

that the latter had no corporate funds at its disposal, the Ontario Government placed a sum of \$300 in the Supplementary Estimates submitted at the close of last Session, for the purpose of aiding the local Board of Health in stamping out the epidemic. This sum has been accepted and appropriated. The Board of Health passed a vote of thanks to and the inhabitants generally acknowledge the generosity evinced by the Government and Legislature of Ontario in making the grant.

The road allowance of \$400 for improving the streets of Rat Portage has not been appropriated for the reason that the requisite labour has not been, up to the present time, available.

With reference to the grant of \$6,000 for the construction of a road from Fort Frances to the Long Sault on Rainy River, I am advised that little has yet been done by way of survey, but Stipendiary Lyon has explored a portion of the route during the present winter. The road is much required by settlers and lumberers. Owing to the strong current in the river between the two points, the ice is seldom sufficiently strong to bear up teams—a serious matter particularly for lumberers who have to move their winter supplies after the ice has formed on the lake. Several teams have recently gone through, with the result that horses have been drowned and supplies damaged or destroyed. The opening of a road at an early date will, besides being an advantage to the lumberers and squatters, tend greatly to promote settlement in one of the most fertile and beautiful sections of country to be found in the whole of the great North-West.

In this connection it may be noted that application is to be made to the Parliament of Canada, and to the Legislatures of Ontario and Manitoba, for an Act to incorporate a Company for the purpose of acquiring, constructing and maintaining booms, dams, slides, piers and other works in the rivers, lakes, streams and creeks, and banks thereof, for the transmission of saw-logs and all kinds of timber down the course of the river flowing westward from Hunter's Island, through Rainy Lake, down the course of the Rainy River to the Lake of the Woods, and the streams, rivers and creeks flowing into the said rivers, Rainy Lake and Rainy River, in the Province of Ontario or Province of Manitoba or District of Keewatin, and for the further purpose of, in any other manner, improving the navigation of the said streams, rivers and lakes for the purposes aforesaid.

This company is composed of leading lumbermen operating in the disputed territory. A deputation waited upon the Attorney-General of Manitoba in September with a view to ascertaining whether such a charter would be approved by the Government of that Province, and received an affirmative answer.

The boundary dispute greatly retards the improvement and organization of the Rainy River region. Those who squat on agricultural lands are ignorant of the terms on which they may ultimately be allowed to retain possession; besides which, those who have made a clearing on the margin of the river and cut the timber thereon into cord-wood, have been compelled to pay dues to the Dominion Government at the rate of 25 cents per cord. Even the owners of the steamboats, who were located on lands by the Dominion agent previous to the dispute, who have made the required improvements thereon, and have held possession for a longer period than necessary under ordinary circumstances to entitle them to their patents, are compelled to pay dues on cord-wood. Persons who have been settled on the river bank for six and seven years,