

M A N I T O B AThe Canadian Exploring Expedition of 1858, Vol.1.INTRODUCTION

In July, 1857, the Canadian Government organized and despatched an expedition to examine the country between Lake Superior and the Red River of the North, with a view to determine the best route for opening a communication between that lake and the settlements on the Red River.

EXTRACT FROM THE INSTRUCTIONS TO Mr. GEORGE  
GLADMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE EXPEDITION

"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 lands beyond them."

The present position (1860) of Lake Superior and its tributaries in relation to Montreal and the Atlantic seaboard is wholly changed since the period when the old Northwest Company, established in 1783 and amalgamated with the Hudson Bay Company in 1821, maintained large establishments at Fort William and Fort Charlotte on the Pigeon River. In those days of canoe transportation merchandize was conveyed up the Ottawa, across the height of land to Lake Huron, thence by the North shore of Lake Superior to

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