

27. It is west of Manitoba?—It is north-west, perhaps 1,000 miles.

28. Had any settlements been made there in 1803, at Athabaska?—Yes; it is a matter of history, which is open to the Committee for investigation, that Canadian and American traders were there in 1766, and the statement made by the elder Henry in his journal shows there had been traders there. We may assume that the Messrs. Frobishers, the two brothers, and Mr. Pond, who was afterwards employed to assist the Americans in fixing a boundary at the treaty of Versailles, with many others, were also there before 1770.

29. At English River?—Yes; trading posts were established by them at Athabaska, and in that region, an account of which you will find in my report.

30. You are of opinion that the disturbances which occasioned the Act of 1803 occurred in the Athabaska country of the English River?—Yes.

31. Is it not generally supposed that the district where the traders were fighting lay between Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg?—The disturbances to which you refer occurred many years after the passing of the Act of 1803; what the general suppositions may be, I cannot say.

*By the Chairman:—*

32. But the disturbances that occurred were some murders among French traders?—I am not aware of any contest that took place at these points, while the country was held by France, or at any time before the advent of Lord Selkirk. The Hudson Bay Company's traders, as far as I know, never left the shores of Hudson's Bay. Hearne is the first person represented in the journals of the Company as ever having left the shores of the bay. The French, long before the cession, intercepted the traders by establishing trading posts in the interior, which induced the Indians to come to their posts instead of going to Hudson's Bay.

33. What disturbances occurred before 1803?—There was the shooting of a Mr. Woden, a Swiss trader, by Mr. Pond, in 1780, and one or two other cases of violence in the Athabaska District. That was years before the Hudson's Bay Company went into those south west districts at all. The crimes referred to grew out of conflicts between the X. Y. Company and the North-West Company. They united in 1803, and then this Act was passed.

*By Mr. DeCosmos:—*

34. In the Act of 1821, in the preamble, we find the words: Animosities and feuds arising from such competition have also, for some years past, kept the interior of America to the northward and westward of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and of the Territories of the United States, in a state of continued disturbance. Please to locate those feuds and animosities?—The Committee can do that from the facts given as well as I. As they were very numerous their location would be a matter of opinion. I am not aware what the particular views of those gentlemen were who framed the Act, or of Parliament that passed it; but I think the history of that period shows those disturbances and difficulties existed between the Hudson's Bay Company and the traders of the North-West Company after Lord Selkirk went there, never before. You will find from Daniel Harrison's journal, that the North-West Company extended their trading posts, away westward throughout British Columbia, and down to the 42° parallel of north latitude, into what is now California. Difficulties occurred between these two companies over the entire territory through which they operated; for the Hudson's Bay Company followed the other in their fur trade. The letters of the North-West Company were seized by the Hudson's Bay Company at various posts. Troops were brought from the Orkney Islands to Lake Athabaska by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1774, but not used before Lord Selkirk's day, against their rivals. The fact, I think, is mentioned in my report or the appendix which accompanies it. Over the entire country, there were conflicts between those two companies after 1817. Those conflicts continued until the two companies were amalgamated; some of them occurred in United States Territory.