

wardly direction, taking such a course as you shall consider most advisable for acquiring additional knowledge of the country on either side of the Bow River, or south branch of the Saskatchewan River, during the remainder of the season of 1857; and you will make arrangements in advance for wintering the Expedition at Carlton House, where you will meet Lieutenant Blakiston.

At the commencement of the season of 1858 you will start, as soon as the weather is sufficiently open and favourable, to explore the country between the two branches of the Saskatchewan River, and south of the southern branch, and thence proceeding westward to the head waters of that river, you will endeavour, from the best information you can collect, to ascertain whether one or more practicable passes exist over the Rocky Mountains within the British territory, and south of that known to exist between Mount Brown and Mount Hooker.

Great care must be taken that the Expedition shall return to Fort Garry in sufficient time to allow them to reach England, *via* Fort Pembina, and the United States, in the fall of 1858.

In the event of your yourself desiring to proceed westward from the Rocky Mountains to Vancouver's Island, Her Majesty's Government consent to your doing so, only under the express conditions that the homeward conduct of the Expedition can, with perfect prudence, be entrusted to the charge of Lieutenant Blakiston or Dr. Hector, and that the expenses of your travelling from Vancouver's Island are defrayed from your own resources; and further, that the Indian war now raging in the country west of the Rocky Mountains shall have terminated.

It being the desire of Her Majesty's Government that the Expedition should, as far as practicable, be made available for extending general as well as special scientific knowledge, I have to impress upon you the importance (in addition to maintaining a regular series of instrumental observations) of regularly recording the physical features of the country through which you will pass, noting its principal elevations, the nature of its soil, its capability for agriculture, the quantity and quality of its timber, and any indications of coal or other minerals.

Separate instructions will be furnished by Major General Sabine, Sir Roderick Murchison, and Sir William Hooker, for the guidance of the scientific gentlemen attached to the Expedition.

The result of your surveys and observations should be embodied in a journal of the Expedition, to be kept with the utmost practicable regularity. A duplicate of that journal, and of any special observations and reports on the geology and natural history of the country, should be completed at all convenient stations, and forwarded at every favourable opportunity to England, addressed to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, Downing Street, London.

In full reliance upon your ability and discretion, Her Majesty's Government have not hesitated to entrust to you the conduct of the Expedition, with the express understanding that the scientific gentlemen of your party will consider themselves subject to your authority, and bound to be guided implicitly by the orders which your experience may suggest for the safety of the Expedition, and for the complete success of the objects for which it is undertaken.

In the event of any unforeseen accident which might deprive the Expedition of your services as leader, the command of the party may be entrusted by you either to Lieutenant Blakiston or to Dr. Hector, and you will furnish a duplicate copy of these instructions to whichever officer you may select for that purpose.

In conclusion, I cannot too earnestly impress upon you the necessity for the utmost caution in the selection of the line of route to be taken by the Expedition, and in avoiding all risk of hostile encounters with any native tribes who may inhabit the country through which you may pass.

I have to request that you will communicate to me, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, the mode in which the expenditure incurred by you while in the territories under the control of the Hudson's Bay Company is to be defrayed; and you will understand that the limits of expense prescribed for the Expedition cannot be exceeded, unless under circumstances of urgent necessity; which you will at once report for the information of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

H. LABOUCHERE.

In compliance with the foregoing instructions, when the Expedition commenced the journey at Fort William, on the north-west shore of Lake Superior, I made additional preparations, besides those requisite for the long canoe journey, having for their object the examination of the White Fish River; but this river was found to be only a very