

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

EXTRACT of a private Letter from Lieutenant-General Sir John Michel, dated
27th April, 1870.

IN reference to the idea of total canoe transport, I send for your own information, when again the matter is spoken of at the War Office, a short Memorandum.

I am very anxious that our War Office should be as clear of this reckless expedition as circumstances will now admit.

If the whole expedition arrives triumphantly at Fort Garry, still, should any American complication crop up (which I deem a certainty), and the American Government should be unable to prevent, or should tacitly permit Fenian interference, I do not see how the expedition can return through the Sault St. Maria into Lake Huron. I feel sure that British bayonets beyond the Superior will raise the now dormant dislike of Republican America.

It must always be borne in mind that at Fort Garry you are in a trap, from whence, in case of any difficulty on the part of the United States, you can only escape by Hudson's Bay, of which the waters are only open six weeks in the year, and then only with a perfectly friendly free State in your rear.

They are going (I believe) to send in command the best officer for the purpose that I know of (Colonel Wolseley).

Whatever can be done by energy, foresight, good sense and judgment, and from having the perfect confidence of his troops, will be done by him.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

MEMORANDUM on the subject of Conveying Troops to the Red River Territory
by water.

Dorchester, 27th April, 1870.

IN reference to conveying troops by water to the Red River Territory in a larger description of canoe than that in use by the Hudson Bay Company, for transit through rapids and by portages, I have dealt shortly with that idea in the sixth paragraph of my Memorandum of the 10th April.

I may add, that I do not believe that canoes of greater size, and therefore drawing more water, can be employed.

2. If such be the case, and troops are to be conveyed by water, the number of canoes must be enormously increased.

When all stores are removed, I do not conceive that each canoe will carry more than five men, with their arms, &c.

3. The calculation, then, would stand thus:—

	Canoes.			
Original estimate of number of canoes	..	..	..	200
Reduce supply of food (one month)	..	..	..	67
				133
Add canoes for 1000 men	..	..	..	200
Ditto for food for a portion of the fresh supply of paddlers			..	30
				363
Total	..	..	..	363

Thus the transport across the portages would be enormously increased.

In any calculation that has yet been made by me, there has been no extra supply of canoes for cases of severe illness, or for extra supply of food to replace losses in the rapids.

4. If, on the other hand, it may be found necessary, or deemed desirable, from want of sufficient paddlers to reduce the number of canoes, and that men should be moved in two or three trips between the portages, then the time taken up and the necessary supply of food will be proportionately increased.

5. On the whole, therefore, I am not of opinion that troops proceeding by water would gain very considerably in time, whilst the danger of casualties in the smaller rapids, which would be passed in boats, would be considerable.

J. MICHEL, *Lieutenant-General.*