

Toronto and Hudson's Bay Railway Commission

TORONTO, MARCH 7TH, 1898.

GENTLEMEN,—

In compliance with the request contained in the circular issued February 25th by "The Toronto and Hudson's Bay Railway Commission," a copy of which was sent me a few days ago :

I may at once state that it will be a very difficult matter for me to add much more to what I have already and so often given to the public, broadcast—bearing on this important question referred to in your circular letter—through the medium of the newspapers, by pamphlets, letters, and through other channels; the information thus gained being almost wholly from actual observations, and not altogether hear-say evidence, in walking, canoeing, skirting lakes, crossing rivers, with and without snow-shoes, in summer and winter, between the Sault Ste. Marie to points far east of Mattawa. Again, valuable and reliable information was obtained from various other sources (such as those of my many and esteemed friends in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, and whose opinions I had reason to value very highly), from intelligent Indians and Half-breeds, from explorers, prospectors and others whose business necessitated their making frequent excursions into and all over this northern region; besides availing myself of all published literature and documents bearing on the country between the present line of the Canadian Pacific Railway and Hudson's Bay, all of which work consumed the best part of my time for the last sixteen years or more.

The information I can now give you must, therefore, necessarily be brief and of a desultory character; but what little additional is now submitted to the commission will be founded on honest con-