

132. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] Do you think it would be possible to govern the Red River Settlement, from the head seat of government in Canada, until there were good communications made between those two parts of the country?—I think it would be possible, but very inconvenient, and that the country would not be well governed.

133. Are you aware that for seven or eight months in the year it would be impossible to communicate from Toronto with the Red River, except through the United States?—I think it would be impossible, or nearly so, at present.

134. Lord *Stanley*.] You do not mean that mails could not be sent?—I think it would be almost impossible to send mails in the present state of the communications.

135. Mr. *Roebuck*.] Could not the country govern itself?—I dare say it could.

136. Do not they do it in the United States?—Not in small communities.

137. Take a territory; do not they immediately form a government?—When a territorial government is authorized they immediately form that government.

138. Could not that be done in the Red River Settlement?—I dare say it could.

139. *Chairman*.] Do you know what the rules are upon that subject?—There is a law of Congress of the United States fixing it.

140. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] What effect do you suppose would be produced upon the Indian population by forming the Red River Settlement into a separate territory for government under its present circumstances?—I think experience has shown that in the United States, wherever these governments have been formed, they have come into collision with the Indians on their borders.

141. Are you aware of the war which is at present going on in the Oregon territory?—I know from the newspapers that there is a war going on there, and that it has been going on for some time.

142. Mr. *Gladstone*.] Will you explain your answer as to the impossibility of communication with the Red River for several months in the year except through the United States?—There are points of settlement along the north shore of Lake Huron, extending up to Garden River, and so on, up to St. Mary. During a great part of the year the mails are carried from Penetanguishine across the ice to the different points where they are desired to be left.

143. On Lake Huron?—On Lake Huron; that is the only way in which the mails are carried during winter; very often the ice is in such a dangerous state that the crossing may not be made for a month; the Bruce mine is another point, and the Island of St. Joseph's another, and there are other large islands lying adjacent to the north coast of Lake Huron and so up to St. Mary's Falls at the foot of Lake Superior. When you take into consideration the great depth of the snow, the thinness of the settlements, and the fact that you have to carry the mails on foot across the ice, I think till you really carry the settlement into the valley to the north of Lake Superior, you are completely cut off from communication through Canada with the Red River during the winter months.

144. What was the route through the United States which you indicated as possible?—Round by St. Paul's, and from St. Paul's to the Red River.

145. Mr. *Roebuck*.] There is no difficulty, then, in your view in settling the north shore of Lake Huron or the north shore of Lake Superior?—Judging from the reports which we have had during the last 18 months from our surveyors, there is no difficulty.

146. So that if settlement went on there would be no difficulty in opening the Red River?—If settlement went on there would be no difficulty, as far as I am informed, in settling the Red River.

147. Then the idea which some people have got into their heads of an impassable morass between Lake Superior and the Red River is in your opinion incorrect?—That it is impassable is, I think, incorrect. I have been told by those who have travelled across the country that there is a great deal of swamp there; I believe there is more broken and bad land than good lying in that country between Lake Superior and the Red River Settlement.

148. But you think it possible to run a railway there?—Quite.

149. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] What is the distance, do you think, in miles, from the