

Assiniboin, but far the more considerable portion of the Red River from their united waters, which fall into Lake Winnipeg—an example forcibly illustrative of the absurdity of a system which it is desired to perpetuate in the west, and which, if carried out, would be followed by perhaps even greater inconveniences and inconsistencies.

As an illustration of this, it may be observed that the value of water power, which is more frequently found on the head-waters of the tributaries of the larger rivers, is, especially if used for sawing, entirely dependent on the facility which the streams themselves afford for carrying the produce of the mills to market. This every one who has travelled in America must be fully aware of. In such cases, therefore, the cutting off the upper waters of a stream from the lower by a boundary line must neutralize any advantage to be derived from their possession; and if, as is most probable, the floods which some years since did so much damage in the Red River district were caused by the overflowing of the Missouri into the Moose River, it is easy to conceive that hereafter, on the occurrence of such a calamity, it might cause a collision of interests, one party desiring that the surplus waters should find an outlet in that direction, and the other naturally anxious that they should be kept in their proper channel.

It may be concluded, from the description already given of the Oregon territory, that Sir George Simpson's opinion, as expressed in the account given by him in his letter to Sir Henry Pelly on the renewal of the Hudson's Bay Company's charter, respecting the state of the country at that time, and which has been printed by order of parliament

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