

Schedules were submitted by the Honorable the Minister of Public Works for Manitoba, setting forth the numbers of the sections and townships proposed to be drained. These were sent to the local agents for verification as to the condition of the land, and also as to how it stood in the Dominion Lands books, to ensure that any of the sections that might be found to have been otherwise disposed of, should be excluded.

The Provincial Government at the same time submitted, for the approval of the Government, plans, from actual survey by an Engineer, setting forth the scheme of drainage proposed in each case. These, with the amended schedules of the lands involved, now await the final approval of the Dominion Government.

LAND GUIDES.

By an Order in Council of the 14th April last, authority was given for the appointment of land guides (not exceeding thirteen) to facilitate settlement of persons in the Province of Manitoba and the North-West during the season.

These were accordingly appointed into two classes, the first consisting of officers who remained at Winnipeg, or on the frontier at Emerson, to meet immigrants and to aid them in getting to the land district in which they might desire to settle.

This class was placed in charge of Mr. Hayter Reed, as chief guide.

The other class consisted of one or two local guides attached to each of the outlying land offices, who were placed under the direction of the Agent.

The whole number appointed, of both classes, was ten, including the chief guide.

Both classes rendered valuable service to the incoming settlers, the first by advising them as to what they needed to establish themselves in their prairie homes, and by directing and helping those unaccustomed to transport in a new country in loading and getting onward in their journey; the second by accompanying them to the land districts, and aiding them in the choice and location of their lands, and in obtaining entries therefor.

It would appear, from the experience of the past season, that the number of these guides could beneficially be increased. I would, at the same time, respectfully represent that those in the first class, *i.e.*, Mr. Reed, and the guides immediately under him are, in reality, immigration officers, and might, therefore, more correctly be placed under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture and Immigration. It is not until the immigrant reaches the local guide at the Agency in which he intends to settle that he can be said to have anything to do with Dominion Lands. Furthermore, the local guides being responsible to and under the orders of the land agent, and available to assist him in any work within their capacity in connection with his office, properly belong to the Dominion Lands staff.

Were they retained during the winter, they could render valuable assistance as wood rangers, and enable the office to keep a close check upon irregular cutting and depredation of timber on Dominion lands. The timber in the western prairie region is of special value, and should, therefore, have special protection.

ORDNANCE LANDS.

The appended schedules, prepared by Mr. Mills, the Accountant, are similar to those which have usually been submitted in previous years. They include:—

A. Statement of sales made during the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1880.

B. Statement of receipts arranged according to locality in which the lands are situate.

C. The same statement as the last above, but in more detail, and separated into capital, rental or interest and fees, and indicating where the sums were paid.

D. Statement shewing amounts due remaining unpaid on the 30th June, 1880; and also the amounts remaining to be paid to complete the several sales on which they are due.