

be competent to survey, and to run lines of levels. That will be their principal duty.

In urging this addition, I must remark to your Lordship, that the real expense of wages incurred by employing Sappers is less, considerably, than by employing people in the country; besides that, they are infinitely more efficient and trustworthy. By their conduct and acquirements the Sappers we have had with us have drawn forth the praise and admiration of the American party. The Americans have no persons to stand in the place of them. People with equal acquirements in this country are paid four dollars a-day, whilst the wages of even the common labourers we both employ are equal to those of the Sappers. It is therefore satisfactory for the accuracy of the work, and good economy, to employ non-commissioned officers of Sappers for all the minor survey.

The operations on the highlands will be conducted in two directions; each party will consist of British and Americans; their work will be so arranged that each assistant shall work by himself, and therefore that each party may cover as much ground as their numbers will admit.

In case your Lordship should approve of my application, I beg to recommend that the men be sent out in a sailing vessel, so as to arrive at Quebec about the opening of the navigation. The first vessels commonly leave Liverpool in March, which would be in ample time, for I do not think they will be actually required until the middle of May. They should, however, run no risk of being later than the 15th of May.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. B. BUCKNALL ESTCOURT, *Lt.-Col.*

No. 10.

Lieutenant-Colonel Estcourt to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 19.)

My Lord,

Quebec, January 23, 1844.

THOUGH the operations of the first season have not, in fact, been brought quite to an end, yet, as the year has closed, and as we have so nearly finished as to make the completion certain, I will not delay a narrative of the Commission from the date of my despatch from Woodstock, July 22nd.

That informed your Lordship of our having succeeded in tracing the old Explored Line of Colonel Bouchette and Mr. Johnston. Progress had already been made in cutting it out. The southern portion was undertaken by Mr. Smith, from the monument to the Presqu'isle River, and the northern by me from thence to the St. John.

I placed Mr. Wilkinson in charge of our share with four cutting parties, afterwards increased to five. The Line which has been cut is thirty feet wide, with a way down the middle cleared of all logs, by which to haul the monuments to their places.

The trees having old blazed marks have been left standing in the clearance about fifteen feet high. The whole cutting was finished in two months, that is, by the end of August.

The Line was then surveyed by Mr. Wilkinson, in conjunction with Mr. Lally, on the part of the American Commission.

In drawing the Line which was to be the actual Boundary, the surveyors were directed to straighten it as much as possible, taking care only to keep within the thirty feet of the cutting, and making, as far as possible, the angles, where a new direction was taken, to coincide with the miles.

The marks adopted are plain cast-iron posts, made at a foundry at Boston, six feet high, four inches square at top and six at bottom. They are hollow, and fit over a cedar stake.

The survey of Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Lally was not finished until December 6th. They were, for the last five weeks, exposed to severe weather, heavy falls of snow, and severe frosts.

The monuments were conveyed by boats up the St. John to con-