

In subdivided townships	439,214 Acres.
In section and quarter sections marked off on outlines of blocks	717,440 Acres.
Total	1,156,654 Acres.

This, it will be understood, is entirely unconnected with the settlement surveys.

The measures you have directed to be taken with a view to the surveys of the coming season will result in the subdivision of the greater part, if not all, of the remaining townships in the Province.

I regret from the impossibility of obtaining reliable data as to the fact, not to be able to give some idea of the number of people who settled in the Province last year. It appears, however, from the notes and reports of the different surveyors that the provisions of the Order in Council of the 25th May last, authorizing on certain conditions the settling on land in advance of the surveys, has been availed of by a great number of parties, besides whom, doubtless many families were absorbed in the settlements.

It only remains for me to add a few remarks on the character of the country surveyed.

Attention is called to Mr. Russell's remarks in this particular, in addition to which my own knowledge enables me to state that the greater portion of Manitoba is excellent farming land, and as regards those portions of the Province embracing the extensive valleys of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, I never yet met with a soil so surpassingly rich.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. STOUGHTON DENNIS,
Surveyor-General.

To the Honorable J. C. AIKINS,
Secretary of State of Canada.

[E.]

Extracts from Mr. Lindsay Russell's Report.

"I may add a cause of delay at the outset common to nearly all the parties. They did not find the expected facilities in providing themselves with horses, camps and equipage. Prices of everything were so excessively high that anyone newly entering Manitoba could not fit himself out without more than usual time spent, even though fruitlessly, in search and endeavour to procure what he required at rates more nearly approaching those to which he had been accustomed."

"The surveys were most seriously retarded by the unusually prevalent and extensive fires that last summer raged throughout our own and the U.S. North Western Prairies."

"Even before they reached any particular section their heavy smoke darkened all the country alike and effectually prevented the surveyors from taking anything but exceedingly short and unprofitable sights. Sometimes obliging them through the impossibility of seeing a Picket at all to cease work until a favorable wind would spring up to dissipate the densely hanging fog of smoke and ashes. Their necessary astronomical observations were frequently similarly delayed."

"These were the least of the troubles arising from the fires; when, as they eventually did, they swept over the tracts being surveyed a certain damage to all, extreme danger to some and actual disaster to others were the results. Two of the parties that of Mr. Wagner, and Mr. F. H. Lynch Staunton, were completely burnt out, losing all their provisions, tents, equipage, clothing, some of their instruments and barely escaping with their lives. Mr. Milner Hart, though successful in saving his effects under the like circumstances, had with his party even a narrower escape from suffocation and burning."

"Besides the arresting of the work thus caused, time was necessarily lost in these cases, in repairing to Fort Garry, to re-fit for its resumption."