

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

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291. Does not Fort Simpson lie very near the Rocky Mountains, to the east of the Rocky Mountains?—Yes.

292. Do not the Rocky Mountains continue frozen throughout the year upon their summits?—The Rocky Mountains there are very much lower than they are in lower latitudes. I have seen snow over the whole region of the Rocky Mountains within view in June; therefore, I presume that they are covered with snow almost all the year round.

293. The proximity of Fort Simpson to the Rocky Mountains would lead to the chilling of the atmosphere, would it not?—It depends a little upon the distance; the actual distance is rather considerable. The Rocky Mountains approach the Mackenzie's River at a much lower latitude; at the limit of the Arctic region the chain comes nearest, but at Fort Simpson it recedes to some distance. I have in many instances observed that a sudden change of the wind from the eastward to the westward would almost immediately raise the temperature of the air ten degrees at Fort Simpson.

294. South-west?—Yes, south-west.

295. Sir John Pakington.] Has the altitude of the Rocky Mountains in the British dominions ever been ascertained?—No; the altitude of the great passes between the Saskatchewan and the Columbia has been ascertained with tolerable precision, but not further to the north.

296. What is it there?—I do not like to speak from memory.

297. Mr. Edward Ellice.] On ordinary maps the highest range is marked at about 15,000 or 16,000 feet, is it not?—But the pass is much lower than that.

298. Mr. Grogan.] You spoke of the barley, for instance, having been ripened at Fort Simpson; do you attribute that to any greater quantity of rain that may fall there than down at Fort Cumberland?—No.

299. Mr. Lowe.] Have you had occasion to observe the effect of summer frosts in these territories upon crops?—No, not personally; but I have made inquiries concerning them.

300. Will you state what is the fact in that respect?—Summer frosts come at night in all months of the year, frequently with very great severity, and the ground will be frozen in June; of course that cuts off all delicate cultivation.

301. Does that interfere with the certainty of crops at the Red River?—I believe very much.

302. And of course further north?—Further north still more so.

303. Have you observed the Indians on the Saskatchewan River?—Yes.

304. What is the nature of the Indians there; are they very fierce?—Some of the tribes on the Upper Saskatchewan are very warlike and untameable.

305. What are they principally; the Blackfeet?—The Blackfeet; there are five or six tribes which go under the general name of Blackfeet; the Crees, who inhabit the lower portion of the region, seem to have less savage tendencies.

306. Is it safe to travel there, one or two people together?—Under the protection of the Hudson's Bay Company it could be done with perfect safety.

307. Do you think that a railway could be made with facility, from any point in Minesota, to the Red River?—Yes.

308. From what place?—I think almost anywhere.

309. From St. Paul's?—Yes; I should think it might.

310. Mr. Percy Herbert.] You spoke of the district between the Rainy Lake and the Lake of the Woods, as being not much inferior to Lower Canada; is that district of which you spoke of considerable extent?—I do not think it is of great extent, but it must be to the extent of several townships, as they are laid out in Canada.

311. Would the district between that and Lake Superior admit of a communication with Lake Superior?—It would admit of a communication by going to a very great expense; the distance is not very great, but you have to pass over a region of swamp and morass, and a river which is not navigable; there is a line of detached lakes, communicating by streams and rivers, which are not navigable.

312. Mr. Gregson.] Upon the whole, what inducements are there to attract emigration to these regions?—I do not myself think that emigration can be judiciously