

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Veneris, 20^o die Februarii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Adderley.	Mr. Percy Herbert.
Mr. Bell.	Mr. Kinnaird.
Mr. Blackburn.	Mr. Labouchere.
Mr. Edward Ellice.	Mr. Lowe.
Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.	Sir John Pakington.
Mr. Gladstone.	Mr. Roebuck.
Mr. Gordon.	Lord John Russell.
Mr. Grogan.	Viscount Sandon.
Mr. Gurney.	Lord Stanley.

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY LABOUCHERE, IN THE CHAIR.

John Ross, Esq., called in ; and Examined.

1. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are a Member of the Canadian Parliament ? *J. Ross, Esq.*
 —Yes. 20 February 1857.
 2. How long have you belonged to that body ?—Since 1848.
 3. You were also, I think, a member of the Canadian Government for several years ?—From 1851 until 1856.
 4. What situations did you hold ?—I was first Solicitor-general, subsequently Attorney-general, and afterwards Speaker of the Legislative Council.
 5. You are aware of the objects for which this Committee has been appointed ?—Yes.
 6. Has your attention ever been directed to the question of the affairs of the Hudson's Bay Company, in so far as they affect the interests of Canada ?—Yes. I have thought very much upon the subject for several years. I do not profess to be intimately acquainted with the affairs of the Hudson's Bay Company, but upon that branch of the subject with reference to how far it may affect Canada, I have thought a great deal.
 7. You have never yourself, I believe, been in the territory of the Hudson's Bay Company ?—Only upon the borders of their territories. I have never been further westward than Lake Superior.
 8. I think you are connected with a railway in Canada ?—Yes ; I am at the head of the trunk railway of Canada.
 9. You have probably often considered the subject with reference to the importance of extending communications in British North America ?—I have thought very much of it.
 10. Will you have the kindness to state to the Committee any views which you may have been led to entertain upon this subject ?—The first subject, as it appears to me, which has been very much discussed (at all events it is now being discussed in Canada), is the occupation of that part of the North American Continent now under the control of the Hudson's Bay Company. It is very much discussed whether it is desirable that their privileges and control there should entirely cease. I have considered that subject very much, and the opinion that I express to the Committee of course I only give for what it is worth, and as my own opinion. I believe that when the subject is well discussed and presented to the Canadian