

Appendix
(T.)
6th August.

GRAI FALLS.						
	Cubic feet.	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Timber in Cribs, Piers, and Booms	67,489 @ 0	7½	2109	0	7½	
	Cubic yards.					
Filling do with stones	8,102 @ 3	6	1417	17	0	
	Cubic feet.					
Timber in Slide and Bulkhead	13,828 @ 0	10	576	3	4	
	Cubic yards.					
Rock excavation	801 @ 5	0	200	5	0	
	lbs.					
Bolts, nuts, &c.	1,406 @ 0	4½	26	7	3	
Chains	14,800 @ 0	4	246	13	4	
Three Anchors	@ £10		30	0	0	
			£4606	6	6½	

PUBLIC BOOMS AT OUTLET OF ST. MAURICE.

	Cubic feet.	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Timber in Booms	28,675 @ 0	9	1075	6	3	
	lbs.					
Chains for mooring	71,505 @ 0	4	1191	15	0	
Ten Anchors @ £12	10s.		125	0	0	
			£2392	1	3	
Grande Mere Falls, say			£2647	8	2	
Amounting to			£12971	4	11	

GRAND TOTAL.

Shawenegan Falls	£3325	8	11½
Grai Falls	4606	6	6½
Public Booms at outlet	2392	1	3
Grande Mere, say	2647	8	2
Superintendence and Contingencies, 5 per cent.	648	11	3
	£13619	16	2

I intended to recommend the construction of a Pier at the head of the Grai Slide of 1000 feet long, but Mr. Merrill is of opinion that timber can be got to the Slide by constructing a Pier of only 500 feet, and by substituting a Boom instead of a Pier for the other 500 feet. I have accordingly included in the estimate the cost of a pier 500 feet long. These improvements can only be effected during low water and if it be the intention to have them in use for next Spring, the timber should be got out immediately, and such portions of the work as can be done during summer or fall, be commenced as soon as possible to ensure its completion in time.

With reference to that part of your letter, "It will be obvious to you that an important part of your duty will be to get the most authentic and reliable information you can procure as to the nature of the tributaries of the St. Maurice, the facilities or otherwise, that they afford for the running of timber growing thereon, the prospect of lumbering being carried on extensively were the necessary works constructed, &c."

I inquired of those persons most likely to be in possession of the information you require, but I found few persons who had personal knowledge of the tributaries of the St. Maurice, the extent of area they traverse, the quantity or quality of the lumber to be found there, except those who have traversed these forests in search of Game, or who have been employed as voyageurs for the Hudson's Bay Company, from whom I have learned the tributaries to be, Little Shawenegan, Lac de la Pêche, Mattawin, Rat River, AuLait, and Vermillion, entering the main river on the right, and Bête Puyante, Batiscan,

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Wissoneau, Little Bostonais, Bostonais, Croche, Frenche, and Bonhomme Pierriche, entering the main river on the left. All these tributaries are said to be favourable for the descent of lumber, except the little Shawenegan, on which there are high and rough Falls; and the forest on each side to abound in lumber of the best description; the extent of territory through which they traverse, I have not been able to ascertain, but most of them have been ascended by a person with whom I had conversation, to a distance of thirty miles; and at that distance from their entrance into the main river they presented the same favourable appearance. Both sides of the main river are well timbered for a distance of fourteen leagues above the River Vermillion.

I have had an opportunity to examine a quantity of saw-logs from thirty to forty thousand, got out last winter by Messrs. Baptist and Gordon, these were got out principally on the main river and on the Little Shawenegan River; the whole of these logs were of very superior quality, free from knots, shakes or rots, and of large average size. I also examined a quantity (about 600 pieces) of Red Pine, which was got out by Mr. Grant, on the River Mattawin, which was of an excellent quality, but of small size, and I was informed by him that the longest distance he had to haul to the river, did not exceed seven arpents. Mr. Grant asserts that he has traversed the forests on both sides of the St. Maurice River, and that an abundance of White Pine can be had in every direction, but that the cost of getting it down the river, unless some improvements be made, will render its manufacture unprofitable, that if the Government would make the necessary improvements to induce a number of persons who would assist each other in driving the timber down the river, to embark in the business, he has no doubt all parties will be well remunerated.

Messrs. Gordon and Baptist, and Mr. Grant, are the only persons who have made lumber up the St. Maurice River this season, but others are now transporting provisions beyond the Vermillion River, for the purpose of getting out lumber the coming winter, and a number of persons who have been deeply engaged in that business in other parts, are ready to commence at once on this River, should the action of the Government be favourable as regards the contemplated improvements.

From all the information I have been able to obtain, I am of opinion that the territory traversed by the St. Maurice and its tributaries, is very imperfectly known beyond their immediate boundaries; the impediments to the descent of lumber to the St. Lawrence, are such as to have discouraged persons from entertaining the hope of prosecuting its manufacture with the prospect of success; and consequently, there was no inducement for persons to explore these forests with a view of ascertaining the quantity or quality of the lumber to be found there. Judging from its geographical position, lying as it does in the same latitude and between two points—the Saguenay and the tributaries of the Ottawa—which have proved to abound in lumber of the best description, leaves little reason to doubt the existence of lumber in the same abundance, and of as good quality in this, I may say, unexplored territory.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed,) J. F. McDONALD,
Civil Engineer.

T. A. BEGLY, Esquire,
Secretary Public Works,
Toronto.