In order that the water power may be made available as soon as possible, the following mode of proceeding is suggested, viz.:

That permission be obtained from the Governor-General in Council to construct the dam at Winnipeg, which will be necessary for both water power and navigation; and that, as the river above Headingly cannot be navigated until it has been improved either by the construction of dams or increase in the supply of water, permission be obtained to defer the construction of the locks necessary for navigation around the dam, till the river above has been made navigable. If this course is approved, the minimum expenditure only would be required at present.

There appears to be no reason to doubt that the water power of the Assiniboine River, 5,626 horse-power, can be leased within one year of the time when it is made available, and that the demand for additional power and navigation to Lake Manitoba will be so great that it will be in the interests of the Government, or of the company undertaking the works, to push on the construction of the canal to Lake Manitoba at once.

The construction of the works necessary for water power and navigation would thus be divided into two periods: 1st, that of the construction of the dam and a portion of the canal to supply the mills at Winnipeg; 2nd, the construction of the canal from Lake Manitoba to the Assiniboine and of the necessary canal and locks around the dam at Winnipeg.

NOTE.—The increased supply of water from Lake Manitoba would also much improve the navigation of the Red River, and would largely reduce the cost of any improvements required between the City of Winpeg and Lake Winnipeg.

Memorandum on Ice Flood, 1888.

The ice in the Assiniboine River, in March, 1888, was found to be from 18 inches to 2 feet 6 inches in thickness, that over the more rapid currents being the thinnest.

The ice commenced to move for the first time time this spring in the night of the 25th of April.

Temporary variations in the level of the water surface were caused during the time the ice was running by partial jams, which occurred at several points on the river.

The extreme range of the variations above or below the normal level of the river does not appear to have exceeded from 4 to 5 feet.

The ice forms a dam on the surface of the water only; it has never been known to "pile" or jam from the river bed.