

tions as we proceeded, and I have left a letter for Professor Hind informing him of our operations.

S. J. D.

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT,  
30th June, 1858.

SIR,—After leaving the Mossy Portage on the morning of the 4th of June, I proceeded agreeably to your instructions to make a cursory survey of the west shore of Lake Winnipegosis, the River Dauphin, and the Lake of that name, the Little Saskatchewan, and the Southern part of Lake Winnipeg, and would beg leave to submit the following report of my operations:

The western shore of Lake Winnipegosis, in common with the other Lakes through which I passed, is much better adapted for settlement than the eastern one, inasmuch as the land is higher, and the climate, if anything, a little better. In crossing Lake Winnipegosis from east to west, a distance of only about twelve miles, I found vegetation somewhat further advanced than on the side I had just left; the soil is also better, inasmuch as that it is higher. Timber, such as maple, elm, oak and poplar, covers the country to the water's edge. I visited several places where sugar had been made, and saw specimens of that article equal to any that I have ever seen in Eastern Canada.

The Duck Mountain, which occupies almost the entire background, commences to rise not far from the Lake shore, keeping a gentle ascent for 15 or 20 miles back, where it attains its greatest elevation, a height of 600 or 700 feet above the Lake. I learned from the people who reside in Duck Bay, that the entire face of the Mountain is a succession of gentle slopes and flat table lands, and that the summit itself is an extensive plateau of alluvial soil covered with a fine growth of timber.

There are three salt springs near the southern end of Lake Winnipegosis, one of which I visited, where there are works established for the manufacture of salt.

There are some 40 or 50 half-breed Indians who reside here, and at the Duck Bay, and though assured by them that all kinds of grain succeed well, yet they cultivate only a few potatoes, as fish and game are so plentiful and of such good quality, that they may be said to live almost without exertion.

From the salt springs I passed through the Dauphin River, almost 16 miles, to Dauphin Lake. The Dauphin River is a fine stream about 40 yards broad, and having 5 feet of water in the shallowest places. Its banks are of a strong grey clay, covered with black mould, and timbered with oak, elm and poplar. It has two considerable tributaries rising in the Duck and Riding Mountains, which appear to drain a country well adapted for settlement. There are several places on the Dauphin River where the Indians grow potatoes, Indian corn and melons. The wild grape, wild hop and wild vetch, are also common on the banks of the river.

Lac Dauphin is about 30 miles long from north-west to south-east, and six miles broad. Its western shore is bounded by the Riding Mountain, similar in all respects to the Duck Mountain already mentioned. Its southern shore is bounded by a prairie interspersed with wooded knolls, which I was informed extended without interruption south-east to the Assiniboine and Red Rivers.

I saw fixed rock only in two places in this part of the country, namely, at Snake Island, near the lower end of Lake Winnipegosis, and at the lower part of the Dauphin River. That on the Snake Island, a whitish limestone, is full of organic remains; the other is similar to the Manitouba limestone and nearly without organic remains.

From Lac Dauphin I returned by the north-east end of Lake Manitouba and its discharge, the Little Saskatchewan River.

The Little Saskatchewan, as its name implies, has a very strong current, which I found, on measuring to be  $2\frac{1}{2}$  and 3 miles per hour, but it is entirely free from rapids. Its average breadth is 250 yards, with from 8 to 12 feet of water. It appears well adapted for steamboat navigation.

The country in the vicinity of the Little Saskatchewan presents every inducement for settlement, as is proved by the flourishing state of the present settlement at Fairford, or, as it is more generally called, "Partridge Crop,"—a mission established under the Bishop of Rupert's Land, about six years ago, by the Rev. Mr. Cowley.

The present establishment is some six miles higher up the river than the first one, which, being subject to inundation in times of high water, was abandoned. There are several well built houses, a chapel, school and mill, at this place, with a population of about 200 souls, Indians and half-breeds.

The Rev. Mr. Stung, the missionary now in charge, informed me that the school which is attached to the mission was usually attended by from 50 to 60 children, half of whom are Indian children; indeed, the Indians belonging to this place appear to be fast acquiring the tastes and habits of civilization, being more clean and better dressed than any I have seen in the country. Mr. Stung also informed me that, notwithstanding the ease with which the ground was cultivated, and the large returns of grain, he required to use all his influence to induce the Indians to cultivate the land, as their wants are so easily supplied by fishing and hunting.

From the Little Saskatchewan I returned through Lake Winnipeg, arriving at this place on the 26th of June.

The journey through Lake Winnipeg presented no feature of essential difference from the other lakes, except that the western shore is low, with occasional limestone cliffs, and the eastern shore high, with granite rock.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,  
A. W. WELLS.

S. J. Dawson, Esq.,  
Red River Settlement.

FORT WILLIAM, LAKE SUPERIOR,  
21st August, 1858.

SIR,—In my report of the 4th ultimo from Red River, I had the satisfaction to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 16th and 20th of April, since which time I am without any further communication from the Government.

I have now the honor to inform you that the party under my directions are at present actively occupied in the exploration of the country between Rainy Lake and Lake Superior; one of my assistants, well appointed with men and supplies, being at Lac des Mille Lacs, and another, equally well provided, at Dog Lake. For my own part, since reaching this place, I have been occupied in sending the necessary supplies to the different points where they will be required, and having accomplished this, I am now about to set out for Lac des Mille Lacs.

In regard to the progress which has been made in the brief period that has elapsed since we left Red River, as explained in my last report, immediately on my return from the Saskatchewan I despatched two of my assistants with most of the men to commence the operations indicated in the instructions which I had just then received, while I remained for a few days to collect what supplies the settlement could afford.

The party so despatched made all haste to the Lake of the Woods, from whence, proceeding to Rainy River, they ascended that stream more slowly, making traverses back into the country at intervals of a few miles so as to ascertain the extent of arable land on the British side. They then examined the country at the mouth of the River Seine, the stream by which Lac des Mille Lacs discharges its waters into Rainy Lake, and thence went to Nequanon Lake, which, previous to their leaving Red River, I had appointed as the place of rendezvous, and there I joined them on the second day after their arrival.

At Nequanon Lake the route from the Kamini-taquin joins the route from the Grand Portage, and from this place I was my intention to have despatched a party at once to Lac des Mille Lacs. Finding, however, that we had made too great an inroad on the stock of provisions which we had been able to procure at Red River to render it quite safe to send them into such a wilderness, I hurried on to the Grand Portage, leaving a