

OTTAWA, 24th April, 1878.

MICHAEL HARRIS, called and sworn, was examined as follows :—

Q. Are you at present employed on the Pacific Railway Staff?—Yes.

Q. What is your occupation?—Leveller.

Q. Do you know the country north and west of Lake Superior to the Lake of the Woods?—Yes; I have spent a good many years in that country. I have been there more or less since 1869.

Q. Did you spend the summers there?—Yes; both summer and winter.

Q. How were you first engaged up there?—I was first in the employ of Mr. Dawson on the Dawson Route.

Q. Are you acquainted with the country between Sturgeon Falls and the North-west Angle?—I have been over sections of it a good deal. I have been a good deal on the main route and on different routes.

Q. Were you with any of the engineering parties on the line?—Of course the engineering parties have generally run north of that. I have been on the line from White Fish Bay to Manitou River. White Fish Bay is on the east side of the Lake of the Woods. I have been over portions of the located line also.

Q. I want you to speak of the country between Sturgeon Falls and the North-west Angle or the Narrows?—Of course, I can only speak of the sections from Rainy Lake, or Fort Frances north to the Manitou River.

Q. Have you been up the Manitou itself?—Yes; I have been up and down frequently

Q. A dozen times?—Yes; twenty times

Q. Can you speak as to the character of the country on which this proposed line of Mr. Dawson's is laid down?—On either side of the Manitou the country is very high and rocky. The western portion of Rainy Lake is not correctly laid down on the map. A great many bays run up, and there is a great deal more water than is shown on the plan.

Q. Have you surveyed the country?—Different sections of it, and some of the lakes on the Dawson Route.

Q. Have you surveyed Rainy Lake sufficiently well, to speak of the bays? When you talk of surveying, do you mean levelling?—I scaled the lakes.

Q. How far on either side of the Manitou have you explored the country?—I can only speak in a general way of that country, as I just passed up and down in a canoe. I have been east of the Manitou about ten miles.

Q. What is the character of the country there?—It is a very high, rocky country.

Q. Is it feasible for the construction of a railway?—I have not explored the country sufficiently for a line, but it is a very doubtful, bad looking country. At the time I was through that country I was exploring for timber, I was not exploring for a line at all.

Q. Would your observations not justify you in giving an opinion as to the character of the country?—I could give you an opinion so far as relates to the country to the north of the Manitou.

Q. But as to the crossing, what is its character?—It is a very high country. There is a fall there in the first place of 47 to 50 feet.

Q. What is it, rock, or clay, or sand?—At the portage it is clay on the top, but I fancy you would very soon strike rock.

Q. What is the height of bank above water?—About 80 feet, I think. The height of the fall above is 48 feet.

Q. How do the banks correspond on each side?—The bank on the east side is lower.

Q. What is the difference in the heights?—25 or 30 feet, speaking from memory.

Q. Did you measure it?—No; I did not, I speak from observation; that is my impression of the height.