treme portion of the occupied part of Canada at the present moment to the west?—I should think about 1,000 miles from the Sault St. Mary, at the foot of Lake Superior, but I may be wrong, as there is no map in the room to which I can refer.

16. Have these questions only recently occupied public attention in Canada, or have they been discussed for some time there?—I think it was during the very last summer that the discussion first commenced upon the subject. The question of the opening up of the territory has often for years been incidentally mooted, but a regular discussion of the question has never arisen until the course of the last summer, that I am aware of.

17. Do you think that if some arrangement could be made, such as that which you have described, by which the Red River Settlement, for instance, was taken out of the control of the Hudson's Bay Company, it could be conveniently governed and administered from Canada, or that it would be necessary to have some form of local government?—I do not think that, at present, it could be conveniently governed or administered by the Canadian Government. There should either be a railway constructed from the west end of Lake Superior to the Red River Settlement, or a good broad open road cut out and made; and land, such as might be fit for cultivation, laid off on each side of it for settlers to occupy, and as the occupation took place, and settlers went in, it could be extended; and in that way the Red River Settlement could be connected with our present lines of communication.

18. With regard to the country more to the north and north-east, do you imagine that there is any extent of country now belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company on the frontier of Canada, which it is probable would be occupied for settlement within a few years?—I think not; I do not think that in that direction there is any territory which could be occupied, or that it is probable will be occupied. I know that the Hudson's Bay Company held within the Canadian boundary a section of country which was called the King's Posts. They lay up towards the Labrador border, along the gulf of the St. Lawrence, from below the Saguaney River. They surrendered those posts to the Canadian Government, and during the time that I was acting as Attorney-general in Canada they were again leased to the Hudson's Bay Company. It is not a country which can be occupied with any advantage, because I believe that the natives, and the people who are there connected with the Hudson's Bay posts, if the Hudson's Bay Company were not there to assist them during severe winters, would starve.

19. Mr. *Roebuck.*] Do you know anything about the territory round the Saguaney River?—I have been along the whole of the Saguaney River, navigated by steamers.

20. Is not all the land at the Saguaney River very fertile?—No; I do not consider it is.

21. Do you remember M. La Terriere being there?—Yes, I know him very well.

22. It was his opinion, I believe, that it was a very fertile territory?—I may state for the information of the Committee what I know to be the fact. I have first of all been along the whole of the Saguaney River, during weather when I had an opportunity of observing the shores on both sides. I have been at the leading milling establishments on the river. It very often happens that when grain is sown there in the spring of the year, it does not ripen in the fall. That has very often happened during these last few years; almost every two years. The inhabitants living along the Saguaney River have suffered from that cause; and Dr. La Terriere has himself been at the head of deputations making applications for assistance from the Government to keep the people from starving. I believe that there are now quite as many people along the banks of the Saguaney River as can be maintained. I am aware that the opinion which I am expressing here may, perhaps, hurt the feelings of some of the gentlemen who live in that part of the country, who would desire to have a large settlement near them; but I must say, that I do not think it would be advantageous to the settlers, or for any other purpose, that an increase in the number of inhabitants should take place there.

23. *Chairman.*] Has any inconvenience ever arisen from the circumstance of the limits of Canada not being actually defined?—No; I think not. It is desirable that they should be; but up to this moment, I do not know that there has been any inconvenience from that cause.

24. In point of fact, are they ascertained and defined very accurately to your