

R E P O R T .

The Select Committee of the House of Representatives to whom certain Resolutions of citizens of St. Paul, upon the subject of overland emigration from Minnesota to British Oregon, have been referred would respectfully report :—

Such a continental communication has suddenly become a practical question, in view of the discovery of gold upon the waters of Frazer and Thompson Rivers. Little doubt now remains that Great Britain is in possession of a district on the Pacific coast which is likely to become a second Australia, changing the current of emigration from southern to northern routes across the Continent.

Our citizens, in a series of meetings, have embodied for the public information numerous facts and statistics which establish the superiority of a route through the valleys of the Red River of the North and the Saskatchewan. The Committee append to this Report the published proceedings of these meetings, at one of which some legislative action, hereafter to be considered, was advocated.

In addition to the advantages which the Minnesota and Saskatchewan land route is thus found to possess, there is reliable testimony that the western districts of Minnesota may be connected by continuous steamboat navigation with a point at the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains, which is only eight days journey from the gold districts of British Oregon.

The head of steamboat navigation on the Red River of the North is in about 46 deg. 23 min. The river, flowing from south to north, is, according to Capt. JOHN POPE, five feet deep at the mouth of Sioux Wood River ; six feet twenty miles north, at the site of a military post proposed by Maj. S. Woods, 6th Infantry, in 1849, and soon to be occupied as Fort Abercrombie ; thence to Shayenne, six feet ; from Shayenne to Goose River, nine feet, but with an intervening rapid one mile long with five feet upon it ; from Goose River to Red Lake River, twelve feet ; from Red Lake River to Pembina and Lake Winnepig, sixteen feet deep.

Every portion of Minnesota is in intimate relation with the navigation thus described. When the International Emigrant Route