

# P A P E R S

RELATIVE TO THE

## EXPLORATION OF THE COUNTRY BETWEEN LAKE SUPERIOR AND THE RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.

No. 1.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor-General Right Hon. Sir EDMUND HEAD, Bart., to  
the Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

(No. 192.)

Government House, Toronto, October 18, 1858.

SIR,

(Received November 1, 1858.)

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Despatch of 14th September, No. 58.

In reply I now transmit the enclosed copies of reports from Mr. Dawson and Professor Hind, together with a report on the exploration of the country between Lake Superior and the Red River Settlement.

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.

Enclosure 3.

Although this latter document does not purport to treat of the country between the last-named settlement and the Rocky Mountains, it contains incidentally much valuable information respecting it.

I have not been able to learn that the military authorities have received any particulars regarding this tract which could be deemed of interest.

I have, &c.

Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart., M.P.,  
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) EDMUND HEAD.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

\* \* The Spelling of Names of Places, and occasionally the Dates, vary in this Paper; but, in the uncertainty, the orthography and dates have been retained throughout, as in the original Report.

Sir,

Red River Settlement, July 4, 1858.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 16th and 20th of April, containing instructions for the guidance of the Expedition during the present season. These instructions it will be our endeavour to carry out to the satisfaction of the Government.

I have now the honour to inform you that, as soon as the exploratory surveys in progress at the date of my last report were completed, I set out on the excursion I had proposed, by way of the Manitoba and Winnipegogs Lakes, to the Saskatchewan River, and returned by the Assiniboine, reaching this place on the 29th ult.

On my arrival, I found the men brought here by Professor Hind waiting for me, the Professor himself having gone west to the Souris River.

In order that as little time as possible might be lost, I immediately dispatched two of my assistants, with eleven men and two canoes to commence work indicated in your instructions, retaining one canoe and five men until such time as I could collect provisions enough to prevent the necessity of sending immediately to Lake Superior, where Professor Hind had left the supplies of provisions, bringing here only enough for his own party. We have now obtained a sufficient supply, and are about to set out.

As the time at my disposal will not admit of my reporting so fully as I could wish on the various surveys which have been accomplished since the date of my last report, I shall, for the present, confine myself to a brief account of our last Expedition, and a description of the extensive region through which we travelled.

On the 10th of May, having provided ourselves with such supplies as the settlement could afford, we crossed over to Manitowba Lake. Embarking there in canoes, we had a very tedious passage, against strong head winds, to the north-west end of Winnipegogs Lake. From thence we crossed by the Mossy Portage to Lake Bourbon.

Leaving my assistants to measure the distance, and ascertain the difference of level between the lakes just named, I descended the Saskatchewan to the Grand Rapid and examined it. Returning again to the Mossy Portage, I divided the party, sending my Chief Assistant, Mr. Wells, back by the western coast of Winnipegogs Lake, Lac Dauphin, and the Little Saskatchewan, as detailed in his report, which I send herewith. With the other division of the party, I ascended Swan River, crossed from thence to Fort Pelly, and came down by the Assiniboine.

In order to be the better comprehended in describing the general appearance of the country, I enclose a rough sketch, hastily compiled from our notes, to which I would respectfully refer you.

A range of high lands, it will be seen, extends south-eastward from the Pasquin Mountain on the Saskatchewan in latitude 58° 30' North, to the United States boundary line. This range has, in all probability, at some period formed the south-western embankment of a great inland sea, which covered