

Thunder Bay, on Lake Superior, has silver mines of most extraordinary surface promise which are now being developed will, if successful, which there seems every reason to hope, give a great impetus to enterprises of that kind. In the North West there are also large quantities of petroleum and salt, which exists also near Lake Winnepegoos, is there found almost in a state of purity.

*14th Question.* Having spent some time in the country at all different seasons of the year, you can perhaps give the Committee your views on the climate, comparing your personal observations with general report?—*Answer.* During the time I spent at Fort Garry the months of October and November presented the finest fall weather, Indian summer like, I had ever seen. There were some severe frosts during the winter, as may be seen by the register kept by me and given in my report of 1859, but the average was not colder than here, and the snow never exceeded 18 inches, and averaged less than a foot in depth. On the 9th of April ploughing commenced. Vegetation progressed very rapidly soon after, and by the middle of May we were fairly into summer. My impression at the time was that we had upon the whole about the same climate as Kingston, Ontario, perhaps a little colder in winter, but with finer weather in the spring and fall—which is, of course, highly favorable to agricultural pursuits. Further to the West the climate becomes still milder. The climatology of the country and the influences bearing thereon, and a comparison between different parts of it and their counterparts in Europe, seems to me to be very fairly put in the following extract from the examination of Mr. Wm. McD. Dawson before a Committee of Parliament in Toronto in 1867. After shewing the effect of an approach to the Pacific across this continent from the East as being of the same general character as an approach to the Atlantic from the East across Asia and Europe, in its ameliorating influence upon climate, which is not therefore solely governed by latitude, he proceeds to say—other conditions being equal—that as “The 49th parallel of North Latitude (which is the southern boundary of our “Western territories), passes nearly a degree south of the southernmost point of England, “through the Environs of Paris, through the Southern Provinces of Germany, and less than “a degree north of Vienna, there is therefore no reason, as regards climate, why the lower “course of the Fraser river, or the upper course of the Columbia, in British territory and in “the same latitudes, should not rival the banks of the Rhine, the Meuse or the Moselle. “There is no such reason why the valleys of the Nujiga, the Elk, the Saskatchewan, the Red “River and the Assiniboine, should not yield their golden harvests as rich as those of the “Weser, the Elbe, the Oder or the Vistula.

“The geographical difficulties between these localities, in relation to those influences by “which climate is affected, are indeed such that it would require some very strong facts, sustained by a concurrence of all the most credible testimony to prove that the above comparison is too favorable to the places I have named on this continent. The facts established, “however, by all disinterested authorities, prove the reverse.”

*15th Question.* Do you think that the Indian population will become troublesome?—*Answer.* Not if they are properly handled, and liquor excluded from the regions where they predominate. The Indian wars in the United States have, I believe, been chiefly due to the Indian (white) agents of the Government. The Indians with us have heretofore been accustomed to live on terms of amity with the Whites, and it will be our own fault if that friendly relation is disturbed. Even in an economic point of view, the conduct of the United States towards the Indians has been a mistake, for, it would cost less to maintain them absolutely than it costs to kill them off. There is no powerful tribe of Indians in any of the parts of the territory where settlement is likely to progress rapidly for some time to come, and the Indians of the Lake of the Woods only require to be well managed to be firm allies.

*16th Question.* Will the means of communication suggested be sufficient to bring out surplus agricultural and mineral products (other than gold) with which to purchase supplies needed by settlers, at prices which will leave a reasonable profit on production?—*Answer.* The rates at which heavy goods can be transported, will be apparent on reference to my report lately printed. The first opening of the route would not admit of large quantities of heavy, bulky freight, such as agricultural or mineral products generally being transported profitably, but it will be observed that the improvement of the route is intended to be progressive, till in its finished state, with 40 miles of rail at the eastern end, 90 miles at the Western and continuous navigation between these points, agricultural and mineral products could be transported to their point of contact, with the navigation of the Great Lakes, cheaper than from any point on the same meridian to the south of the boundary. On the first open-