

Under these circumstances, and after fully weighing the matter in all its bearings, I conceived it better to keep the voyageurs, for a time at least, as much as possible apart from the military, and place them under officers accustomed to their management. I would thus have an opportunity of organizing them, discharging such as should prove inefficient, and replacing them from among the men on the works; and, by the time Shebandowan Lake was reached, would be in a position to man the boats with picked crews of the most skilful voyageurs to be found in the country.

The plan of dragging forward the boats by the rocky channel of the river having been determined on, and notwithstanding my remonstrance, persevered in, it remained for me to aid in carrying it out in the manner which as I have said would afford the greatest chance of safety to the boats; the rocky portages were laid with skids, and careful men were sent with every brigade whether manned by soldiers or voyageurs, or partly by both.

The following table shews the number of boats sent by the river to the Matawin bridge, or rather to Young's Landing, and how manned;

STATEMENT showing number of Boats sent from Thunder Bay by Kaministiquia River, and number of Men engaged in forwarding them.

Date of Departure.	No. of Boats.	No. of Voyageurs.	No. of Soldiers.
1870.			
June 6.....	6	18	5)
" 10.....	6	47	40
" 11.....	4	44	.....
" 14.....	9	51	40
" 20.....	6	45	.....
" 21.....	3	20	.....
" 21.....	3	30	.....
" 21.....	1	7	.....
" 22.....	4	44	.....
" 24.....	8	17	70
" 25.....	9	50	40
" 29.....	10	16	60
July 1.....	8	32	35
" 4.....	5	26	36
" 4.....	14	95	50
" 6.....	5	14	50
	101	556	471

From the point called "Young's Landing" for eight miles upwards, the river, as already explained, is exceedingly difficult. Soon after the arrival of the first brigade of boats at that point, the officer commanding the Field Force sent a number of soldiers, *unaccompanied by voyageurs* under the command of a very active and energetic officer to try the passage, but after doing all that could be expected of inexperienced men and straining every nerve to get forward, they were obliged to return having been unable to get their boats up the rapids. Some interest had been excited by this experiment, which it was said was designed to show how much could be effected in the rapids independently of the voyageurs. Before the discouraging effects of this failure could spread far I had sent forward a band of voyageurs who took up the boats and, from that time forward, the boats, in this difficult section were manned wholly by voyageurs. To get them all past the section just referred to, occupied a force of 120 men for upwards of a month and it had become necessary to spread so many people along the River, in this toilsome work of dragging boats up rocky channels that, much to my regret, I was compelled to reduce the force on the road. At this time (about the 20th of June) matters had become exceedingly critical. The Indians brought at great expense from Nipigon and the Grand Portage mostly left. The Fort William Indians, after a trip or two, deserted us. Fond as they are of voyaging, in the usual way, the work of dragging boats had become so distasteful to them that neither the agent of the Hudson Bay Company nor Mr. Choné, the missionary at Fort William, both