

Of the above amount at least one third was for work about Thunder Bay and Brown's Lane, in sections the opening of which was of no advantage to the Road. Brown's Lane was a mere by-road, leading to the River, made to facilitate movements in connection with the scheme of dragging boats by hand, and at Thunder Bay a stockade was built and a road made between the military encampments—and on these a portion of the work above detailed was expended—While pointing out the limited amount of work, that is, comparatively speaking, furnished by the Military on the roads, I cannot express myself in terms sufficiently appreciative of the valuable aid afforded by the few companies of the regular troops sent forward to our assistance.

The experience they had had on the fortifications at Quebec, rendered them quite expert at the use of the implements required, more especially, in grading, and their officers did what lay in their power to urge on the work.

It would give me pleasure to single out the names of those who were the longest associated with me in so arduous an undertaking; but, where all distinguished themselves and worked with equal earnestness, it might appear invidious. There are young men in Cahada who would have derived a salutary lesson from witnessing the exertions both of officers and men. Young gentlemen, some of them heirs to broad acres and historic titles, did not disdain to lay their shoulders to charred logs or think it unbecoming to look like their work. If, with such aid in that part of the work to which the soldiers were more particularly accustomed, I had had the hundreds of voyageurs absent on the River, as I had anticipated they would be, at my disposal, to send with their axes, along the western sections of the route, the road would quickly have been opened and boats and supplies might have passed by waggon to Shebandowan Lake.

The rains which prevailed throughout the greater part of June proved to be a serious drawback to operations generally. The section of the road more especially, between the Matawin Bridge and the Oskondagé, running as it does through a region of red clay became badly cut up and a great deal of cross-lay (corduroy) became necessary—still the work went on, with but little interruption, until the occurrence of the great, and I believe unprecedented flood of the 30th of June, which fairly stopped the passage of waggons for nearly two whole days—a culvert near the Kaministaquia was displaced and a small temporary bridge, which had been run over the Sunshine Brook, was seriously damaged while a similar temporary structure on the Oskondagé had a narrow escape. These damages were quickly repaired and the work went on as usual.

At this time, 30th of June, when the roads were at the very worst, and boats, broken and leaky were accumulated at Young's Landing or being hauled from thence to the Oskondagé, we had a visit from the Lieut. General commanding the forces. This highly distinguished Officer went forward as far as Shebandowan Lake. The prospect was anything but encouraging, worse, in fact, than it had up to that time been, and I feared as I had heard whispered some days previously, that the Expedition was to be abandoned. Far otherwise was the result. His Excellency saw and judged of everything for himself. In two days from the date of his visit the head-quarters of the Field Force were moved forward to the Matawin Bridge. New energy seemed infused everywhere, additional companies of troops were sent to work on the roads, and among these the Volunteers from whom, up to this time, no aid had been received, except in making a few repairs in the vicinity of Thunder Bay. Bad as the roads were, waggons and artillery found their way over them and stores began to accumulate at Ward's Landing. Shebandowan Lake was at last within reach and though the pelting rains came down at intervals the weather had upon the whole improved.

Ward's Landing is about three miles from Shebandowan Lake, and the River in this distance, presents a series of shallow, but not difficult rapids, so that the stores were easily sent forward in flat scows manned partly by voyageurs and partly by soldiers.

To facilitate the loading of boats and embarkation of troops at Shebandowan Lake a small wharf had been run out at a sandy bay, close to its outlet. At this place stores were rapidly collected and the boats, after their severe bruising in the Kaministaquia, put