

1153. As regards the government of the territory, how is it governed? I am now speaking not of trade, but of the general government of the territory.—In the Red River Settlement, in the district of Assiniboin, the present Recorder is the Governor of the district.

1154. He has the executive power as well as the judicial?—Yes.

1157. What there is to be done he does?—Yes; our gaols are almost always empty; they scarcely ever have an inmate.

1158. As to the rest of the territory, how is that governed?—By myself and the Council.

1159. Have you any legislative power?—No.

1026. Besides your own territory, I think you administer a portion of the territory which belongs to Russia, under some arrangement with the Russian Company?—There is a margin of coast, marked yellow in the map, from 54° 40' up to Cross Sound which we have rented from the Russian-American Company for a term of years.

1027. Is that the whole of that strip?—The strip goes on to Mount St. Elias.

1028. Where does it begin?—Near Fort Simpson, in latitude 51°; it runs up to Mount St. Elias, which is farther north.

1029. Is it the whole of that strip which is included between the British territory and the sea?—We have only rented the part between Fort Simpson and Cross Sound.

1030. What is the date of that arrangement?—That arrangement, I think, was entered into about 1839.

1031. What are the terms upon which it was made; do you pay a rent for that land?—The British territory runs along inland from the coast about 30 miles; the Russian territory runs along the coast; we have the right of navigation through the rivers to hunt the interior country. A misunderstanding existed upon that point in the first instance; we were about to establish a post upon one of the rivers, which led to very serious difficulties between the Russian-American Company and ourselves. We had a long correspondence, and to guard against the recurrence of these difficulties it was agreed that we should lease this margin of coast and pay them a rent. The rent was, in the first instance, in furs—I think we gave 2,000 furs a-year; it is now converted into money. We give, I think, 1,500*l.* a-year.

1032. *Mr. Charles Fitzwilliam.*—What offer is that?—The land offer from the east side of the mountains. We now pay 1,500*l.* a year for the use of this margin of coast.

1033. *Chairman.*—Is it a lease for a term of years?—I think the term was originally ten years.

March 2, 1857.

Sir George Simpson, called in and further examined.

1732. *Chairman.*—I think you made an arrangement with the Russian Company by which you hold under lease a portion of their territory?—Yes.

1733. I believe that arrangement is that you hold that strip of country which intervenes between your territory and the sea, and that you give them 1,500*l.* a year for it?—Yes.

1734. What were your objects in making that arrangement?—To prevent difficulties existing between the Russians and ourselves—as a peace offering.

1735. What was the nature of those difficulties?—We were desirous of passing through their territory, which is inland from the coast about 30 miles. There is a margin of 30 miles of coast belonging to the Russians. We had the right of navigating the rivers falling into the ocean and of settling the interior country. Difficulties arose between us in regard to the trade of the country, and to remove all those difficulties we agreed to give them an annual allowance. I think, in the first instance, 2,000 otter skins, and afterwards of 1,500*l.* a year.

1738. During the late war which existed between Russia and England, I believe that some arrangement was made between you and the Russians by which you agreed not to molest one another?—Yes; such an arrangement was made.

1739. By the two Companies?—Yes; and Government confirmed the arrangement.

1740. You agreed that on neither side should there be any molestation or interference with the trade of the different parties?—Yes.

1741. And I believe that that was strictly observed during the whole war?—Yes.

1742. *Mr. Bell.* Which Government confirmed the arrangement, the Russian or the English, or both?—Both Governments.

#### POWERS OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

(Appendix to Report, p. 408.)

*Copy of a Letter from the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company to Lord Stanley.*

My Lord,

*Hudson's Bay House, London, June 8, 1842.*

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Mr. G. W. Hope's letter of the 4th instant, inclosing, by direction of your Lordship, copy of an address of the House of Commons for certain papers relating to the Hudson's Bay Company, and requesting that you may be furnished, for presentation to the House, with a copy of the existing Charter or grant by the Crown to the Company, together with a list of the dates of all former Charters or grants to them.