

42. Your surveyors have not been through that country?—No.

43. Mr. *Roebuck*.] Where does your railway end?—It is now very nearly carried to Lake Huron; there is another railway connecting with it which also runs to Lake Huron, but it runs north from Toronto to Nottawassaga Bay.

44. I suppose you require Acts of the colonial Parliament to enable you to make those railroads?—We do.

45. How far have you got Acts of the colonial Parliament enabling you to do so?—We have an Act of the colonial Parliament authorising the construction of a branch from a town called Belleville, near the head of the Bay of Quinty, an arm of Lake Ontario, northerly to Lake Huron; that is the furthest point to which the branch goes; by extending that line you could get into the valley to the north of Lake Huron, of which I have been speaking, and over which an extension to the Red River might be made.

46. You contemplate the extension of that railway to the north of Lake Huron and to the north of Lake Superior?—Yes, when we can get settlements and get it carried out.

47. The extension of the railway, I suppose, is dependent upon the settlement of the country?—Very much, I think.

48. Do you believe that a country can be settled which is retained for hunting ground?—I do not.

49. Then the hunting ground is incompatible with the settlement of the country?—That is my own impression, merely speaking from my own notion of the matter, without being a practical hunter; we find, as a matter of fact, that the wild animals recede from the settlements.

50. Then the exclusive power of the Hudson's Bay Company over the country, as a fur-hunting company, is opposed to colonization?—I think if the Hudson's Bay Company asserted their power over any part of the country that is fit for cultivation, it would be an obstacle if they resisted the settlement of it.

51. In fact, then, the contemplated extension of the railway by you is incompatible with retaining the power now possessed by the Hudson's Bay Company?—It would be so most certainly, if they resisted the giving up of any of the territory fit for the purposes of settlement.

52. That is to say, that so long as they retain their power over the country which can be settled, it will not be settled?—I do not say that, because I do not know what they are willing to do; I have had no conference with them, and I am not able to say whether they are willing to give up the country which is fit for settlement.

53. But it is to be supposed that a fur company promote the interests of a fur company?—It would be reasonable to suppose so.

54. Then those interests which are contemplated by the extension of the railway are opposed to the interests of that Company?—As I tell you, that must depend entirely upon whether they would resist our carrying a railway through their country; they might give up their rights there; it may be that there are not furs there now, or that they might think it more advantageous to have settlements which would afford them supplies, where they could get corn, grain, beef and pork more cheaply than they could bring them from abroad; I do not know what their views are, for I have not conversed with any of the members of the Company upon the subject.

55. Have you ever contemplated a scheme of colonization by the Canadian Government like to that which is now pursued by the American Government?—I have never contemplated it in any other way than I indicated, I think, in my second or third answer to Mr. Labouchere; which is, that so fast as any part of the country adjacent to the settled parts of Canada is required for purposes of settlement, I think we ought to have the power of settling it, and I think that the Hudson's Bay Company ought to be required to give it to us.

56. I suppose you are perfectly familiar with the system of colonization on the part of the United States under the Ordinance of 1783?—Yes, I think I know the whole of the system as it is pursued.

57. Have you ever contemplated the propriety of giving that power to the colonial Government to make territories after the fashion of the American Government?—It was at one time spoken of in Canada, and it was considered that there would be very great difficulties connected with it; I may mention a fact which probably will be within your recollection; I think it was in the year
0.25. 1849.