

gate length of which was considerably over a third part of the total land carriage to be encountered, and he was now about entering on a large river, where the portages were short, and the route more open and frequented.

In order that this gallant officer's merit may be the better understood, it is but fair to explain, that when he set out from Shebandowan Lake, the most skilful of the voyageurs were still engaged with the boats in the channel of the Matawin. I had therefore to supply him with voyageurs, who, although strong and accustomed to roughing it in the woods, driving logs, and so forth, were, nevertheless, not considered equal to many of the others in the management of boats. But they were excellent axmen, and on them fell the work of opening the long abandoned portages between Lac des Mille Lacs and Sturgeon Lake, for the necessity of keeping so many men on the river, combined with the defection of the Indians, had prevented me from sending voyageurs very far in advance to improve the portages. I had, however, sent an additional number with Col. Fielden, over and above those required for his boats, to aid in this work, and on reaching Deux Rivières, I sent forward a crew of picked voyageurs to man the rapids on the Maligne, the next after Deux Rivières Portage, and at these rapids they remained until all the boats were run past.

Having made this arrangement, I again left Col. Fielden with the satisfaction of knowing that the Expedition was being virtually led by an officer fully equal to the task.

On 29th July, I was again at Shebandowan Lake, and there was now further work to be provided for, as will be seen from the following correspondence.

CAMP WARDS LANDING, 19th July, 1870.

SIR,—Referring to a conversation I had with you some days ago at the Matawin Camp, when I told you that upon trial the boats would not hold so much as I had been led to expect, I have the honor to inform you that I acted upon the suggestion you then made of sending an extra boat with each brigade. By doing so and by having only two voyageurs in each boat, I have been able to take 60 days rations for each brigade, with every one embarked in it.

I shall have 21 brigades as far as Fort Frances and 20 from there to Fort Garry; up to the former place, I shall therefore require 126 boats and from thence on, only 120.

As by this arrangement I shall make use of 252 voyageurs. I have to request you will kindly inform me whether you can send forward the supplies noted in the margin to Fort Frances, after the last detachment of troops have embarked at Shebandowan Lake, by means of the boats and voyageurs left behind, and if so, the date when I may depend upon having them at that post.

I have to add that the sooner they can be sent there the better, as it is important that I should have this reserve close behind me when I enter the Province of Manitoba.

I have the honor to be,

&c., &c., &c.,

(Signed,)

G. J. WOLSELEY,

Commanding Red River Field Force.

S. J. Dawson, Esq.,

&c., &c., &c.,

Supt. Public Works.

WARD'S LANDING NEAR SHEBANDOWAN LAKE,

20th July, 1871.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, and, in reply, beg leave to say that, with the boats and voyageurs to be left at my disposal, I can send forward the supplies you mention from this place to Fort Frances by the 15th day of September next.