

820. Mr. *Adderley*.] What is the nature of the wood growing in the woody district?—There has been elm at Red River. It is now quite denuded of wood about the Red River Settlement by fire.

Sir G. Simpson.

26 February 1857.

821. I refer to the higher part about James's Bay; what is the nature of the wood there?—Small stunted pines.

822. What is the highest latitude at which fine timber grows?—I cannot tell precisely; there is very little timber on the shores of the Bay to the north, 100 miles north of Churchill. On the eastern side of the Bay there is very little timber north of Big River, or Fort George on James's Bay.

823. When you get to those fine elm forests, is it not very fine timber?—That is in the prairie country. There was some very good timber about Red River at one time.

824. Is the natural wild growth of the prairie country good?—In some parts.

825. Is it very luxuriant?—In some parts; in other parts the soil is exceedingly thin, and there is very little herbage.

826. What should prevent cultivated produce growing equally luxuriantly on the same spot?—Immediately behind Red River, about a mile from the banks of the river, there is merely a thin skin of soil.

827. Is there any luxuriant herbage, either grass, herbs, or fruit of any kind, at a greater distance from the river than you have mentioned?—I think not, except in detached spots. There has never been any cultivation a mile from the river.

828. Would not many of the impediments which you have alluded to be got rid of by art and cultivation?—Certainly not.

829. It is impossible?—It is impossible; I have paddled over the roofs of some of the houses in my canoe.

830. Do you say that you never knew any wild country in which the climate was softened by drainage?—I have heard of the climate of countries being improved by drainage, and settlement and cultivation, but I have not experienced it myself.

831. Are you aware that Europe was once as much frozen as Rupert's Land now is?—I am not aware that it was; I have heard of some historical facts.

832. Can you state the present population of Red River, and the increase in the last 10 years?—The population of Red River is about 8,000.

833. In what time has it doubled?—The settlement has been established 40 years.

834. We had a statement from a former witness that, 10 years ago, the population was 5,000; can you state whether that is correct?—It may have been; the population is now about 8,000. It is not from natural increase, but from the migration of some Indians from other parts of the country.

835. Is there not always emigration in the shape of a squatting population from the United States?—Not from the United States.

836. Where from?—The neighbouring districts; Indian migration.

837. Should you say that there was much difference between the climate of Minesota and that of the Red River?—Decidedly, the further south you go the better the climate is.

838. And do you state that there is no overflow of population from Minesota to Red River?—I am not aware of any; I believe two or three Americans have gone from St. Paul's, who have seated themselves down as small dealers and opened shops.

839. Is there any barrier to their doing so from the nature of the Red River Settlement regulation?—None.

840. Mr. *Kinnaird*.] Are there not westward from the Red River colony several hundred miles of level country towards the Rocky Mountains?—Yes, a very fine country.

841. And, comparatively speaking, a railway might easily be made along there?—Yes, from the Red River to the Rocky Mountains.

842. How far are the large rivers from the settlement of York navigable up the interior?—They are navigable by boats from York Factory to Lake Winnipeg; boats carrying about three tons.

843. Without much portage?—There are a great many portages; there are from 40 to 45 portages, I think.

844. Could they easily be removed?—No.

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845. Mr.