

9 March 1857.

away, 25 years having elapsed, and the new generation were mostly able to read and write (all those that I came in contact with); many of them were labouring for wages for the Hudson's Bay Company, and altogether the country was peaceable from one end to the other. I saw no riot and nothing unpleasant throughout the whole journey. The Indians, in speaking of the Company, do not speak of them in the abstract; they talk of the different gentlemen at the posts, and the individual character of the gentleman has a great deal to do with their opinions; if he is liberal and kind to them they speak highly of him. As far as I could judge they seemed well pleased with their condition. I heard no great complaints, except the complaint which Indians always make, that they are poor, for the purpose of receiving presents; but a large number of their young men, were then employed in the Company's boats, and working for very good wages. We had to pay those whom we employed for the service of the expedition wages which would be thought very good in this country, at the rate of 30 *l.* a year besides feeding them.

2937. *Chairman.*] From what part of the country did those Indians come?—I speak of the Crees and the Northern Indians.

2938. I refer to the party of Indians that you employed in your canoes on your journey?—The crews of the canoes were partly Iroquois and partly Crees or Chippeways; we also employed the Northern Indians almost throughout the whole length of their country.

2939. Did you pay them all in money wages?—We paid the Northern Indians by orders upon the Company; money did not pass.

2940. Were they ultimately paid in money, do you suppose?—I do not know for certain; I believe they pay in goods in the north; I do not know that the Indians know the value of money properly there; they reckon by beavers; a beaver has a certain money value; and they are paid by so many beavers.

2941. Do not the Indians nearer to the settled districts know the value of money?—I think they know the value of money very well at Red River. Those from Red River that we saw were paid in money, and the Iroquois and Chippeways that came from the south were paid in money.

2942. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] While you were there did you hear any complaints of the rule of the Company being oppressive?—I heard no complaint of that. I had conversations with some of the half-castes from Red River that we employed; and they told me that they had a right to the country in virtue of their parentage, and wished, if they could, to get possession of it. They look upon the exclusive fur trade much as our poachers do upon the game laws in this country, and they wish to have the fur trade to themselves.

2943. Do you think, from your experience of the matter, that you could suggest any other way of keeping that country (I will not call it governing it) so well as by means of the traders?—I have thought upon the subject; I think that Canada could not do it, seeing how that government has failed already with the Indians that came under its rule upon Lake Superior. The Chippeways came down in a body the year after we passed down, and destroyed a mining settlement at Mical Bay, without the Canadians being able to prevent it; that was upon the north side of Lake Superior.

2944. *Chairman.*] When did that take place?—I think it was in 1849. A regiment was sent up from Canada to suppress the foray; but the Indians were gone, and several soldiers died from the severity of the climate in going up. I was told by an officer who conducted a part of the force that the poor men actually died of the cold in going up to suppress these Indians, who had retired to a distance, and were never seen at all after they had unfortunately destroyed the settlement.

2945. *Mr. Edward Ellice.*] Is there any way which you can suggest of governing that country better than by means of the Company?—I can suggest no way: the country I think is perfectly quiet under the government of the Hudson's Bay Company at present. I see several objections to annexing it to Canada: in the first place, the Canadians will not pay any of the clergy on either side; and as there are both Roman-catholic and Protestant clergy to be supported, and they are partly supported by the Hudson's Bay Company, and patronised by them, I think that the religious bodies would be in an inferior condition if the country were annexed to Canada, and that the missionary service would suffer. If the Imperial Government were to take the country into its own hands, I think there would be an immense staff of magistrates, and