

down, namely, from about the 10th to the 15th of May ; then about the 1st of June the mountain snows melt, and there is a freshet in the river. Sir G. Simpson.

790. From the 1st of June to what time would the navigation of the river continue good?—Until the month of September tolerably good ; the water falling off about the middle of July. 26 February 1857.

791. On the southern branch of the Saskatchewan to what extent would it be navigable, supposing those improvements were effected?—I cannot speak so distinctly with regard to the southern branch ; I have merely seen it in parts ; I have not gone up the southern branch to any great distance. There is no timber on the southern branch, and there is very little timber on the northern branch.

792. There have been no attempts, I suppose, to effect those improvements?—None at all ; there is no commerce to justify any outlay.

793. What is the distance from the southern part of Lake Winnipeg to Fort William on Lake Superior?—About 500 miles, I think ; from Lake Superior to Lake Winnipeg is about 500 miles of bad canoe navigation with 66 portages, varying in length from 100 yards to $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

794. Do you know a gentleman of the name of Captain Kennedy who made a speech at a meeting of the Toronto Board of Trade?—I do.

795. He states there that the distance would not exceed 200 miles?—Yes ; he does not know the country ; he never was in the country.

796. What may be the state of the river going through Rainy Lake and from the Lake of the Woods down to Fort William ; is it navigable for boats, or rafts, or anything?—Between the Rainy Lake and Fort William it is navigable only by canoes ; I have passed through that country about forty times ; it is passed only by canoes, and in many places with very great difficulty.

797. Is that from want of water?—From want of water and shoals in the navigation, and the wretched character of the country altogether ; many of the rivers are embarrassed with timber constantly falling every year ; there is one river which is one continuous mass of timber, requiring to be removed every season.

798. Mr. *Edward Ellice*.] Is that what is called the Savanne portage?—Yes ; that is a river from the Savanne portage to Mille Lac.

799. Mr. *Grogan*.] Do you consider that obstruction so material as to impede the navigation of that river?—Yes.

800. Could not it be removed?—It could not ; in the autumn of the year, or rather in the month of August, I have been obliged to get out of a light canoe and wade in the water, handing the canoe along this river.

801. Has any attempt ever been made to remove those obstructions?—The obstructions are removed every season, so as to enable the canoes to pass.

802. You mentioned, with regard to the Red River Settlement, that the climate was so unfavourable for the growth of corn, and that there was so much uncertainty as to the ripening of the corn, that at times you were obliged to import corn for the supply of the residents there?—We imported corn some years ago ; there was a failure of the crops ; I was apprehensive of famine, and imported flour from St. Paul's, in the Minesota territory, and from Canada.

803. Is that an exceptional case, or does it occur every year?—It does not occur every year ; it is an exceptional case ; but the crops very frequently fail. We have been obliged to send for seed grain ; we have not had sufficient grain to sow the ground in the following season.

804. Can you say, during the 37 years that you have been Governor, how often you have been under the necessity of importing corn for the supply of the people at the Red River Settlement?—We had never imported any large quantity of grain for the support of the people until that season, in the year 1847, I think ; but the crops have been entirely destroyed, from the country having been overflowed with water. The country was entirely overflowed with water in the year 1826 ; the habitations were swept away, and the people were obliged to remove to high grounds for the purpose of saving themselves.

805. Am I to understand that the occasion to which you refer was an entirely exceptional one, and owing to the flooding of the water?—It did not arise on that occasion from the flooding of the water, but from an apprehended scarcity owing to the presence of troops. In 1826 the country was flooded and the

crops