

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT.

Winnipeg to Sebatchewan Rapids,.....	350 miles.
Sebatchewan Rapids to Was-ka-owa-ka Lake,.....	213 "
Was-ka-owa-ka Lake to Hudson's Bay,.....	152 "

Total length, 715 miles.

I consider myself safe in saying that the length of the road will be lower rather than above this figure.

The harbor at Churchill is one of the finest I have ever seen. Nature has done so much for it in the way of protection from storm and in depth of water, that without farther improvements it is fitted to take rank among first class ocean ports. I took careful soundings, and find at a distance of 400 feet from high water mark along the shore, a depth of 38 feet deepening suddenly to 50 feet. These soundings were taken at extreme low tide. At spring tides the river rises at least 15 feet, so that it will be seen that the river affords from 53 to 65 feet of water. The entrance to the harbor I judge to be about half a mile in width, the point on the west side extending into the Bay, and overlapping that on the east.

From reliable information I learned the following facts, viz: 1st The Bay and harbor of Churchill are open for navigation from the 15th June to 20th October for ordinary sailing vessels, such as now trade to this port. 2nd. That sometimes the ice does not take fast in the harbor until the 1st December. 3rd. That the ice is never solid in the Bay for a greater distance from the shore than half a mile, and this is liable to be broken up by wind and tide. 4th. That this harbor is considered by the coasters to be the best on Hudson's Bay.

From the above facts it will be seen that so far as the harbor at Churchill is concerned, that there will be found little difficulty, that experience and practice will not overcome to prevent the loading and unloading of steamers all the winter.

The facilities for winter trade is one of the strong points in favor of this harbor. I spent the summer of 1881 on the Nelson River between Dubak Lake and Cross Portage, a distance of 60 miles, over which I ran a trial instrumental line. In next April I left Winnipeg, staying at Norway House until the opening of navigation on the 28th of May, preparing for the summer's work, and then made a through trip to Churchill, arriving on the 15th July. I have walked over the entire route and taken barometric observations.