

compensation be equitable and fair, if the Canadian Government require the territory for purposes of settlement, whatever that compensation may be, I think it fair that they should meet it.

J. Ross, Esq.

20 February 1857.

66. Compensation to both parties, the Company and the Indians?—To both parties, if any compensation should be paid. If the Hudson's Bay Company surrender a territory fit for settlement, which of course should only be where the Canadian territory approaches it, I am not sure that for that any compensation should be given. I only suggest that if they are called upon to give up posts they should be allowed to retain a certain portion of the land for their employes about them, and hold it as a part of their own property.

67. When you speak of the possibility of carrying out a railway depending upon settlement, might it not be possible that the more distant parts might be settled first, and that the railway might pay as the means of thoroughfare to the furthest point?—The usual way of beginning such a settlement is by cutting a good broad road through the territory which you intend to open up, and then laying off your allotments of land on each side for actual settlers. That would, I suppose, be usually the first process before the railway was attempted to be made. You would carry on the thing in that way by degrees.

68. Talking of a great continent like that, supposing Vancouver's Island and the western side of the Rocky Mountains settled, although the part between that and Canada was still wild, might not a railway be a very feasible plan as a means of thoroughfare to that part which was settled?—I think it might, but I think that more of an imperial question than a colonial one.

69. Do you think that too large an experiment for Canada to make?—Yes, with her present resources.

70. If the whole of the Hudson's Bay territory were settled do you not think that Vancouver's Island would be most attractive to settlers?—Yes.

71. Long before the intervening portion of the territory between that and the western side of Canada could come into settlement?—So far as my information goes, that is the best for settlement, and would be the first settled.

72. The idea of a railroad, ultimately, is not so much for the benefit of the interior of the country, as for a means of thoroughfare and access to harbours on the western coast of America, is it?—That is so, and for the through trade from China and India. The construction of that railway is a most important subject; apart entirely from the opening of the country through which it would pass.

73. Mr. Gordon.] Are you aware that a society has been established, at Toronto, for the purpose of forming a colonization to the west of Lake Superior, between that and the Lake of the Woods?—I believe there are certain gentlemen at Toronto very anxious to get up a second North-west Company, and I dare say it would result in something like the same difficulties which the last North-west Company created, I should be very sorry to see them succeed. I think it would do a great deal of harm, creating further difficulties for Canada, which I do not desire to see created.

74. You do not know anything of the nature of the society or association, recently formed, and what weight deserves to be attached to it?—I do know several of the gentlemen who are moving in it; I know that at least one of them was very instrumental in making the difficulty which was made with the Garden River Indians, and the half-breeds in 1849, of which I have been speaking. I believe he was at their head at the time that they seized upon and took possession of the Quebec Company's works upon the island of Michipicoton.

75. Then you do not apprehend that there is any general wish, on the part of the people of Canada, to have that portion of the country added to what they now have?—I believe there is a general wish that so fast as the territory can be occupied, for purposes of settlement, means should be taken that it should be so occupied.

76. Do you believe that those portions of the territory, capable of being colonized, are such as to afford sufficient attractiveness to bring colonists to that distance, in preference to more attainable points of settlement, much nearer the settled parts of Canada?—I should say not at present; I should say they much prefer the nearer lands to more distant ones.

77. Mr. Roebuck.] Do you say that from your experience of colonization in the United States?—I say it from my knowledge of public affairs in Canada