

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3043. Upon all occasions?—Upon all occasions.

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

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

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

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

Sir J. Richardson,
 C. B.

9 March 1857.