

595. Mr. *Lowe*.] Is there a canal open now?—They are preparing one; I am not quite sure whether it is open. J. Rae, Esq., M.D.

596. Mr. *Roebuck*.] When that canal is finished, if it be not finished, there will be a regular communication from the Atlantic Ocean to the head of Lake Superior?—Yes. 23 February 1857.

597. You say that the road is impracticable during winter?—Yes.

598. If the country were peopled, would not the people make a road in for the sleighs?—Not along the north shore of Lake Superior.

599. Would they not travel over the ice?—The lake is so bad that the ice gets detached from the rocks; it does not remain fast, and our expresses seldom or never attempt to go there. The wind comes on, and the waves from the lake break up the ice; and several of the expresses have been nearly lost.

600. Sir *John Pakington*.] Which line do they take in winter?—They go further to the north by Lake Nipigon, and a place called Long Lake, 100 or 120 miles in from Lake Superior.

601. Mr. *Roebuck*.] So that if the country were peopled at Lake Nipigon, there would be a regular communication by sleighs?—I cannot say; the route that I passed by is impracticable to sleighs.

602. Are you at all aware of the richness of the northern shore of Lake Superior in metal?—I have understood that there are mines; at least that there is copper ore there.

603. Is that no attraction, do you think?—I understood that the geologists, who visited them, said that they would scarcely pay for working them; they are not equal to the mines on the south shore. I have not examined them myself; I only speak from hearsay on that point.

604. Therefore you cannot say whether that country has inducements to settlement or not?—I can say that it has not the least inducement of having fine agricultural land to settle upon along the north shore; it is a perfectly barren, rocky coast, perfectly iron bound, except at the mouths of some of the little streams where there is a little alluvial deposit of land, where little patches may be cultivated; generally speaking, it is a rocky, barren coast with ridges.

605. Do you know the northern shore of Lake Huron?—I never came along that side.

606. Have you passed over from Lake Huron to Lake Nipissing?—I never was there.

607. Then the questions put to you about Lake Nipissing you cannot answer?—No. I said that I could not answer them. I never passed that way.

608. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] Will you describe upon the map the line of country that you have been through, starting from Fort William; where did you go to, going up towards Nipigon?—I passed directly from Fort William up to Lake Nipigon; I then struck east to a place called Long Lake, about 100 miles.

609. What sort of a country was it between Lake Nipigon and Long Lake?—It was low and swampy. I passed through a number of little lakes and rivers, and swamps, apparently; they were all covered up with ice at the time. Then from Long Lake I went to the Pice River, a difficult tract of country; that is on Lake Superior.

610. What sort of a country was it between Long Lake and Pice River?—Very rough and rugged; our dogs got knocked up; we could scarcely use them; we were obliged to carry our clothes on our backs.

611. Which way did the rivers run there?—Nearly north and south generally.

612. Mr. *Roebuck*.] The Pice River falls into Lake Superior?—Yes.

613. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] And the water the other way ran to the north, to Hudson's Bay?—I did not go so far up, I was only at the watershed at the head waters.

614. Did there appear to be no valley in that direction, or no part eligible for settlement?—I saw nothing, excepting that the country which I went over was low; it looked swampy, like most of the watersheds there.

615. Where did you go to from Pice River?—To Michipicoton.