

fects by winds. It was the route travelled for many years by the old voyageurs, and was only given up, it is said, on account of the length of the Grand Portage. In confirmation of this opinion we remark that "Charlo" the Iroquois Indian from Caughnawaga, who was the guide of the Red River expedition, and the Assiniboine and Saskatchewan expedition, on both routes, and who made some forty journeys between Lake Superior and Red River, chiefly with Sir George Simpson, said he much preferred the Pigeon river route; and who was better qualified to judge than he? But we will now come to details of distances, impediments, etc., the whole way. On these points we necessarily possess most accurate information.

Troops, ammunition and stores can be conveyed from Collingwood to Grand Portage Bay by steamer. From that point where there is an American settlement, a good road traverses the portage the whole distance of a little over eight miles. Although this road runs through American territory it by the seventh clause of the Treaty of Ghent the portage is freely open to both nations for ever.

A sufficient number of teams to convey the entire baggage of an expedition across this portage can be easily sent forward from Collingwood. From the point where the portage ends the route lies along Pigeon river, and through a succession of lakes up to Mud Lake; but there are no serious obstacles at all, although at one semi-descharge canoe must be poled up stream. From Mud Lake and South Lake we go down, and although there are numerous portages, and rapids, yet none of them are difficult. From Gunflint Lake to Seiganagah Lakes there are rapids and places where canoes are let down by rope to keep them steady, but there is nothing to prevent a continuous advance. Between Knife Lake and Birch Lake there are portages the longest being 700 yards, and another 275 yards. At the western extremity of Basswood Lake there is a portage of 350 yards, and two others of 190, and 166 yards respectively. Put from this position onwards progress may be regular and steady to Loon Narrows, where there are two portages of 263 and 67 yards; and from these points forward through Sand Point Lake and Lac la Poudre into Rainy Lake there is only one portage of 127 yards just at the entrance into the latter. Along the whole of this distance excellent camping grounds are abundant, and making allowances for unavoidable stoppages we think that the distance might be easily accomplished in from twelve to fifteen days. We believe also that from Fort Frances ten days ought to see an expedition at Fort Garry. Now we come to the means of transport. The best appliances for this purpose are Freighter's boats. They carry from 5 to 6 tons; are sharp fore and aft like whale boats, flat in the floor for light draft, and are about 30 feet long. They are pulled and steered by sweep oars, and have a movable mast with a large square sail. They are manned by a crew of 7 men; are hauled over portages on their keel by the crew, and the goods are carried by the crew also. These boats are also better and safer than canoes for mixed lake and river navigation. If a sufficient supply of such boats could be procured in time, we should say, use them by all means. But as this is not to be expected now, and as the government have already ordered a large number of deep and comparatively heavy boats, which we expect to find sticking in the mud along Dawson's road, disorganising the whole expedition if it be sent that way, then we make another proposal.

Let the Government send up here from Caughnawaga and other points where they are easily procurable one hundred canoes not less than 24 feet long. "North" canoes carry 10 men each, with a bowman and steersman, and a ton or more of baggage. With these 100 canoes we are convinced that one thousand men with sufficient ammunition and provisions could be sent forward so as to reach Fort Garry in 25 days or less. Our suggestion is that while the boats and heavy guns are being forwarded by Dawson's route with one half of the expedition, these canoes with the other half should be dispatched with all speed by way of Pigeon River.

Every one of these canoes might be laid down on Pigeon River bank at the end of Grand Portage before the arrivals of any troops here. They might be subdivided into squads of ten or any number, and each squad placed under the command of an officer, immediately after the troops reached the spot. Thus no delay could occur. There is plenty of time to procure these canoes, and send them here before the ice breaks up. It is well known that portages soon become trodden out of all shape, especially in rainy weather. If the entire expedition be entrusted to one route then the injuries to portages, inevitable from the crossing of so many men and so much material, will seriously retard the entire advance. From Lac la Croix forward the services of a large body of Indians and canoes are readily procurable. The tribes of that region can muster 1000 fighting men, and their assistance would be invaluable.

It would be easy to secure regularity in the advance by ascertaining the sites of a convenient number of camping grounds beforehand. At these places all the boats of each squad could rendezvous; and thus the several portions of the expedition might be kept in communication with each other. For this purpose we would suggest. 1st. The Pigeon River end of Grand Portage whence the whole expedition would start. 2nd. Fowl Portage. 3rd. Moose portage. 4. West end of Watap Lake. 5th. West end of South Lake, on the height of land. 6th. The narrows at the end of the rapids between Gunflint Lake, and Seiganagah. 7th. Swamp Portage, end of latter named lake. 8th. Carp Portage, end of Carp Lake. 9th. West end of Basswood Lake after passing the rapids, at the 166 yards portage. 10th. Bottle portage, north-west corner of Iron Lake. 11th. The narrows near the point of meeting of Loon River, and Vermillion River. From this point the several boats could move on either independently of the other half of the expedition, or be directed to a site agreed upon for the junction of the whole on Rainy Lake. The obstructions being fewer, and the water way being more extended, perhaps the entire force would be advisably united. As, however, the portion advancing by Pigeon River would certainly be much more forward than the other, it might be best to move it on to Fort Frances, and there reorganize with the aid of the Indians who would be sure to flock in numbers to the spot.

Between Gunflint Lake and Seiganagah Lake, ropes will be required. But it is not necessary to enter into further details here.

We most respectfully urge the consideration of this suggestion, upon the Government. We are persuaded that much time would be saved. And if 1000 regular soldiers were once in the neighborhood of Fort Garry the country would be safe. Our military authorities are the best judges of the advisability of pushing forward one half of the expedition rapidly, leaving the other half to follow with the artillery. But it is a

question whether Dawson's road can be completed in time to be of much service either for the transport of boats or artillery early in the Spring — *Continued Enterprise.*

THE ARMY ESTIMATES AND NEW ZEALAND.

The *Standard* does not pretend to understand one argument used by Mr. Cardwell in justification of his policy in the case of New Zealand—the only colony which just now can gain or lose anything by that policy—that "one part of the nation would no longer fight the quarrels of another part, the result being even that peace has been brought to all, and not disrupted, as some gentlemen predicted." Is it then an admitted principle of national duty, under the Gladstone Government, that one part of the nation is not bound to fight for another part? Is Yorkshire not bound to help Cornwall, if Cornwall is assailed and in distress? If this is so, upon what pretence does Mr. Gladstone keep up even the semblance of British authority which is all that now exists in proof that Ireland is part of the British Empire? That "peace has been brought and not disruption," by the pursuance of this most high-minded and economical policy in New Zealand, is at least a premature saying on the part of Mr. Cardwell. Did he consult with the two New Zealand Commissioners before he spoke, or is this only an expression of the prevailing sentiment in Downing Street? As a matter of fact peace certainly has not been brought to New Zealand by any act of the British Government, but rather a new peril of war. And as to "disruption," that has already taken place in effect wherever the new colonial doctrine is applied. He will be an overbold prophet who ventures to affirm that, in the case of New Zealand, actual disruption will not take place in the next six months, and all for the saving of £50,000.

ANOTHER OLD LAND MARK GONE.—It is with unfeigned regret that we have to announce in our obituary column to day the death of Thomas Hammill, Esq., of Auster, at the ripe age of 82 years. The deceased was brought to this country, by his parents, in infancy, eighty years ago, his father being a U. E. L. soldier. He identified himself in early manhood with the Tory or Conservative party, as now called, and continued his attachment to that party till his death. He was, up to the time of his decease, a member of the Episcopal Church, and had been a Church Warden during the long period of fifty-seven years. He was the father in law of Charles and James Foster, of this city. The number of his good qualities was legion, and he lived generally respected and esteemed, and died universally regretted.—*Hamilton Times, March 30*

MILITARY ITEMS.—Her Majesty has been pleased to grant Major General James Lindsay the local rank of Lieut.-General, while employed on particular service in Canada. Capt. W. T. Gascoigne, Scots Fusilier Guards, and Lieut. J. Fitzgeorge have been appointed as his Aides-de-camp. Lt. C. Rifles.—Major Sharpe has been promoted to a Lieut.-Colonelcy, without purchase; also Lieut. George Trull Munro, to a Capt.ncy, dated 1st April; Capt. Geraghty, Town-Major, has retired upon full pay, and to have the honorary rank of Major, from 1st April. Staff officers will appear in uniform at their offices, also any calling to see the Lieut. General at his office will appear in uniform after this date.