

3100. Mr. *Grogan*.] Would the failure of these mining companies to which you refer have occurred if that precautionary step had been taken?—I cannot say; I believe they were not productive as mercantile speculations.

Sir J. Richardson,  
C.B.

3101. You describe that the Indians came down *en masse* and burnt and destroyed the whole settlement?—They destroyed one mine; but there were several mines at various distances.

9 March 1857.

3102. Was the destruction of the settlement and of the machinery, and so on, the cause of the failure or abandonment of the mine, as far as you know?—I suppose the miners would have resumed it had it been remunerative; and that it was not worth their while to incur the expense a second time.

3103. Mr. *Charles Fitzwilliam*.] So that you think that the country to the north of Lake Superior is not sufficiently rich in mineral produce to repay mining companies?—Minerals have not as yet been found in sufficient quantity. It is very probable that if that country were thoroughly explored there might be workable minerals discovered. I think the geological formation is promising.

3104. Mr. *Bell*.] You do not know of any extensive examinations of that part of the country; you are not aware that the Hudson's Bay Company have taken any trouble in it?—The Canadian Legislature have had a thorough survey by a competent and able man, Mr. Logan, with a staff of assistants.

3105. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] All these mines of which you have spoken, where there has been either failure or success, are in Canada, and not in the Hudson's Bay territories, I believe?—They are all in the Canadian territory.

3106. Mr. *Bell*.] Then there has been no mine opened on the Hudson's Bay territory?—Not that I know of; the watershed into Hudson's Bay, I suppose, divides the two Governments; the watershed into Lake Superior belongs to Canada, and the watershed into Hudson's Bay to the Hudson's Bay territory.

3107. Mr. *Charles Fitzwilliam*.] But I see marked on the map Fort William as a Hudson's Bay post?—They have posts all along the Labrador coast and northern shores of the Great Lakes.

3108. I find the following passage in your book: "It would be true economy in the Imperial Government or in the Hudson's Bay Company, who are the virtual sovereigns of the vast territory which spreads northwards from Lake Superior, to ascertain without delay the mineral treasures it contains. I have little doubt of many of the accessible districts abounding in metallic wealth of far greater value than all the returns which the fur trade can ever yield"?—Yes; that was the opinion I formed from seeing it, but I did not find these minerals myself; I only judged from the nature of the geological formation.

3109. Mr. *Grogan*.] But you see no reason to change the opinion which you there expressed?—I have not changed it; I think if the country were thoroughly explored minerals would be discovered. We find in our own country that valuable minerals are discovered every day.

3110. Mr. *Bell*.] How far have you traced copper in your journeys; there is a considerable quantity, I believe, in the north, on the Copper Mine River?—There is a large copper district on each side of the Copper Mine River.

3111. Between these copper deposits on Lake Superior and those in the north, have you met with any intermediate ones?—There is no mineral, as far as I know, in the limestone districts.

3112. This is your map, and the pink colour shows the primitive rock?—Yes, that shows the course of it, but it is exceedingly difficult to traverse that upper part.

3113. You do not know of any other veins of metal which have been met with?—I know of none until you get to the Copper Mine River.

3114. With regard to the coal on the Saskatchewan, I do not think your answer was perfectly clear as to the quality of it?—The specimens which I saw were tertiary coal.

3115. Was it all inferior coal?—It is all inferior coal; it is not similar to the large coalfield which is worked in England; it is a kind of fossilised wood, a lignite.

3116. Is it not good for combustion?—It burns, but it could not be used for purposes of art. It would not heat a steam-engine well.

3117. You said that the coal on the Mackenzie was bad, from the quantity of sulphur?—Yes.