

"It would, at first, barely be possible, to supply provender for horses and oxen at any point beyond the French Portage.

"Assuming that on reaching Fort Frances, the force will require one hundred boats, there will remain forty, besides scows, with which to send forward supplies from the terminus of the Thunder Bay road at Shebandowan Lake to Fort Frances.

"These might be distributed on the different sections as follows :

	Boats.	Scows.
" On Shebandowan Lake.....	4	
Kashaboiwe Lake.....	2	
Summit Pond.....		1
Lac des Mille Lacs.....	3	
Baril Lake.....	2	
Windegoostigoon Lakes.....	4	
Kaogassikok Lake.....	3	
Pond, Deux Rivières Portage.....		1
Sturgeon Lake.....	4	
River between Sturgeon Lake and Island Portage.....		4
Nequaquon Lake.....	3	
Between Nequaquon and Nameukan Lakes, on South Channel.....	4	
Nameukan Lake.....	2	
Rainy Lake.....	5	
Total.....	36	6 scows.
Reserve.....	4	
	40	

"By distributing the boats to be employed in the transport of supplies in relays, as above, much labor in portaging will be avoided, and fewer men required to man them, inasmuch as the crews of different sections can join together when necessary.

"To man the boats in the Lake region when distributed in this way, one hundred and thirty men, with three competent overseers, would be sufficient. Of these at least thirty men should be stationed permanently on the rough section between Sturgeon Lake and Island Portage.

"Three boat carpenters should accompany the force with tools and material to make repairs when necessary.

"Provision has already been made by the Government for the construction of the huts and stables referred to in the foregoing, and sawed lumber has been ordered for those to be built at Thunder Bay.

"(Signed,)

S. J. DAWSON."

Fully appreciating the difficulties to be encountered on a road of forty five miles in length, of which a section of twenty five miles, only, was represented as being practicable to waggons, and an additional section of ten miles opened so that oxen with carts or sleds could pass over it, His Excellency the Lieutenant General Commanding the Forces determined on sending forward the regular troops to aid in opening and improving the road and the Colonel in immediate command of the expeditionary Field Force, also, well aware that much work was needed on the road, before the stores could pass over it, recommended certain companies of the troops to be sent forward to aid in its construction.

It had been suggested to the military authorities that the troops might pass by land