

miles across the water-shed, between Jourdain's Rapid and the navigable water of the *Savane* River.

This line would pass over very easy ground, presenting no engineering difficulty whatever, except for about two miles near the *Savane* River, where the ground is low and swampy, requiring to be well ditched and fascined.

Two routes have been followed from Lac des Mille Lacs to Rainy Lake; one by its discharge, the River Seine, and the other by the old canoe route. A description of the former will be found in my printed report, pages 28 and 29. Subsequent to the publication of that report, the old canoe route, marked in yellow on the accompanying plan, was more thoroughly surveyed than it had been before.

Either route can be made practicable in the way I have recommended for the Seine, at a moderate outlay, but, after duly weighing their respective advantages, I am satisfied that the old canoe route will be, both as to economy of work in rendering it available, and facility of managing and navigating it afterwards, the best.

#### *The Canoe Route.*

The canoe route, to describe it more particularly, leaves Lac des Mille Lacs at Baril Bay, by a portage of sixteen chains leading to Baril Lake, which is eight miles and a half in length.

This Lake is again left by the Brulé Portage (of twenty-one chains), leading to Windgoostegoon—a series of Lakes, connected by a small stream and having an aggregate length of twelve miles.—The water is in some places shallow, but it can easily be rendered of sufficient depth.

Then comes the Great French Portage of one mile and sixty chains, the descent in that distance being  $99\frac{1}{10}$  feet; succeeding which the Kaogassikok Lake, presents an unbroken reach of fifteen miles, ending at the Pine Portage.

Then follow two portages in close succession—the Pine and the Deux Rivières,—in length, respectively twenty-six and thirty chains, but a road of two miles, to the navigable water leading to Sturgeon Lake, would pass them both and a small pond between them.

Sturgeon Lake with a pond above it, presents sixteen miles of navigable water, but the river below it, for eleven miles downwards to Island Portage, makes a descent of only  $32\frac{5}{10}$  feet; a dam of sufficient height at Island Portage would, therefore, add eleven miles of navigable water to its length, making a reach of full twenty-seven miles.

Island Portage is about thirteen chains in length, with, in its present state, a fall of  $10\frac{6}{10}$  feet. Immediately below it the Sturgeon River is somewhat shallow, but navigable, nevertheless, and, at two miles from the Portage, Nequaquon Lake presents a magnificent expanse, navigable for fifteen miles, making, with the river at its inlet, a reach of seventeen miles.

From the lake just named to the Nameukan Lake, there are three routes. The northern one, by Snake Falls, always followed at low water, is considered dangerous, as may be inferred from its name the "*Maligne*."

The southern, or high water route, is easy of navigation for canoes, the total fall being overcome in three short portages. The third, at present only used with light canoes, avoids all the rapids by a portage of two miles into Nameukan, as shewn on the plan, overcoming in that distance a descent of about seventy-two feet.

Then follows a traverse of ten miles, through Nameukan Lake, to the Bare Portage, which is but eleven chains in length, with a fall of  $8\frac{5}{10}$  feet to Rainy Lake.

The following table shews the distances, with the fall, at each carrying place, in a more concise form :—