

instructions for the guidance of Surveyors of Dominion Lands, consisting of 32 pages, together with maps illustrating the instructions, and containing also forms of the contract to be entered into by Deputy Surveyors, was compiled and published.

A supply of Transit Theodolites of a class required for the use of surveyors who might be employed on the block surveys, and which were not attainable here, was ordered from Troughton & Sims, in London, England.

Contracts were entered into, seven in number, involving the survey into blocks of four townships each, of the whole of Manitoba, and embracing also a strip of country in addition on the east and west sides of the Province.

This survey of the Province into blocks of twelve miles square, including four townships each, with iron bar boundaries at the several angles, the number and range of the townships being stamped thereon, and with the section and quarter section corners marked on all the outlines, it will be understood is one of the features in carrying out the system of survey adopted, and is effected in all cases preliminary to the subdivision of townships into sections and quarter sections.

These contracts are those numbered from one to seven, in the schedule marked B following this report, which schedule will be found to give the names of all contract surveyors employed during the past season in Manitoba, and the number of miles run on the several contracts. In schedule C will be found the rates paid for contract work.

An accurate survey of the settled portions of the Province became necessary in order to describe the lands actually occupied, and to prepare Patents therefor under section 32 of the Manitoba Act, and the four mile strip on the Red and Assineboine Rivers, ceded to the late Earl of Selkirk by the Indians, which included these settlements, was therefore divided into surveys and apportioned as shewn by schedule D, which also exhibits the rates of compensation allowed to the gentlemen to whom the settlement surveys were entrusted, and the extent of work severally performed by them.

The number of gentlemen employed, and the extensive field included in the surveys, having rendered necessary the appointment of an inspector, you were fortunate in obtaining for this purpose the services of Lindsay Russell, Esq.

The duties of this gentleman have been arduous, not alone involving the visiting the different surveys under contract in order to see that the work is performed in all respects as called for by the manual, but also the looking after, instructing and advising with the gentlemen in charge of the several settlement surveys.

From Mr. Russell's report for the season, extracts marked E, together with schedule A, referred to by him are herewith submitted.

The contractors for the block surveys were not able, for reasons which Mr. Russell adverts to at length in his report, to accomplish the whole extent of the work severally allotted to them, and the time for such completion has therefore been extended to the ensuing season.

There is every assurance that the portion unfinished will then be entered on with energy and pushed to completion without delay.

The preliminary survey of the settled portion of the Province has been completed, and the several surveyors are now mapping their work.

It still remains on these maps being completed, to settle upon what should be deemed the exact boundary lines of the individual occupancies, and then to mark such limits finally on the ground. This will be all completed during the ensuing season.

The surveyors with whom subdivision contracts were made, were sent forward close upon the heels of the block surveyors, and having completed sixteen townships near Fort Garry, additional townships, fourteen in all, were apportioned to them lying north and north-west of Portage Laprairie, which so far seems to be the favorite locality for new settlers.

Of these latter townships nine were completed, and the surveys of the remainder were being prosecuted, when the weather became so severe that further operations had to be postponed.

Regarding the extent of lands at present available for settlement, it is fair to place it at the quantity as shown by Mr. Russell in schedule A, that is to say :