

*J. Ross, Esq.*

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25. Does that observation apply only to the country to the west, or does it apply to the whole circuit of the boundary of Canada?—It applies more to the country to the west.

26. The water-shed line is the recognised boundary to the north and north-east, is it not?—That is taken to be the boundary. There is very often a dispute as to where that is.

27. *Mr. Kinnaird.*]—Are you not apprehensive that in that part of the territory which comes in contact with the United States, there will be settlements made by the Americans, and that there will be difficulty hereafter, unless the boundary is defined?—The Americans are extending their settlements very rapidly towards the Red River, and it is very important that that boundary should be distinctly marked, and as soon as possible. That is my opinion with regard to that point.

28. Are any of them already, do you think, coming over and settling on our territory?—It is stated that numbers have crossed the boundary; of course that can only be ascertained by drawing the line.

29. *Lord Stanley.*] At present the Red River Settlement is not open to traffic in any direction, except that traffic which comes by canoes?—It is not.

30. Is there, in your judgment, any probability of a line of communication fit for traffic being established between the American settlements and the Red River?—I think it is tending to it very rapidly.

31. Do you know what the distance is from the nearest inhabited point within the United States?—I should think it was from 800 to 1,000 miles.

32. *Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.*] Do not the Red River half-breeds continually come down from the Red River Settlement to St. Paul's?—Certainly they do.

33. I think every summer they come down?—They do; but they have to cross a very large extent of territory on horseback to do so.

34. Do they not come down in their carts?—Yes, so I have been told; but a gentleman with whom I am very well acquainted, who recently crossed the country from St. Paul's to the Red River, and who was born there, informed me, I think, that it took him 16 days to cross from the last settlement to the north of St. Paul's, to the first settlement as he approached the Red River.

35. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] You have never been there yourself, have you?—No.

36. *Chairman.*] If a man wanted to go from this country to the Red River, what route would he take as the easiest?—By St. Paul's.

37. *Lord Stanley.*] Through the United States?—Yes.

38. *Mr. Roebuck.*] But if your scheme of a railroad were carried into effect, he would go by that, would he not?—Most unquestionably; I should be very glad to see a railway made.

39. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] In what direction do you propose to run that railway from Canada to the Red River; you alluded to the railways contemplated by Mr. Whitney and others; do you know that that scheme of railways is in connexion with the Minnesota scheme of railways running up from St. Paul's?—I do; the railway that I should desire to see carried out would be one to connect with our own scheme of railways in Canada.

40. Are you at all aware of the practicability of a railway, except at a most enormous expense, from the head of Lake Superior, from the Canada frontier, to the Red River?—During the last 18 months an exploration has taken place along the north shores of Lake Shurun and a part of Lake Superior, and inland from the borders of both lakes along the valley running westerly, and the report of the gentlemen who were instructed to make the survey represented the land to be very good, bearing very fine timber, and to be well fitted for settlement; so that if we accomplished a connexion between the Canadian system of railways and the Red River country, it would be through the valley to the north of Lake Shurun and Lake Superior until we got round Lake Superior.

41. The country of which I am speaking lies to the west of what I understand to be the Canadian boundary, taking the water-shed as the boundary; it runs about 500 or 600 miles from the extreme west end of Lake Superior, from the extreme west boundary of Canada to the Red River; I suppose your attention has not been directed to that country?—The extension of a railway over that country is just that of which I have been speaking; you would only have to make a curve if you could find a valley and get out of it at the west end of Lake Superior upon this country which I have been mentioning.

42. Your