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CONFIDENTIAL.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF,

OTTAWA, January 15th, 1880.

The Honorable

Sir CHARLES TUPPER, K.C.M.G.,

Minister of Railways and Canals.

SIR,

I have the honor to report on the surveys which have been made last summer, immediately to the west of the Province of Manitoba, with the view of locating the railway west of the Riding Mountains and commencing construction on the "second one hundred mile section."

The Government having determined to change the location of that portion of the line from Selkirk, *via* the Narrows of Lake Manitoba to Livingstone, and establish a line which would, generally, follow the course of settlement, due westerly through the Province of Manitoba, it became my duty to have an instrumental survey made through the district. The service was placed in the hands of Mr. Marcus Smith, to whom I furnished the instructions appended.

Acting on these instructions, two lines have been surveyed, both commencing near the western boundary of the Province of Manitoba. One extends westerly, the other north-westerly. Both surveys are, however, incomplete, the winter having closed in and stopped further operations. The continuous measurements on the western line are limited to 110 miles, terminating at a point about four miles beyond Fort Ellice; those on the north-western line, at Bird Tail Creek, at a crossing a little south of the sixth base line and 105 miles from the common place of beginning.

The country has been explored and some examinations have been made beyond Fort Ellice and Bird Tail Creek, but the two chains of instrumental measurements terminate at the points above mentioned. The distance unsurveyed from these points to a common point of intersection on the located line (some 60 miles west of Livingstone) may be estimated at about 150 miles.