

West Angle to Fort Garry by the end of June next, or before any boat may land at the lake.

Agreeable, also, to your instructions, certain necessary improvements have been made upon parts of Mr. Snow's road to the extent of an outlay of about two hundred pounds (£200); but yet in many places considerable work will have to be done.

The amount of work done by hired labour and contract under my superintendence is as follows:—

Twenty-eight (28) miles of good road have been opened and completed, and seven (7) miles now under construction, nearly completed, of this there is:—

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| Cross-laying completed and covered | 6,243 yards. |
| do not covered | 2,520 do |
| Ditching | 7,616 do |

I anticipate, in a month's time from now, all the fascining or cross-laying will be finished and ready for covering as soon as the season will permit in spring.

There is now a good winter road for teams through to the North-West Angle, and a large gang is now working westward from that point with a view to hurrying the completion of cross-laying before too great a depth of snow, which as yet is trifling.

In addition to the work enumerated as completed, the timber for the bridge at White Mouth River has all been got out and hewn to sizes. Three (3) piers, fifteen (15) feet high, have been constructed, and are nearly filled with stone. This bridge is on my own plan, not having received yours in time, but is almost exactly similar, the length is two hundred and fifty (250) feet and will require only one (1) abutment on the east bank; the iron-work is now being prepared, and the bridge will be entirely finished before the opening of navigation on that river.

The following buildings have also been constructed:—

At the North-West Angle.—One good dwelling-house, 24 feet square, 10 feet walls. One stone, of same size; and one stable, 25 × 22 feet.

At Birch River.—The same sized buildings and stable, and

At White Mouth River.—Also the same sized buildings and stable, all of which are shingled and well roofed and finished; each dwelling house is furnished with a cooking and box stove. Five (5) good shanties and two (2) stables have also been built at various points, each shanty capable of housing thirty (30) men comfortably, the whole buildings, sixteen (16) in number, have been completed at a cost of not more than five hundred and fifty pounds (£550), and will be found of ultimate value to the Government.

I have just returned from an exploring tour, accompanied by Mr. Lonsdale, along the coast of the Lake of the Woods for a considerable distance north and south of the present located landing, the object being to discover, if possible, a more suitable landing; and, I regret to say, have been unsuccessful, unless large expenditure is incurred, which at present I presume would be impolitic until some more definite arrangement is concluded between the respective Governments as to determining the exact position of the boundary line post at the north-west angle of the Lake. Some improvements may have to be made at the present landing in a low-water season, when its advantages as a safe harbor cannot be surpassed.

With regard to this landing, and judging from the position of the United States boundary line as laid down in your published map, I fear we have already encroached, or if not, border closely upon it, and as I presume nothing more can be learned of the exact position of the post until it is agreed upon and decided by an international commission. I would take the liberty of suggesting your bringing the question prominently before the notice of the Government, and in the mean time would be glad to have your opinion and advice upon the subject before much further expense may be necessary to incur at this landing.

Before concluding, and in connection with the interests of the road, I would take the liberty of suggesting to the Government (as I have already done to Lieutenant-Governor Archibald) that no delay should take place in making some temporary arrangement with