

deal of difference in the climate, according as it lies eastward or westward?—*Sir G. Simpson.*  
Yes.

750. Does the climate improve westward?—It rather improves westward; 26 February 1857.  
as you go from the coast westward the climate improves.

751. Did you ever hear the saying in America that a degree west was equal to a degree south?—No, I never heard it.

752. Take the Saskatchewan country, upon the banks; is there no alluvial soil on the River Saskatchewan?—There is alluvial soil, but the season is not so long, and the frosts are earlier than at Red River.

753. Have you travelled up the Saskatchewan yourself?—Repeatedly; we have very seldom been able to raise wheat in the Saskatchewan.

754. Have you travelled up different branches of it?—I have.

755. What length of winter would you give to the banks of the Saskatchewan?—About a fortnight or three weeks longer than at Red River.

756. Would it be six months?—Yes.

757. In the account which you have given of the climate of that country, take, for instance, the climate of the banks of the Saskatchewan, you have made no allowance for the influences upon climate which are produced by settlement?—No; I am not aware that settlement does produce any material influence upon climate; I have not known it do so in Canada; I have been in the Canadas for a great many years, and I do not find the climate improved; I think the last two winters have been the two most rigorous winters I have experienced in Canada.

758. I suppose it is not to be doubted that when a large district of country becomes populous, there is then an influence upon climate?—I have not seen it; from my experience it is not so; I think the climate of Canada is as severe as it has been at any time during the 37 years for which I have known the country.

759. And that is true even with respect to the most settled and the most densely peopled parts of the country?—Yes.

760. Taking the case of the country to the west of the Rocky Mountains, I understand you to have described Vancouver's Island as upon the whole favourably circumstanced with respect to climate?—I do not speak to Vancouver's Island; I have never been there, except touching the northern part of the island in a steamer; the weather was unfavourable and I could not examine the island.

761. Taking the coast opposite to Vancouver's Island, is it less favourably situated than Vancouver's Island?—It is so; it is rugged; it is only the southern end of Vancouver's Island that is favourable for settlement; the northern part is exceedingly rugged, of the same character as the opposite mainland coast.

762. Take the coast opposite the southern end of Vancouver's Island; it has a south-western aspect, has it not?—The southern part of the mainland has.

763. Is that as favourably circumstanced as Vancouver's Island itself?—I think not; it is not so favourable as the southern part of Vancouver's Island.

764. What is it that makes the portion of the mainland opposite the southern part of Vancouver's Island less favourable for settlement than the island itself?—That portion in British territory is exceedingly rugged and mountainous, craggy, and there is a want of soil.

765. Is the mainland side of the channel there rugged, and the island side of the channel open and favourable, or are both sides rugged?—The island is less rugged than the mainland at the northern end of the island.

766. I am now speaking of the southern end of the island and of the landward side of it?—The American side of the channel is the same character of country.

767. Rugged?—No, open.

768. What is the character of the mainland opposite that open country on the landward side of the southern end of the island?—The same character; open.

769. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] That is not British territory?—No; that is American territory; that is south of 49°.

770. *Mr. Gladstone.*] Take it north of 49°, between Fraser River and the water?—North of 49°, north of Fraser River, the country is exceedingly rugged.

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771. I know