

OTTAWA 27th April, 1878.

S. J. Dawson recalled, was examined as follows:—

Q. Who is Mr. Robert Ross?—Mr. Robert Ross is a Provincial Land Surveyor of high standing, whose residence is in Frampton.

Q. Did Mr. Robert Ross ever see this plan of the Narrows of Lake of the Woods which has been filed with your former deposition as Exhibit M?—It was handed in as a reduced copy of the map which he made of the Narrows.

Q. Did Mr. Ross sign the map of which this is a copy?—He signed the original map, and the plan which I now produce have been reduced from the larger map of Mr. Ross' which he has certified to. I rather think if a search is made in the Department of Public Works the original can be found there. As to the best of my recollection, I sent it into the Department in 1872. The history of the map is very simple: Mr. Robert Ross was sent to make a survey of the Narrows to ascertain whether it was practicable to run a bridge across there. He made that survey very particularly as regards the crossings of the different channels.

Q. When was it made?—In the fall of 1873. He triangulated or measured all the crossings and made the surroundings with great care.

Q. Were you with him at the time?—I was within a short distance of him at the time. I happened to be at the North-West Angle of the Lake of the Woods with other Commissioners negotiating an Indian Treaty. Mr. Ross is a Provincial Land Surveyor who has done a great deal of work for the Government. I sent him with a party to make a survey of the crossing at the Narrows in order to ascertain whether it was possible to run a bridge across there. He first surveyed one place called "crossing No. 1," on the map, he then went further north to try if he could get a better crossing and surveyed "crossing No. 2." The channels were narrower at crossing No. 2, as shown by the figures given on the plan "Z," but the islands were higher and more rocky, which would have occasioned greater difficulty in running across there. At crossing No. 1, he found the islands comparatively low and easy to get over. The islands immediately on the line of crossing marked on that plan are there, existing in the position in which he placed them according to his survey, and his survey was made under his oath of office as Provincial Land Surveyor.

Q. Were you in that neighborhood?—I was within a few miles of him.

Q. Did you visit the place during that time?—I saw him while he was going on with his work. He brought me a rough sketch, and I immediately sent him back to continue the survey. I was in frequent communication with him while he was going on with his survey.

Q. With respect to his survey, what do you know about the situation of the islands?—With regard to the islands, there are no islands set down on Mr. Ross' map but what are also down on some one of the maps made by Mr. Thompson of the Boundary Survey of 1826, from which I see this map (tracing of the district from Lake Superior to Red River) of the Pacific Railway Survey has been copied.

Q. Who made that map?—Mr. Thompson, one of the Commissioners appointed to lay down the boundary between Canada and the United States. The islands which appear in Mr. Thompson's map, appear also in Mr. Ross' map; but Mr. Ross is responsible only for the portion of the Islands immediately on the line of the crossing, although the other islands are, as near as I can judge, in about the same position as in the old maps.

Q. Irrespective of both maps, what do you, yourself, know of those islands?—I have been frequently through them, but, in merely passing through with a canoe you could not tell, with critical exactness, whether the islands were in the precise situation marked on the map. I could see that the channels were so narrow as to impress me with the idea that it was practicable to run a bridge across them, and on that account I ordered the survey.

Q. Then of your own knowledge, as far as you could judge in passing through in a canoe, the islands are in the same place as they are represented to be in those maps?—Yes; only it is a perfect labyrinth of islands, and it would strike one in