

192. Is there any part of the territory that you are acquainted with to which persons who go to the far West from the United States seem desirous to go? —I think not; the difficulty of access is so very great that it never has attracted emigration, I think, from any quarter; it had not done so down to the time that I speak of, from the south.

193. You have not since heard that there is any great desire to settle in those districts either from Canada or from the United States? —I know that there are many persons in Canada who have a strong impression that it is a productive region for settlement; I do not think anything that can be called a pressure in that direction exists.

194. Mr. *Roebuck*.] Do you know the United States territory in Minesota at all? —I do not.

195. That is just south of the line running between the two territories? —Yes.

196. And it is about, I think, the latitude of Quebec; directing your attention to that line, you see there a river called the Red River? —Yes.

197. Do you know that at all? —I know the Red River running into Lake Winnipeg, but not the Red River running into the Missouri.

198. I speak of the Red River running into Lake Winnipeg; looking at that river running out of Minesota into the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company, do you know whether, on the northern parts of that river, the banks are habitable, or not? —The Red River Settlement occupies, in a straggling manner, about 50 miles of the course of the Red River itself, and a portion of that ground is under cultivation; not very much, because the habits of a great proportion of the population of the country are opposed to regular industry.

199. It being under the command of the Hudson's Bay Company, does not the Company rather favour hunting than cultivation? —At the Red River Settlement I think the Company favours cultivation, because unfortunately the buffaloes swarm in the surrounding regions, and the great difficulty is to keep the people to steady habits of industry, and to induce them to refrain from hunting them.

200. Buffaloes, you say, swarm? —Yes, at certain seasons.

201. Upon what do they live? —Upon the herbage of the plains.

202. Where that herbage is, is not the land fertile? —Undoubtedly where that herbage is other things might be grown, as we find at the Red River Settlement itself, until you get to a certain distance to the westward, where I have reason to think but little rain falls; that is one way in which I account for the physical fact of its being a prairie, and there the soil is, as far as my observation goes, not very favourable to cultivation; it is generally along the banks of the river limestone or gravel; there is very little alluvial soil at the surface; there is no depth of alluvial soil anywhere that I saw.

203. You say limestone is there? —Yes.

204. Is it not a remarkable fact, established by all experience, that wherever limestone is, cultivation is possible? —I believe so; it is a most favourable district.

205. You say that the geological condition of the country is primitive? —Not there.

206. But by the Saskatchewan River? —To the eastward of Lake Winnipeg and along the line of descent to Canada on the north side, and northwards again through the line that I travelled, except the Peace River, where we come to the secondary formation, the general character of the region, I should say, without giving myself authority as a geologist, is primitive.

207. Is not that the case with Lower Canada generally? —On the north shore of the St. Lawrence, but not the south; but there you have very little cultivation; the north shore of the St. Lawrence below Quebec is a primitive region.

208. Above Quebec? —I think not; but I speak with deference there.

209. Are you at all aware of a publication, by Mr. Isbester, of the geology of that country? —I have never seen it.

210. While you were there had you occasion to see much of the Indians? —I took a great interest in the Indians, and I took what opportunities were given me of inquiring into their condition, and of seeing them, but my scientific duties left me very little leisure for anything else.

211. What were your scientific duties directed to? —To terrestrial magnetism; making observations of the magnetic dip, and the magnetic variation, and the magnetic force of the earth in that region.

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212. Then

Lieut.-Colonel
J. H. Lefroy, R.A.

23 February 1857.