
APPENDIX C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF CANADA,
DOMINION LANDS OFFICE,

OTTAWA, 1st March, 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to you on the business of the branch under my charge during the year.

SURVEYS.

Although a very large portion of the Province of Manitoba has been, during the past season, subdivided into townships and sections; much more "1" & "2." would have been accomplished, but for the fact that the spring floods left many townships in a state which rendered it impossible to proceed with their survey till quite late in the season. The same cause interfered with the prosecution of several of the block surveys.

Notwithstanding this drawback,—to which may be added considerable difficulty in obtaining, in some parts of the country, the necessary facilities of transport, in consequence of the great demand on this head from the requirements of the survey, increased by the stimulus to business generally caused by immigration to the country,—it will be seen that 178 townships have been subdivided during the past season, opening to settlement an extent equal to 3,552,771 acres, not including the quarter sections along those of their block outlines which were posted last year.

The survey of the settled portions of the Province have progressed satisfactorily, although in their nature necessarily involving much time to effect.

It will be remembered that the settlements in the Province at the time of the transfer, were, with one or two exceptions, confined to the banks of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, where the people were found to occupy the land in lots, varying from one and a-half to twenty chains in width, and extending back an average depth of two miles.

The survey of these portions of the Province is now nearly closed, with the exception of marking the rear lines in some of the portions of the Red River above Fort Garry, in which district some interruption to the work was caused by the death of Mr. D'Auteuil, Deputy Surveyor, the gentleman to whom the same had been entrusted. The portions so left, however, will be finished as soon as the coming spring will permit of posts being driven.

In the meantime, the line of settlement on the river in the parishes in question has been accurately surveyed, and the projection of the rear lines has been laid down with sufficient accuracy to permit of the allotment of the adjoining Half Breed Townships.

The several isolated settlements of "Point des Chênes" or Parish of Ste. Anne, of Manitoba Lake, or "St. Laurent," and of "Oak Point," Manitoba, in all of which the lands are occupied with the same narrow fronts and two miles deep, have also been surveyed, and the working maps completed.

The condition of the settlement surveys generally, justifies me in expressing the hope that the Department will soon be able to issue the patents for this class of holdings.

The request of the Chief Commissioner of the Hudson Bay Company to have surveys of the blocks around the posts of the Company, reserved under the deed of surrender, effected by the Surveyor General of Dominion Lands, (the Company paying the expenses,) having been complied with, your instructions in relation thereto, have been