
MEMORIAL

OF THE PEOPLE OF RED RIVER SETTLEMENT TO THE BRITISH AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS.

The people of the Red River Settlement hereby desire briefly to set forth their views and wishes in reference to the proposed opening up of the road from Canada to British Columbia through the Red River and Saskatchewan region, and the establishing of a telegraphic line along the same.

The people of Red River have long earnestly desired to see the Lake Superior route opened up for commerce and emigration, and they rejoice to hear of the proposal to open up a road and establish a line of telegraphic communication through the interior to British Columbia, entirely within British territory, believing that such works would greatly benefit this country, while subserving at the same time both Canadian and Imperial interests.

With reference to that section of the country lying between this settlement and Lake Superior, it is respectfully submitted that the difficulties to be encountered in opening up an easy communication are entirely overrated.

It is true that this route, for reasons which need not here be alluded to, has of late years been neglected; yet when the fact is generally known that this was the regular route by which the North West Fur Company imported and exported heavy cargoes for more than a quarter of a century, and which the Hudson Bay Company have used more or less for nearly three-quarters of a century, it must be granted that the natural difficulties cannot be so great as they are commonly reported to be.

We, the people of this settlement, are so anxious to have a proper outlet in this direction, that we are quite prepared ourselves to undertake at our own expense the opening of a road from this settlement to Lake of the Woods, a distance of ninety or a hundred miles, if England or Canada will guarantee the opening of the section from Lake of the Woods to Lake Superior.

From our intimate knowledge of the country lying between this place and the Rocky Mountains, we consider the project of a road in that direction perfectly practicable at a comparatively small outlay. At all times during the summer season, loaded carts go from this place to Carlton, Fort Pitt, and Edmonton, on the upper Saskatchewan; and last summer a party of Canadians, about two hundred in number (en route to British Columbia), passed over the same road, and went with their vehicles to the very base of the Rocky Mountains; clearly showing that along the whole way there are, even at present, no insuperable obstacles to the passage of carts and wagons. And if, in its present natural unimproved state, the road is usable, it must be evident that only a comparatively small outlay would be requisite to make it all that could be desired.

The whole country through which the proposed road would run, almost from Lake Superior to the Rocky Mountains, is remarkably level. The surface of this vast region is