

the effect of the winds. It will be observed that he says there is abundance of material in the vicinity, such as timber and stone, available for the construction of wharves.

S. J. DAWSON.

Rosin House, Toronto, May, 1868.

HULL, 23rd April, 1868.

MY DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of yesterday, asking my opinion of Thunder Bay, Lake Superior, as a harbour for vessels, I may state that, during the whole period of my stay there last season, I was encamped on the immediate shore of the Bay and could daily observe the effect produced by the different winds on its waters.

That part of the Bay, between Current River and the mouth of the Kaministaquia, I observed, was at all times comparatively quiet, being fully protected by the land on the north-west, west and south-west, and, on the south, by Welcome and Pic Islands. The greatest swell in this part of the Bay was produced by east and north-easterly winds, but these winds, here, seldom rise to a gale, being, when high, diverted from their course by the elevated headlands which flank the eastern side of the Bay.

I do not think the great swell from Lake Superior ever enters any part of Thunder Bay unbroken, as its course is completely checked by the high headlands and islands by which it (the Bay) is nearly surrounded.

Towards the easterly part of the great bay, a very considerable swell is occasioned by a gale from the west and south-west, but, in the vicinity of the Dépôt, the land in that direction is so near that no swell is produced. At the Dépôt, what may be termed the Inner Bay is considerably guarded by the land on the east, and completely so on the north-west, west and south-west, and is in an excellent position to be approached by sailing vessels. Here, I think, an ordinary sail boat might ride safely at anchor, under any gale.

During my stay, I made a survey of the coast from the mouth of Current River to near the Kaministaquia, and took soundings over a considerable portion of the Bay, in the vicinity of the Dépôt, opposite which, and for some distance east and west, I found twelve feet of water at four hundred feet from the shore. For the present accommodation, a pier, one hundred and fifty feet in length by thirty in width at bottom, erected in twelve feet of water, would be quite sufficient. It would require to be carefully built and solidly filled with stone, so as to resist the action of the ice in winter. Excellent pine for wharf building can be obtained, either a little east of Current River, or on the Banks of the Kaministaquia, below the falls. Stone is abundant, in the shape of boulders of convenient size to be handled, strewn along the shore immediately east of the Dépôt, and it could be conveyed to the pier in boats or scows. There is also rock immediately at the Dépôt landing, which can be quarried, if required.

I shall be glad, at all times, to give you the benefit of any opinion, in regard to any matter connected with the very important work of opening up a communication with the Red River Territory.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed,) JOHN A. SNOW.

S. J. Dawson, Esq.,
Civil Engineer,
Three Rivers,
Quebec.