

J. Ross, Esq.
20 February 1857.

the western portion of the Ottawa to the head of Lake Superior, near the country that you have been talking of, where a railway may be run; is it 1,000 miles?—It is about 800 I should think.

150. *Mr. Bell.*] What is the distance from the most distant point of Lake Superior to the Red River Settlement?—In round numbers, 1,000 miles from the Sault St Mary.

151. *Mr. Roebuck.*] What is the extent of your contemplated railway, from the point to which you have now obtained an Act of Parliament, to the point which you contemplate eventually?—We desire to have it carried across the continent, believing that it will be for the interests both of the Imperial and of the Canadian Government; and we think that the trade with China and India might be drawn over that line of communication. Perhaps it is taking rather a long flight.

152. You contemplate, then, going across the Rocky Mountains to Vancouver's Island?—Yes, we hope to see it extended there in time.

153. How far is it from the head of your present railway concession, if I may use that term, to the Red River?—It is upwards of 1,200 miles, I should think.

154. Then the railway to get to the Red River would pass to the north of Lake Huron and the north of Lake Superior?—Yes.

155. And you think it perfectly feasible?—As at present informed, I do.

156. *Mr. Gordon.*] Is it not the fact that the banks of the Saguenay are extremely precipitous and inaccessible, and that that is one of the difficulties in the way of having a prosperous settlement there?—The banks are very precipitous: but I was speaking of those parts which are cultivated.

157. The valleys?—The valleys.

Lunæ, 23^o die Februarii, 1857.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Adderley.	Mr. Kinnaird.
Mr. Bell.	Mr. Labouchere.
Mr. Edward Ellice.	Mr. Lowe.
Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.	Sir John Pakington.
Mr. Gordon.	Mr. Roebuck.
Mr. Gregson.	Lord John Russell.
Mr. Grogan.	Viscount Sandon.
Mr. Gurney.	Lord Stanley.
Mr. Percy Herbert.	

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY LABOUCHERE, IN THE CHAIR.

Lieutenant-Colonel *John Henry Lefroy*, Royal Artillery, called in; and Examined.

Lieut.-Colonel
J. H. Lefroy, R. A.

23 February 1857. 158. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are connected with the War Department? —I am; I am Inspector-general of Army Schools.

159. Have you had occasion to become acquainted with British North America?—I resided 11 years in North America, and passed nearly two years in the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company.

160. In what capacity did you visit the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company?—I was employed under the general direction of the Royal Society to make magnetical observations over the whole of the accessible portion of their territory.

161. In the performance of that task did you travel very much over the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company?—I visited almost the entire region; every place of any consequence on the east side of the Rocky Mountains.

162. Did