

No. 14.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Lieutenant-Colonel Estcourt.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, July 3, 1844.

HER Majesty's Government are apprehensive lest the Boundary operations on the part of the United States should have been suspended or obstructed, by the circumstance of no funds having been assigned by Congress for the use of their Commission, during the present season. Should that turn out to be the case, I have to desire that you will put yourself in immediate communication with the United States' Commissioner, either personally or by letter, as you may deem most expedient, and that you will propose to him that you and your officers and men should continue the survey and tracing of the Line from the north-west branch of the St. John forwards, as far as the 45th parallel of latitude; and, should there be time, along the old 45th parallel, as provided by Treaty, in the same manner as you have executed that part of the Line between Lake Pohenagamook and the north-west branch of the St. John's, and subject of course to the same control and supervision on the part of the United States.

You will further propose that, although in the first instance, you would be obliged to defray the expenses of these operations, those expenses should be eventually borne in just proportions by both countries, for which purpose you would submit your accounts to the United States' Commissioner, and, when approved, demand the repayment of one-half of the sum expended.

No. 15.

Lieutenant-Colonel Estcourt to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 30.)

(Extract.)

Height of Land, July 24, 1844.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch dated July 3, received this night.

The delay in making the appropriation necessary for continuing the operations of the American Commission, has retarded them up to this moment. But a party destined for the survey of the High Lands arrived here last week, and expect Mr. Smith daily. I hear too, that some of their stores have gone up the St. John. It is not probable, however, that Mr. Smith will find himself in possession of the means of completing the cutting of the Boundary Line throughout the High Lands this year. I shall, therefore, under the authority of your Lordship's instructions just received, propose to take part in that operation.

I am glad to find I have followed your Lordship's wishes, in continuing the survey, even though not yet joined by the American party. The officers of the British Commission have not ceased to push their operations forward, since they recommenced the first week in June. The latitude 46° 25' on the South-West Branch has been fixed by Lieutenant Pipon, and I have long since desired that the Line should be run between the North-West and South-West Branches, without waiting for the assent of the American Commissioner, feeling sure that, as the extremities of the Line are to be determined by astronomical observations, or by actual measurement on the ground, and that the Line is to be a straight line, no great error can well be committed. I have had no very recent communication from Lieutenant Pipon or Captain Robinson, but I have no doubt progress has been made in running that line.

In this quarter the survey has made as much progress as can have been expected. Captain Broughton has his camp about fifteen miles distant, in the direction of Hall's Stream, and Mr. Featherstonhaugh has his about the same distance in the direction of the Metjarmette Portage.