

Enclosure 3 in No. 1.

Fort Ellice, July 12, 1858.

Sir,

After my arrival at Red River, I made numerous inquiries respecting a report, extensively circulated, that gold dust and scales were in the possession of some of the settlers, and that gold had been found in the neighbourhood of Sturgeon Creek.

I visited Sturgeon Creek in company with a person who had sent the so-called "gold" to England and the United States for analysis. Certain persons some years since residing in Red River Settlement, who ought from their position and education to have been quite familiar with the characteristics of gold, had informed my companion that there was no doubt whatever of his specimens being the precious metal. From the United States he received no answer; from England, through the company's agent, he was informed that it was oxide of iron (probably iron pyrites).

After a careful search in the stream, I found golden mica, and handing it to him, he believed it to be gold, until I informed him of its true character.

I found abundance of golden mica, and have no doubt that this mineral is the "gold" of the settlers at Red River.

Rings rudely made from gold were shown to me as well as scales of gold; but after much inquiry, I succeeded in tracing the gold to two or three voyageurs; who had been across the Rocky Mountains, and had brought it from the Columbia River and Fraser's River.

Sir George Simpson told me, when I saw him at Fort Garry, that Capt. Palliser had stated that in seasons of high water or by the removal of a trifling obstruction, or by making a small portage a small canoe might pass from the Assiniboine, through the Quappelle River (Calling River) and Lakes, to the Saskatchewan, thus connecting the Red River with the Great Saskatchewan by a short direct course. Some of the hunters, who profess to know that part of the country, state that in seasons of high water, the Saskatchewan may send part of its waters through this river to the Assiniboine. Yesterday I visited the Quappelle River, and Mr. Dickenson, to-day is to measure its rate of current, volume of water, &c.

Since the river lies in the direction of the south branch of the Saskatchewan, I have determined to ascertain its true character, and intend sending Mr. Dickenson from the height of land in a canoe to the Assiniboine while I proceed by the western water communication, if any, to the Saskatchewan.

Captain Palliser, I am informed, had no canoe with him, and I find in this country that it is as impossible to describe a river and its capabilities from observations made at intervals on its banks, as it is to form a correct idea of the region it unwaters from a canoe voyage down its course.

I have, &c.

The Hon. T. J. J. Loranger, M.P.P.,
Provincial Secretary.

(Signed) HENRY G. HIND.

Enclosure 4 in No. 1.

REPORT on the EXPLORATION of the COUNTRY between LAKE SUPERIOR and the RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.

INSTRUCTIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Sir,

Secretary's Office, Toronto, July 22, 1857.

I have the honour to acquaint you that, confiding in your integrity, judgment, and energy, together with your acquaintance with the Red River Territory, your knowledge of the communication with that country, and with the tribes of Indians which traverse it, His Excellency the Administrator of the Government has been pleased to appoint you to the chief direction and control of the party about to be sent there.

The party organized consists of the following:—

- Mr. Gladman, the chief director and controller of the expedition, and his assistant;
- Professor Hind, geologist and naturalist, and his assistant;
- Mr. Napier, engineer, with his assistant and staffmen; and
- Mr. Dawson, surveyor, with his assistants and chainmen.

Also, such voyageurs or canoe-men as in your judgment may be necessary, the probable number of canoes being assumed at four, with four voyageurs in each; such men to be selected with a view to their being capable of assisting the engineering and surveying branches of the expedition as axemen, &c., when required.

The primary object of the expedition is to make a thorough examination of the tract of country between Lake Superior and Red River, by which may be determined the best route for opening a facile communication, through British territory, from that lake to the Red River Settlements, and ultimately to the great tracts of cultivable land beyond them. With this view, the following suggestions are offered for your guidance, so far as you will find them practicable and supported by the topography.

In the first place, after being landed at Fort William, to proceed by the present Hudson's Bay canal route, by the Kaministiquia River, Dog Lake, Lake of the Thousand Islands, &c., to Lac la Croix, and thence, by Rainy Lake, Lake of the Woods, Winnipeg River, to Lake Winnipeg, and up the Red River to Fort Garry.

From Rainy Lake to Lake Winnipeg, the route as at present affords a good navigation for boats of considerable size, with the interruption, however, of some short portages; but from Rainy Lake eastward to Lake Superior the route is very much interrupted, and rendered laborious, tedious, and expensive, by the great number of portages, some of considerable length, which have to be encountered, to avoid the falls and rapids in the ravines and creeks which this route follows.