

The total distance remaining to be opened is about thirty miles. In the dry sections it would only be necessary to clear off the wood and grub out the roots. In swampy places cross laying (corduroy) or fascining would be required. The person you employ would of course understand the amount of work necessary to form a track over which a cart could pass.

Should you find anyone willing to undertake this work and able to perform it, the Department of Public Works of Canada will pay for the labor and necessary supplies.

The Commander of the Military Force, now on the way to the Red River settlement, has also written you on this subject.

I have the honor to be,
&c., &c., &c.,
(Signed,) S. J. DAWSON.

J. H. McTavish, Esq.,
The Hudson Bay Co.,
Fort Garry.

Mr. McTavish describes his action in this matter as follows :

" Enclosed herewith you will find copy of Colonel Wolseley's letter to me.

" On its receipt, I issued notices in the Colonel's name, calling for men to commence the work, and went myself through the English portion of the settlement, but failed in getting a single English half-breed or Swampy. None but French half-breeds offered, though it was given out and well understood, that the road was to be pushed through in order to hurry in Her Majesty's troops.

" (Signed,) J. H. MCTAVISH."

The reluctance of the English half-breeds to join in the work, is explained by the fact that the road starts from the French settlement, and there was some feeling of distrust still existing between the two parties. If, however, the French were the first to run to open the roads, which they believed necessary to the advance of the troops, the English had at the same time sent boats to meet the Expedition. All parties were thus doing their best to facilitate its approach, and when it came its appearance was hailed by all with equal pleasure.

The policy of the Government, and the action of the Dominion Parliament, had disarmed the malcontents, and many of those who had taken part in the insurrection, were out, with no more formidable weapons than hatchet and shovel, making a road for Her Majesty's troops.

The Expeditionary Force on its arrival, was received everywhere with open arms. The people were quietly following their usual occupations, and the insurgent leader who had remained in Fort Garry, with some thirty men, went leisurely out as the troops marched in.

Peace reigned everywhere, and the Colonel commanding the Expeditionary Force was in a position to address the troops in the following strain :

" From Prince Arthur's Landing to Fort Garry, is over 600 miles though a wilderness of forest and water, where no supplies of any description are obtainable. You had to carry on your backs a vast amount of supplies, over no less than 47 portages, making a total distance of seven miles, a feat unparalleled in our military annals. You have descended a great river, esteemed so dangerous from its rapids, falls and whirlpools, that none but experienced voyageurs attempt its navigation. Your cheerful obedience to orders has enabled you, under the blessing of Divine Providence, to accomplish your task without any accident.

" Although the banditti who had been oppressing this people, fled at your approach, without giving you an opportunity of proving how men capable of such labor could fight, you have deserved as well of your country as if you had won a battle."

This is no doubt very eloquent, and the soldiers deserved all that could be said in their