

regard to the arrangements now being made for passenger and freight traffic by steamboat during the summer of 1883, on the Red River, the River Assiniboine, Lake Winnipeg and the River Saskatchewan may not prove uninteresting.

veyance of passengers and freight on rivers and lakes.

On the Red River two steamers will provide for one, two, or three trips per week each way, according to the business requirements, between Emerson and Winnipeg, a distance (by river) of about 100 miles, the round trip being performed in about 28 hours.

On Red River

On the River Assiniboine two steamers will provide for trips about once per week between Winnipeg, Brandon and Fort Ellice, a distance of (by river) about 450 miles, and, so long as water is high enough, Fort Pelly, a distance of (by river) about 700 miles, the round trip between Winnipeg and Fort Ellice being performed in from ten to fourteen days, and between Winnipeg and Fort Pelly in about three weeks.

On Lake Winnipeg a steamer is to make regular weekly trips, with passengers and freight, between Winnipeg and Grand Rapids, where the River Saskatchewan falls into the lake, a distance of about 350 miles, the round trip being performed in about five days.

On Lake Winnipeg.

Besides this steamer there will be employed on Lake Winnipeg eight freight steamers and seventeen barges, having an aggregate carrying capacity of 4,000 tons. Several barges will also be employed in the transport of lumber.

On the River Saskatchewan, five steamers, having an aggregate carrying capacity of 1,200 tons, will provide for a trip once per week each way between Grand Rapids and Edmonton, a distance of about 1,000 miles, the round trip being performed in about 20 days.

On River Saskatchewan.

In addition to the above, I am informed that a steamer is being built by the Hudson's Bay Company on the Athabasca, to run on that and Peace River, a navigation of over 1,000 miles.

On Athabaska and Peace Rivers.

Taken together, the distances over which steamers will run are as follows :

Total distance of navigation.

	Miles.
On Red River.....	100
River Assiniboine.....	700
Lake Winnipeg.....	350
River Saskatchewan.....	1,000
River Athabasca and Peace River.....	1,000

Being a total of..... 3,150

In addition to the means of communication which I have ondcavoured briefly to describe, it may be perhaps interesting to add that scattered over the immense area between Labrador in the east, Alaska and British Columbia in the west, the Arctic Seas in the north and the Provinces and Territories of the Dominion in the south are the Trading posts of the Hudson's Bay Company, to and from each of which there is a regular communication provided by the company, which according to the distance and situation is more or less frequent; the most distant point, however, receiving and despatching one or two mails every year. East of the Rocky Mountain Range I am informed that there are 130 of these posts. Some idea may be formed of the distance to be traversed when it is stated that the trip from the most northerly post on the Mackenzie River to Winnipeg occupies nearly the whole summer, or from four to five months.

Hudson's Bay trading posts.

Number of posts east of Rocky Mountains. Great distance traversed.