

Sir J. Richardson,
C. B.

9 March 1857.

from Lake Winnipeg, and send them to hunt a little further north, to cut off the communication.

3145. Mr. *Bell*.] Would you consider that there was any advantage in removing Indians who were settled and had become cultivators of the soil?—I do not think they could remove them; they would not move.

3146. It has been done in the United States, and also in Canada?—That was done by force.

3147. The Indians when they had settled the country and brought it into cultivation objected very much to be removed?—Exceedingly.

3148. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] Do you not think that if the Red River Settlement were an open colony the Indians from all parts of the territory would flock towards it in the hopes of getting liquor?—That I cannot say; if liquor were easily acquired I think that a great part of the furs would be carried in that direction to procure liquor.

3149. Mr. *Grogan*.] The great want in that country in the way of colonization is the means of a ready communication for the transit of their goods?—The means of exporting the produce; the want of that would bar cultivation.

3150. A project has been mentioned here as being contemplated for a canal somewhere from Fond du Lac to communicate with the lower end of the Rainy Lake in the British territory; if such a navigable canal were constructed, for instance, would that in your opinion answer the purpose?—It would not answer the purpose for Red River without passing through the American territory, and from Rainy Lake the route would be through a part of the American territory, unless they descended the difficult river Winnipeg.

3151. I should tell you that the project is American; to construct it through American soil as far as it goes?—If they could construct a canal there, it would make the communication with Red River easier; but it would be through American territory.

3152. But would it not have the effect of opening up that country for settlers?—I think so. If it is worth while to make a canal, the projectors must see their way to the settling of people there; but that would be in the American territory, as I say.

3153. Is it within your knowledge that there is any communication by the Rat or Reed River, Lake Winnipeg, and Red River?—I have heard that there is a canoe route in that direction.

3154. But you have never traversed it?—I have never traversed it; I have heard that there is a canoe route across there, and that the Americans travel in that direction.

3155. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] For how many months in the year would the route be open by canal, by ordinary means?—Between four and five months; I suppose five months.

3156. And for the other seven months it would be closed?—Yes.

3157. Mr. *Blackburn*.] How many feet did you say the level of Rainy Lake was above Lake Superior?—I do not know without reference; I suppose that Rainy Lake would probably be 500 feet; it is upon the other side of the water shed, upon the descent to Lake Winnipeg.

3158. So that there is no great probability of a canal being made to rise to a superior level of 500 feet?—No, I should think not; there would be a great many locks.