

*By the Chairman :*

“Q. With regard to the charter of the Hudson’s Bay Company, I believe that part of the condition on which it was granted was that the Company should establish colonies within the territories which it covered. I believe that in carrying out this condition the Company established a colony called the “Colony of Assiniboia.” Is not that the case?—It is.

“Q. As to whether that colony was recognized by the Imperial Government or not; that is an important question. I believe that on two occasions the Imperial troops were sent out to maintain order in the Territory; is that so?—Yes, that colony was recognized by the Imperial Government, and Her Majesty’s troops were sent out there. The 6th Regiment and the Canadian Rifles were there at different times.

*By Mr. Weldon :*

“At what time was the 6th Regiment there?—I think in 1846, under Colonel Crofton.

“Q. And the Canadian Rifles, when?—In 1857 the Canadian Rifles were sent there under Major Seaton, and afterwards under Captain Hibbert. The Home Government also assisted in forming a body of pensioners for service at Red River at that time. Those pensioners were sent out there, and I believe some of them are, at this moment, in the Red River country, although not employed as a force.

*By Mr. DeCosmos :*

“Q. Who paid the force?—The Imperial Government paid the troops and the Company contributed to their sustenance.

“Q. Did the Imperial Government also contribute anything to meet the expenses of the pensioners?—Not further than their pensions.

*By the Chairman :*

“Q. The Imperial Government corresponded with the Governors and the Government of the new Colony of Assiniboia, I presume?—With the Governors of the Hudson’s Bay Company.

“Q. Had the Government of that colony courts established and power to administer the law; had it, for instance, the power of life and death?—It had the power of life and death. There was a Council of Assiniboia, and a Recorder who was Judge—Judge Thom.

*By Mr. Royal :*

“Q. He was the first Recorder?—Yes; as I have said, the Government had the power of life and death, and one person was executed.

*By Mr. DeCosmos :*

“Q. What was the date of these appointments?—The appointment of the first Recorder must have been in 1838 or 1839.

*By the Chairman :*

“Q. The colony, I believe, had clearly defined boundaries?—It had.

“Q. And these boundaries are given in Mr. Mills’ report?—Yes.

*By Mr. Trow :*

“Q. I suppose the old boundaries cover the whole of Dakotah?—A portion of Dakotah.

“Q. And also Minnesota?—Some part of Minnesota.

*By Mr. DeCosmos :*

“Q. What was the ascertained boundary of the Colony of Assiniboia?—I don’t recollect exactly. I should state that I have given no particular attention to this subject for many years past.

*The Chairman read from the Proclamation of Governor McDonell, as follows :—*

“Whereas the Governor and Company of Hudson’s Bay have ceded to the Right Honorable Thomas, Earl of Selkirk, his heirs and successors, for ever, all that tract of land or territory, bounded by a line running as follows, viz: Beginning on the western shore of Lake Winnipic, at a point in fifty-two degrees and thirty minutes north latitude; and thence running due west to Lake Winnipigashish, otherwise called