

In former times, the whole trade of the northern parts of the continent passed up by the Winnipeg. The French first used it as a highway; succeeding them came the great north-west company of Canada, who also followed it, and at a later date, when the Hudson Bay Company had its Head Quarters on the Albany, the route to the Saskatchewan was by way of LaSaul and the Winnipeg. Whatever may be said of other parts of the route, the Winnipeg was at least a well known and long travelled highway presenting remarkable facilities for boats.

As a case in point, I may draw attention to the fact, that at the very time the Expeditionary Force was passing, two frail, and poorly manned canoes, the one occupied by a very fat newspaper editor, and the other by a gentleman who had his wife with him, passed over all the rapids, portages and whirlpools of the Winnipeg without its occurring to their occupants that they were doing anything extraordinary.

THE BARRACKS AND BUILDINGS AT FORT GARRY.

Being quite inadequate to the accommodation of so large a number it became necessary to provide other buildings, a matter with the scarcity of material, arising from the disturbed state of affairs for some time previously existing in the Settlement rendered difficult.

The following correspondence will serve to explain the action taken.

(Copy.) FORT GARRY, August 31st, 1870.

Sir,—I have been instructed by the Lieut. General commanding in British North America, to make arrangements for housing the Two Battalions of militia in this Settlement.*

Mr. Donald Smith has placed all the buildings that can be spared by the Hudson Bay Company in the Upper and Lower Forts at my disposal for that purpose. Some alterations are required to fit them up as barracks, and a few small buildings have to be erected to serve as cook and wash-houses, &c.

The scarcity of labor, which was hitherto the chief difficulty in carrying out any work here will not be felt in providing these buildings as the services of all the officers and men of these two battalions are available, and from their ranks numerous skilled mechanics can be obtained.

As all the expenses incurred are to be defrayed by the Dominion Government, I conceive it to be very essential that an officer representing the Public Works Department of Canada, should carry out all the works required, or having arranged with the Hudson Bay Company for their execution, should exercise a supervision over them whilst in progress.

As you are an officer in high position in that department, I have therefore the honor to request your assistance, and that should your views coincide with mine upon this subject, you will have the goodness to act on the part of the Public Works Department, and appoint some efficient officer to take charge of fitting up the barracks required.

Enclosed is a rough outline of the various services required in both Forts.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your obedient servant

(Signed.) C. J. WOLSELEY, Colonel
Commanding Red River Expedition.

To S. J. Dawson, Esquire,
Public Works Department,
Fort Garry.

* 7 Captains, 14 Subalterns, 5 Staff Sergeants, 23 Sergeants, 7 Buglers, 315 Rank and File.
1 Commanding Officer, 1 Field Officer, 1 Chaplain, 4 Staff Officers.—[Regimental.] 2 Control Officers. In the Lower Fort there will not be any Control Officers.

FORT GARRY 5th September, 1870.

Sir,—In continuation to you of my letter of the 31st ultimo, I have now the honor to forward you rough specifications of the work required at both forts to fit them for the occupation of the troops.

Of course as the work progresses, many details not given in these papers, will have to be attended to. These will be pointed out by the Lieut. Colonels commanding the two battalions, to whatever officer you place in charge of the work.

I should feel much obliged if you could give me a statement as to what may be the prospect of getting these services carried out before the severe weather sets in, before say the 1st of November or thereabouts.

It is perhaps superfluous to inform you that the housing of the Militia here is of a public importance that should take precedence of every other public work.

The Lieut. Governor authorizes me to add that he concurs in this opinion.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed.) C. J. WOLSELEY, Colonel
Commanding R. R. Expeditionary Force.
S. J. Dawson, Esq.,
Public Works Department,
Fort Garry.

(Copy.) WINNIPEG, Red River Settlement,
5th September, 1870.

Sir,—In reference to your letters of the 31st ultimo and 5th instant, I beg to say that all that is possible to be done will be done towards carrying out the work you mention.

I have already ordered the purchase of all the lumber to be procured in the settlement, and have entered into communication with the manager of a small saw-mill at Pembina, in the hope of obtaining an additional supply.

Other necessary material, such as nails, glass &c., have been ordered from St. Cloud and the Carpenters now on the line of route between Fort Frances and Lake Superior have been sent for.

The difficulty of finding skilled labor and the scarcity of material in this remote action must occasion delay, but I trust nevertheless, to have the work well on before the severe weather sets in.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) S. J. Dawson.
Colonel Wolseley,
Commanding R. R. Expeditionary Force,
Fort Garry.

The Carpenters who had proved themselves so useful at putting up store houses and stables along the route between Thunder Bay and Shebandowan Lake soon arrived in the settlement and set actively to work. By the 5th day of October the troops were all in shelter, and before the severe weather set in, the recreation rooms, specified by Col. Wolseley were in readiness, besides various other buildings.

The boats as will be seen from the following correspondence, were turned over to me and I had them put in safety for the winter. Sixty-five boats most of them in fair order, remained at Fort Garry:

(Copy.) FORT GARRY, 7th September, 1870.

Sir,—I have the honor, by the direction of the Colonel Commanding, to request you will be good enough to inform him whether you are prepared at once to take over the boats and equipments no longer required for the purposes of the Expedition and now

lying at the Lower Fort and in the Assiniboine River here.

Should you wish to leave them in the vicinity of the troops, Colonel Wolseley will order that the necessary guards be placed over them for their protection, and would request in that case that you would allow the officers commanding the regiments, the use of such boats as they may wish for recreation of the officers and men.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) W. B. Irvine,
Assistant Controller.

S. J. Dawson, Esq.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Fort Garry.

(Copy.) WINNIPEG, Red River Settlement,
7th September, 1870.

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date and, in reply thereto, beg to leave to say that I shall within a few days be prepared to take over the boats and boat equipment no longer required for the purposes of the Expedition and now lying at the Lower Fort and Assiniboine River.

The boats will be hauled up in the vicinity of the force and put in safety from floods and weather, and when thus secured, it would certainly be advisable that they should be placed in charge of the troops.

The officers commanding regiments, can of course, have the use of such boats as they wish for the recreation of officers and men.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant

(Signed,) S. J. Dawson.
Col. Irvine,
Assistant Controller &c.,
Fort Garry.
(To be continued.)

"THE GREATNESS.—One element in human greatness consists in the conquest of self. Solomon says that he who achieves this conquest is greater than he who takes a city. To conquer the disposition which leads a man to live only for his own gratification; to be enabled, against the habits of years of selfishness, to flow out to all within his reach in efforts of well doing successfully to resolve to make common cause with the great wants of society, and to feel in himself an ever sensitive sympathy with the pains of all human suffering—above all, to require the willingness to sacrifice, spend time, money, labor, thought for his fellow beings; and to do this lovingly, ungrudgingly unwearily, until there blooms on every side of him a pleasing scene of rewarded benevolence—this is an achievement of the principle of greatness mightier than any which is won upon the bloody fields of war.

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