

*J. Rae, Esq., M.D.* 696. *Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.*] That country which you travelled through from Red River down to Crow Wing was a so-called settled country, was it not?  
 23 February 1857. —No.

697. It formed what is called in the States, Indian territory?—Perfectly so, as much as in any of the Hudson's Bay Company's territory, where I passed through; we came to little posts between Pembina and Crow Wing.

698. I mean within the boundary of the Minesota territory?—Yes.

699. Consequently these people who traded in this liquor were not the licensed Indian traders, men who had paid money to obtain a license to trade with the Indians, but they were the free settlers?—Yes, I think free settlers.

700. Over whom no company had any power whatever; an American trading company has no power over the free settler of Minesota?—The Government have; they made it a rule that no spirits should be sold to the Indians on or near the frontier; that was what I understood; whereas there they had abundance; it was against the rules of the Government for them to get it, but the Government could not prevent it.

701. *Chairman.*] Do you imagine that the American Fur Trading Company does put any effectual check upon the sale of spirits to the Indians in their country?—I cannot tell, because I have never been among them.

*Jovis, 26<sup>o</sup> die Februarii, 1857.*

#### MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Adderley.	Mr. Grogan.
Mr. Bell.	Mr. Gurney.
Mr. Blackburn.	Mr. Percy Herbert.
Mr. Edward Ellice.	Mr. Kinnaird.
Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.	Mr. Labouchere.
Mr. Gladstone.	Mr. Lowe.
Mr. Gordon.	Mr. Roebuck.
Mr. Gregson.	Viscount Sandon.

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY LABOUCHERE, IN THE CHAIR.

*Sir George Simpson*, called in; and Examined.

*Sir G. Simpson.* 702. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you hold an important situation in the administration of the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company?—I do.  
 26 February 1857. 703. What is it?—I have been Governor of their territories for many years.

704. How long have you held that situation?—Thirty-seven years I have been their principal representative.

705. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] As governor the whole time?—Yes; I have held the situation of governor the whole time.

706. *Chairman.*] What is the nature of your authority in that capacity?—The supervision of the Company's affairs; the presiding at their councils in the country, and the principal direction of the whole interior management.

707. Where do you generally reside?—I have resided for several years at the Red River Settlement; I have resided in Oregon; I have resided in Athabasca, and latterly I have resided in Canada.

708. Is there any fixed seat of government within the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company?—There is no fixed seat of government, but there is a seat of council for the northern and the southern departments; one at Norway-house, at the northern end of Lake Winnipeg, and the other at Michipicoton, or Moose Factory, for the southern department.

709. Your authority extends, I imagine, as well over Rupert's Land as over the territory which the Company holds by license?—Over the whole of the Company's affairs in North America.

710. What