

*J. Ross, Esq.*

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113. Is the valley at all completely settled?—It is not.

114. A very small portion of it?—A considerable portion of it; it is merely a narrow strip of settlement so far as the north shore of the Ottawa is concerned.

115. Do you think that persons will be likely to go on, and settle on the Red River, till the good land on the shores of the Ottawa is taken up?—I think not, from my own experience.

116. *Mr. Roebuck.*] Does that arise from experience of the United States?—I speak from what I think are the dispositions of the Canadian people.

117. I am speaking now of emigrants?—I think that emigrants would prefer getting good and cheap land as near the great lines of communication as possible.

118. Is that the case in America?—I think so.

119. Would you say that that is the case in the United States, that large territories have not been colonised, when very large portions of very fertile land lying intermediately have remained uncolonised for a long time?—I know that it has so happened, but they have always a starting point; they have always a settlement adjacent to them.

120. Is that true?—I think so as a rule.

121. I point out Oregon?—I told you that they went there in ships; they had communication in that way.

122. They had no place lying near Oregon?—They have now California to the south of them; but the settlement of Oregon first began from sea; there was an occasional pilgrimage across the country, at intervals of long years, of a few people; but it began by sea, and it chiefly goes on in that way now; they go across the country now in part to California, and partly by sea; from California they go northwards in ships and steamers.

123. *Mr. Kinnaird.*] I gather from your evidence that you think that what is taking place in the United States is no guide for what would take place in Canada; do you think there is a difference of feeling altogether among the two people?—I believe they all desire to get land as fast as they can on both sides.

124. *Lord John Russell.*] Is there any difficulty in governing people at a great distance from the seat of government in Canada, with regard to police or the collection of taxes?—No; if land be laid out in townships for settlement under the authority of the Government, it is included in the adjacent county, and it comes within the municipal regulations of the county within which it is included.

125. *Chairman.*] But I believe you stated that you thought a settlement at so great a distance as the Red River is from Canada would be, at present at least, an inconvenient adjunct to the province of Canada?—Yes.

126. *Mr. Gordon.*] Until a road and railway were made?—Yes, until means of communication are opened up. I think if the Canadian Government desired to settle any part of the country west of Lake Superior, and desired to bring the Red River Settlement under their control, they would first begin by cutting a broad road through some good land next Lake Superior, and laying off allotments of land, and promoting the occupation in that way.

127. *Chairman.*] You think that accessibility should first be established, and that then annexation might follow?—Yes.

128. *Mr. Gordon.*] Do you say that accessibility alone would be sufficient, or accessibility and the annexation of the colony?—I think it desirable to have access first, and afterwards the annexation of the colony.

129. Is it not practically found that a population consisting, as that of the Red River Settlement does, of a very great proportion of half-breeds and Indians, is more difficult to govern than one consisting entirely of whites?—I think so; all half-breeds are difficult to govern. I speak now particularly of the difficulties which they created in connection with the mining licences.

130. You think a half-breed population is more difficult to govern than a white one?—I think it is less governed by those rules of order and that sense of propriety which prevail in a white population.

131. Then that fact would increase the difficulty of governing the Red River Settlement?—I think it would.

132. *Mr.*