

had been represented as sterile and shrouded for more than half the year in the gloom of a Siberian winter.

As the Expeditionary force went on, the soldiers knew that they were taking part in a movement to become historical, that they were, in fact, carrying the sceptre of their Queen to a land of sunshine and fertility, and of proportions so vast that it might hold the half of Europe in its lap.

The Red River Settlement.

To understand proceedings at this place it may be well to explain that before leaving Thunder Bay, the Col. commanding the Expeditionary field force had written as I also did to the officer representing the Hudson Bay Company at Fort Garry, requesting him to place a force of workmen on the Lake of the Woods road, so that it might be available for the return, if not for the advance of the troops.

The following are copies of the letters so addressed, from Thunder Bay, General Lindsay being there at the time.

(Copy)

PRINCE ARTHUR'S LANDING,
THUNDER BAY, 30th June, 1870.

SIR,—With reference to the proclamation I have forwarded to you in a letter of this date, I have the honor to inform you that I am most anxious that steps should be immediately taken for opening out a cart road from the end of Mr. Snow's road to the north-west corner of the Lake of the Woods.

It is not necessary that the road should be of a permanent character, as it will only be required this year for military purposes, hereafter it could be enlarged and made fit for commercial traffic, but now a corduroyed track over the swamps, wide enough and strong enough for the passage of Red River carts (lightly loaded), would answer our purposes.

Mr. Dawson who represents the Public Works Department here, will forward more fully detailed instructions regarding the construction of the road required, and will authorize you to appoint a surveyor to superintend and direct the work and to make the necessary disbursements.

I have to request that you will kindly render the gentlemen you employ upon this service every possible assistance while so engaged.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed,) G. J. WOLSELEY,
Commanding Red River Expeditionary Force.

To the officer representing
The Hudson Bay Company,
Fort Garry.

(Copy.)

GOVERNMENT DEPOT,
THUNDER BAY, 30th June, 1870.

SIR,—Under existing circumstances, it is desirable that the road to the north-west angle of the Lake of the Woods should be opened in such a way as to be practicable to carts without delay, and it has occurred to me that you might find some reliable and energetic person in your section who would be willing to undertake the work.

What is required is a track over which carts can be driven from the end of the road, already opened, to the north-west angle of the Lake of the Woods.

Before a complete road can be made, it is always necessary to open a cart track or ox road, over which supplies can be drawn while the work progresses, and it is a preliminary cart track of this kind which is at present required.