traded; as, for instance, in Canada we pay in a great degree money for our furs. On the American frontier we pay frequently in money; in the interior it is principally a barter trade; and on the frontier we are regulated in our prices by the prices given by opposition.

1537. Are the prices rather higher upon the frontier than they are in the interior of the country?—Yes.

1538. Does not that arise from the competition?—Yes.

1539. So that the Indian, where there is competition, gets more than he does where there is none?—He does.

1540. Does not that rather improve the condition of the Indian?—No, certainly not.

1541. So that getting more does not improve him?—No, it does not improve his condition. I think that the condition of the Indian, in the absence of opposition, is better than where he is exposed to opposition.

1542. *Chairman.*] For what reasons?—The absence of spirituous liquors.

1543. *Mr. Roebuck.*] First of all let us understand this: in the interior of the country you say you barter with the Indian?—Yes.

1544. And on the frontier you give him money?—That frequently happens in some parts of the country.

1545. On the frontier he gets a larger price for his goods than he does in the interior?—Yes.

1546. And you say that notwithstanding that, he is better off in the interior than he is on the frontier, because in the one case he gets spirituous liquors, and in the other case he does not?—And in other respects. The Indian in the interior depends upon us for all his supplies; whether he is able to pay for them or not, he gets them; he gets his blankets, he gets his gun, and he gets his ammunition. If from death in his family, or any other cause, he makes no hunt, it cannot be helped.

1547. I suppose you recollect that you distribute among the Indians less than 1*l.* a head?—Very possibly we do.

1548. I want you to tell me the condition of the Indian in the interior: is he ever starved to death in the winter?—Very rarely.

1549. So that if travellers tell us that story they tell us a traveller's story?—Indians do starve as whites do starve sometimes.

1550. Have you ever heard of Indians being reduced to cannibalism during the winter?—Yes, I think I have, and of whites likewise.

1551. Because they have not enough to eat, I suppose?—Yes.

1552. Upon what, in the hunting territory, does the Indian live?—In the prairie country he lives principally upon buffalo meat.

1553. Does the buffalo reach to where the fur country is?—There are a few furs in the buffalo country.

1554. I am talking of the fur country, where the people pass their time in hunting for furs: how do they live in the winter?—They live in a great degree upon fish.

1555. Are they from one year to another fully supplied with fish?—I think generally speaking they are.

1556. You still have instances in your recollection of cannibalism occurring?—Cannibalism has occurred repeatedly.

1557. When did it occur in your recollection?—I do not exactly recollect; I think

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I think there were some cases of cannibalism in the last few years in the Athabasca country.

Mr. Roebuck. 1558. I have before me a letter of Mr. Kennedy: I suppose you have heard of Mr. Kennedy?—There are several Kennedys; which Kennedy do you mean?

Sir G. Simpson. 1559. He is a person who has quarrelled with your Company, I believe; and he wrote a letter to Lord Elgin?—William Kennedy.

Mr. Roebuck. 1560. There is this passage in his letter; and I want to ask you whether you are at all cognizant of the facts: quoting from a letter received by him, he says, "You will be grieved to learn that the curse which had effect in the old country has extended here, though arising from causes of more frequent occurrence than even the failure of the crops. Starvation has, I learn, committed great havoc among your old friends the Nascoopies, numbers of whom met their death from want last winter; whole camps of them were found dead, without one survivor to tell the tale of their sufferings; others sustained life in a way the most revolting, by using as food the dead bodies of their companions; some even bled their own children to death, and sustained life with their bodies!" Quoting from another letter, he says, "At Fort Nascope the Indians were dying in dozens by starvation; and, among others, your old friend, Paytabais." A third he quotes as saying, "A great number of Indians starved to death last winter; and ——— says it was ———'s fault in not giving them enough of ammunition." Do any facts like that come within your knowledge?—No; that is an exaggerated statement.

Sir G. Simpson. 1561. In your 37 years' experience in that territory, you have never heard of any transactions like that, and deaths like that?—Never, except in Mr. Kennedy's letter.

Mr. Roebuck. 1562. Not in your own experience?—Certainly not.

1563. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] In what part of the country is that?—Upon the Labrador coast.

1564. *Mr. Roebuck.*] Then you do not believe that statement?—I do not.

1565. Where is Fort Nascope? (*The same was pointed out.*)—It is on the Labrador coast.

1566. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] That is in Canada, is it not?—It is in Newfoundland.

1567. *Mr. Roebuck.*] Does not the Hudson's Bay Company's territory extend over Labrador?—No; it is a part of Newfoundland.

1568. So that that northern peninsula does not belong to the Hudson's Bay Company?—The whole does not.

1569. *Mr. Grogan.*] But is that fort which Mr. Roebuck is questioning you about, in Labrador, or is it in Rupert's Land?—It is in Labrador.

1570. *Mr. Roebuck.*] It is pointed out as on the Green; then it is in the Hudson's Bay Company's territory?—I think not.

1571. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] Have you examined that map?—I have not attentively. I had not seen it till I came in just now.

1572. Do you know whether that fort belongs to the Hudson's Bay Company?—It does; it is a post or establishment called the Post of Nascope. These posts are moved from time to time according to circumstances.

1573. *Mr. Roebuck.*] Can you remove a fort?—A fort is half-a-dozen log huts, and may be erected by half a dozen men in about a week; that is what we call a fort.

1574. It bears the same name wherever it travels?—We call it either a post or a fort.

1575. Do you mean to say that you move a fort about?—We call it an out-post, a trading post. I do not call it a fort.

1576. It is called a fort here?—It may be so; it is a misnomer.

1577. Do you mean to say that you have no Fort Nascope?—We have an outpost called Nascope.

1578. You have no fort called Nascope?—We have not.

1579. *Mr. Grogan.*] It is a station?—It is a station.

1580. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] And those stations depend upon the time they are occupied?—Exactly so.

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1581. Mr. Grogan.] Has that station ever been abandoned?—I really cannot tell; I think it is very likely.

1582. But has it been abandoned?—I really cannot tell; we move an establishment according to circumstances. If the fish and the other means of subsistence are not sufficiently abundant, we move it to another point, 10, 20, or 30 miles distant.

1583. Mr. Roebuck put a question to you about the death of a great number of natives adjoining a fort, which at first you were under the impression was in Labrador?—Yes.

1584. Now it appears that it is in the Hudson's Bay Company's territory?—I am not quite sure that it is; I am rather disposed to think it is not.

1585. Mr. Roebuck.] You distinctly said that Nascoptic was a station belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company?—Yes.

1586. This account speaks of Nascoptic?—Yes.

1587. Therefore it belongs to the Hudson's Bay Company?—It did belong to the Hudson's Bay Company.

1588. Mr. Grogan.] Has it ever been abandoned?—I do not even know whether it is at present occupied or not.

1589. Mr. Edward Ellice.] It is still occupied?—Yes.

1590. Mr. Roebuck.] So that it still belongs to the Hudson's Bay Company?—It always has belonged to the Hudson's Bay Company, when it has been occupied.

1591. It just now belonged to Labrador?—Upon the coast of Labrador; we have establishments upon the coast of Labrador.

1592. Mr. Blackburn.] Are these posts sometimes in Labrador, and sometimes in the Hudson's Bay territory?—They are moved as circumstances may render advisable.

1593. Mr. Roebuck.] But they are always under the command of the Hudson's Bay Company?—Yes.

1594. So that wherever they are moved to they belong to the Hudson's Bay Company?—Hudson's Bay establishments are under the control of the Hudson's Bay Company, but there are other establishments in the immediate neighbourhood.

1595. Chairman.] Is there any arrangement with the government of Labrador, by which you use that territory for your purposes?—It is open for anybody.

1596. In truth it is practically unoccupied?—Yes.

1597. Mr. Roebuck.] Will you allow me to read to you another passage: "There are some extensive tracts of country in which the means of subsistence are scanty in the extreme. In the region lying between Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg, the natives, during the winter, can with difficulty collect enough of food to support life. In the country lying immediately north of the Canadas, though fur-bearing animals are still comparatively numerous, and the trade consequently valuable, the poor Indians have at all times a hard fight against famine. In this tract of country fish is at all seasons scarce, and in winter the sole dependence of the natives for subsistence is placed upon rabbits (the most wretched food upon which to exist for any time that can possibly be conceived), and when these fail the most frightful tragedies at times take place. Parents have been known to lengthen out a miserable existence by killing and devouring their own offspring"; do you believe that?—That is an exaggerated statement.

1598. Did you ever know a book called "The Life of Thomas Simpson"?—I did.

1599. By whom was it written?—It was written by Mr. Thomas Simpson, I believe.

1600. And if that is an extract from Mr. Thomas Simpson's book, you say it is an exaggeration?—I do not know what part of the country he speaks of.

1601. Between Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg?—There is a very thin population there.

1602. Who was Mr. Thomas Simpson?—Mr. Thomas Simpson was a distant relative of mine.

1603. Was not he a long time in the Company's service?—No.

1604. Was