

Report, 1857—continued.

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT:

1. *Origin of the Settlement ; its Expense to the Company.*
2. *Progress of the Settlement ; Statistics on the Subject.*
3. *Means of Communication considered ; Difficulties hereon.*
4. *Character of the Soil and Cultivation.*
5. *Climate.*
6. *Population ; how composed.*
7. *Trade with the United States.*
8. *Discontent among the Settlers ; Petitions by them.*
9. *Annexation to Canada, or Formation into an Independent Colony, considered.*
10. *Suggestions by the Committee.*

1. *Origin of the Settlement ; its Expense to the Company :*

Grants by the Company of a large tract of territory on the Red River to Lord Selkirk, in June 1811 ; reference to the deed hereon defining the territory, *Right Hon. E. Ellice*, 5779-5783—Expensive and unsuccessful character of the Red River Settlement ; it was established by Lord Selkirk, and not by the Hudson's Bay Company, *ib.* 5839, 5840, 5931.—The Company never voluntarily undertook colonisation at Red River, *ib.* 5931—Explanation relative to a sum of 84,111 l. as the balance expended by the Company in the purchase and support of the Red River Colony, *ib.* 5985-5991.

2. *Progress of the Settlement ; Statistics on the Subject :*

Encouragement given by the Company to agricultural pursuits on the part of the settlers at Red River ; denial of the accuracy of a statement hereon by Mr. John M'Lean, *Sir G. Simpson* 811-817, 879-882—The settlement had as large a population twenty years ago as it has now, *Kernaghan* 2237—Outlet for produce and consequent immigration if there were a free and good communication to and from the Red River, *Isbister* 2627-2630—Circumstance of the Red River settlers necessarily drawing their supplies from St. Paul's in consequence of there being no proper communication by York Factory or Lake Superior, &c., *Corbett* 2737-2742.

The want of communication is a main obstacle to the colonisation of the Red River district, *Sir J. Richardson* 3033, 3149—Great difficulties of land and water communication which act as a bar to a profitable export of corn by the half-breeds at Red River, *Crofton* 3242-3245—Belief as to the willingness of the Company to see the Red River country better colonised, *ib.* 3339-3345—Improbability of increased settlement about Red River on account of its remoteness and the difficulty of access, *Caldwell* 5373-5392—Great improvement in the settlement whilst witness was there, *ib.* 5525, 5527.

Reference to a paper (*App. p.* 381-385) drawn up in March last by Mr. Gunn, of Red River, containing statistics of the colony, *Roche* 4544-4548.

Statistical account of the colony, taken in May 1856, and showing the progress of the colony since 1849, *App. p.* 363, 364—Statistics of the population, *ib.* 363—Statistics as to, and average value of, dwellings, live stock, implements, and machinery, *ib.* 363, 364—Statistics of the courts of justice at Red River, and of the cases tried thereat, *ib.* 364

Statistics of the colony as prepared by Mr. Donald Gunn, of Red River, and enclosed in letter to the President of the Executive Council of Canada, dated Red River, 6 March 1857, *App. p.* 381-385.

3. *Means of Communication considered ; Difficulties hereon :*

It is about 1,000 miles from the Red River Settlement to the extreme portion of the occupied part of Canada or the Saulte St. Marie, *Ross* 15—Nature of the communication between the Red River and St. Paul's ; large intervening tract of uninhabited country, *ib.* 31-35, 91-98—It is from 400 to 500 miles from the settlement to the nearest inhabited part of the United States, *ib.* 31, 91, 92, 98—The easiest route from Toronto to the Red River is through the States and by St. Paul's, *Ross* 36, 37, 88, 144 ; *Rae* 588-590 ; *Sir G. Simpson* 868, 869—Impracticability, at present, of communication between Toronto and the Red River save through the United States, *Ross* 133, 134, 142-144.

Witness travelled from the Red River through Minnesota to St. Paul's in the winter, and found the country very level and easy for travelling, *Rae* 444-447—Between St. Paul's, or rather Crow Wing, and Red River, there are about 450 miles unsettled, *ib.* 456-459, 464—From Canada to the Red River, the only practicable route is north of Lake Superior inland, by Fort William and Rainy Lake, *Sir G. Simpson* 870-873—Explanation as to some supplies for the settlement coming from St. Louis, *ib.* 1072.

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 very practicable, *Isbister* 2529-2533—Practicability of improving the route from Red River to York Factory, *Corbett* 2740, 2742-2746—The difficulties in the route between Red River and Lake Superior are by no means insurmountable, *ib.* 2746.

Reference