

keep his engagement with me of taking the field on the 1st of June. For this he expressed his great regret. It was not until the 28th of July that he arrived at the height of land.

The season was now far spent, the best of it already gone, yet nothing done in the cutting of the Boundary along the high lands, which it had been agreed should be the portion of the American Commission.

Encouraged by your Lordship's despatch of the 3rd of July, I considered the means of saving what time remained, and of turning it to the best advantage. I thought we had a better chance of cutting the Line along the high lands than the American party had. During the winter I had established communications in the country to facilitate the hiring of capable men, and I had made calculations of what would always be required in provisions and equipments to render a party efficient in the woods.

In consequence, I proposed to the American Commissioner that we should take his work in the high lands this year, and that he should take our's on the parallel 45° next year; and so it was arranged that he should pursue his survey from the Kennebec Road, east and west, as we had already done; that he should cut the Line along the dividing ridge from the Kennebec Road to the south-west branch of the St. John, and that we should cut from the Kennebec Road to Hall's Stream.

If that were to be accomplished before the snows should hide from us the streams, by which alone we could be sure of keeping the dividing ridge, no time was to be lost. I could not expect to get the additional parties to work before the early part of September; nor could we depend upon being able to continue the work after the end of October. There would be, in fact, about six weeks clear for accomplishing the task. The distance to be cut, according to the existing maps, was over one hundred miles. Ten men can cut a quarter of a mile of Boundary in a day; but one-third of their number would be occupied in bringing in supplies for the rest; therefore the addition in labourers must, it was evident, be very great. The plan of fixing summits at intervals, by the survey, enabled me to put in a large body of axe-men. Parties could take up their grounds at the different summits; but to take charge of the cutting parties officers would be wanted upon whose intelligence in following the dividing ridge I could depend, and who would have personal activity sufficient to enable them to push their way through the woods, and to trace and blaze the actual Line for the guidance of the cutters, so fast as to keep them in full work.

Fortunately, I could look with confidence to Mr. Scott and Mr. Wilkinson for this. Also upon naming the matter to Mr. Featherstonhaugh, though I could not have proposed any additional labour to him, yet he at once undertook to cut as he surveyed, provided he was furnished with an increase to the number of his men.

The agreement for the new arrangement with Mr. Smith having been made on the 28th of July, I proceeded on the 29th to Quebec, where I ordered the additional provisions and equipments we should want, and directed the hiring of 150 men. Then I went to the north-west and south-west branches of the St. John, to see how the operations were going on there, and returned to the height of land by the 23rd of August. During my absence some doubt had occurred to Mr. Smith as to the propriety of leaving the cutting of the Line to the British Commission, until an American as well as a British surveyor had fixed summits of guidance. But the objection was overcome by our entering jointly into an engagement to consider the lines which both Mr. Smith and I should cut along the dividing ridge, as only exploratory lines, until found by a survey, to be made afterwards, to be satisfactory.

Early in August 150 men and some of the equipments had arrived at the height of land and were immediately employed in carrying out provisions in preparation for the cutting.

August 31st, Mr. Scott arrived from the Valley of the St. John, where he had been occupied from the beginning of the season. He at once took up ground about twenty miles from the Kennebec Road, and commenced cutting westward on the 5th of September with 100 men; the