

*Isbister, Alexander.* (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued*.

Authority for the statement that, practically, the Company do not promote religious instruction, and that their donations to missionaries are given with the view that the latter may shut their eyes to the obstructions offered by the Company to the settlement of Indians around the missionaries, 2485-2499. 2550, 2551.

Explanation in regard to the tenure of a farm belonging to witness at Red River, which formerly belonged to his father as a retired officer of the Company, 2500-2513—Doubt as to there being any impediments to the purchase or transfer of land under the Company, 2513-2518—Nature of the deed under which land is held, 2513. 2520—Price of land at Red River, 2519—Squatters on the land have not been molested by the Company, 2521.

Great importance of aggregating the territory to Canada with a view to the fur trade taking the route of Lake Winnipeg and Lake Superior, rather than the unnatural route of Hudson's Bay, 2528-2549. 2629, 2630—Of the three routes to Red River, that is, by York Factory, St. Peter's, or Lake Superior, the latter is by far the shortest, and is very practicable, 2529-2533—Advantage in aggregating the Red River district, &c., to Canada, rather than of forming it into a separate government and colony, 2534-2549.

Dissatisfaction of the Red River settlers with the government of the Company; petition by the settlers to the American Government adverted to hereon, 2552-2559—With regard to the climate, barley, oats, and potatoes may be raised as far north as Fort Norman, and wheat as far north as the North Saskatchewan, 2562-2572. 2647-2649—Indian corn may be cultivated between the latitudes of 49° and 51°, and ripens very well at the Red River, 2572-2575—Probable amelioration of the climate at Red River in consequence of the cultivation, 2577.

There are no valuable fisheries in Mackenzie River, 2578, 2579—There is a valuable whale fishery near the mouth of the river, 2580. 2582—Belief as to the accessibility during the summer of the whale fishery off the mouth of the Mackenzie, 2581. 2584-2591—The Mackenzie is a very fine river, and perfectly navigable, 2592-2597—The Slave River, which connects the Slave Lake with Athabasca Lake, is interrupted by frequent portages, 2596.

Further evidence in regard to the obstacles thrown by the Company in the way of exportation from Red River; furs, which are the main produce of the country, are entirely prohibited from export save by the Company, 2599-2620—Restrictions upon imports by settlers, 2620-2624—Increased value of property at Red River if the settlement were annexed to Canada, 2625-2627—Outlet for produce and consequent immigration if there were a free and good communication to and from the Red River, 2627-2630.

Reference to a treaty between the United States Government and the Indians and half-breeds at Red River; object thereof, 2633-2638—Practicability of agriculture wherever the limestone secondary formation occurs, as between the great lakes and the Rocky Mountains, 2639. 2654, 2655—Remarks on the circumstance of the subsoil being permanently frozen in the more northern parts of the territory; if the thaw be sufficiently deep, the frozen subsoil by no means prevents agriculture or vegetation, 2640-2649—With regard to the coal on the Saskatchewan, &c., it is a tertiary coal, and of very tolerable quality, 2652-2654.

[Second Examination.]—Witness has travelled through the Hudson's Bay territory from the frontiers of the United States to the Arctic Ocean, and from Russian America to Hudson's Bay, 6073—He has written a geological memoir upon the country, which has been published by the Geological Society, and also a geographical memoir, 6074, 6075.

With regard to fisheries in the territory witness further states that there are very valuable fisheries off the mouth of Mackenzie's River and in other places; authority for his statements hereon, 6076-6087—Abundance of animals in the territory from which an import trade in hides and tallow, as from Russia, could be derived, 6088—Various vegetable products of the country which might be advantageously imported into this country, 6088-6090—Abundant supply of minerals of different kinds, some of them in a very accessible state, 6090, 6091.

There are three passes over the Rocky Mountains: one through the Peace River, which flows right through the mountains, one from the northern branch of the Saskatchewan, and one from the southern branch which may be crossed in wheel carriages, 6092-6094.

Witness lays before the Committee (*App. p.* 437-439) a petition signed by some hundred of the inhabitants of Red River, and presented to the Legislative Assembly of Canada; it has been forwarded to witness by Mr. Macbeth, a member of the Assembly, 6094-6098.