Report, 1857-continued.

Representative Government. The settlers at Red River consider that they should have a voice in representing their grievances, or in fact a representative government, Corbett 2809, 2810. See also Vancouver's Island, 19, 20.

Richardson, Sir John, c. B. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has made three several journeys through the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company, that is in 1819, in 1825 and in 1848; has passed altogether about seven years in the country, 2889, 2890. 2893-2897—Is not in any way connected with the Hudson's Bay Company, 2891, 2892—General description of the country, to the effect that, save in a few places and to a slight extent, it is not capable of cultivation or fit for settlement, 2898 et seq.

In some favourable places wheat may be grown up to the 58th parallel of latitude, 2898—Division of the country east of the Rocky Mountains into three districts, all more or less unfit for cultivation, 2899-2903—There is a sloping prairie country from 600 to 800 miles wide, which is mostly grass land; but the soil is sandy and is not rich enough to produce grain, 2899. 2901. 2913, 2914.

On the banks of the Saskatchewan the soil is not cultivable save at a few points, and the district about the Pas is intersected with lakes, and is frequently flooded, 2901. 2911–2913—The north-eastern portion of the continent does not contain any wood, and will not produce grain under any circumstances, 2901—A considerable population might produce means of subsistence as high as Peace River upon the alluvial points and the skirts of the prairie land, 2902. 2913, 2914.

Until the settlement of Canada has advanced to the Red River and roads have been opened, it is very unlikely that any settlement will take place beyond the Red River, 2902. 3033—The limestone in the prairie contains a large quantity of magnesia and is not fertile, 2903—Circumstance of cultivation and settlement at Fort Cumberland having advanced only in a very small degree, 2903. 3010-3023—The greater part of the country on the north shore of Lake Superior is rocky and entirely destitute of soil, 2904-2906.

Between the west end of Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg, after passing Dog Lake, the land has no particular capabilities for settlement, 2907, 2908—On the banks of Rainy Lake there are many points which are fit for settlement and might produce grain, 2909, 2910, 3004-3008—Inferior character of the coal on the Saskatchewan and Mackenzie, 2915, 2916—There is much wood along the banks of the Saskatchewan, but out on the prairie there is no timber whatever, 2917, 2918.

Almost everywhere north of fifty-seven degrees of latitude a portion of the ground is permanently frozen, 2921, 2922——The temperature is milder on the west than on the east of the Rocky Mountains, but is less mild than the temperature of Europe in similar latitudes, 2922. 2928–2933——Greater depth of frost according as the timber is cleared and the country becomes open, 2923–2925——At Fort Franklin, on the Great Bear Lake, the winter may be said to last for ten months, 2926, 2927——Throughout a great part of the country the trees are frozen to the heart, 2934, 2935.

Illustration of the beneficial influence of the Hudson's Bay Company over the Indians since witness first visited the country in 1819; 2936—Marked improvement in the Indians during the last thirty years, 2936. 2963—Good wages received by the Indians in the service of the whites; how paid, 2636-2941—Dissatisfaction among some of the half castes at Red River with the monopoly of the fur trade, 2942. 3128—Obstacles to the administration or government by Canada of the Hudson's Bay Territories, 2943-2945. 2956-2961.

Anticipated interruption to the present peaceful state of the country if it were annexed to Canada and the fur trade thrown open, 2945. 2960, 2961——At Fort Franklin and other places witness has necessarily lived for several months on fish, and frequently passed two or three days without any food, 2946–2955——Provided means be taken to preserve order and to prevent the abuse of spirituous liquors, there would be no objection to attach to Canada the Red River or any other district available for settlement, 2956–2961——General character of the Red River Indians and settlers; about two-thirds are hunters, 2962. 2973–2975. 2984, 2985.

Opportunity given to the Indians to settle where they please, 2964——Facilities afforded to the missionaries by the Company, 2965, 2986, 2987——Great difference between different tribes of Indians in regard to civilisation or settlement; particulars hereon, 2966–2985——Difficulty of christianising the Sotoos, a tribe of the Crees, or of making them cultivators of the soil instead of hunters, 2966–2983——The Crees in the lower part of the Saskatchewan are very different from those on the upper part, and are more easily civilised, 2980–2983.

Instances of famine and starvation among the northern Indians, in consequence of bad hunting seasons and the barrenness of the soil, 2988-2991. 3002, 3003——Practice in regard to the supply of ammunition to the Indians; the company do not barter it, and if possible always supply it when wanted, 2992-3001——With regard to the land bordering on the River Winnipeg, it is not fit for cultivation, 3009——There was an Indian village above Cedar Lake, on the Saskatchewan, when witness was last in the country, and the