

and yet neither are ready. I have ordered Capt. Buller to halt on the first portage until I can send him both voyageurs and guides. Please send me word what I am to do. The carts are all here also, waiting for your men to take them on to the portages.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed,) G. J. WOLSELEY.

S. J. Dawson, Esq.

I had been barely two days absent, and here matters were already in a mess. I at once furnished the brigade with a guide, from the crew I had with me and soon afterwards met the voyageurs in a boat hurrying after them, so that they had not to "halt on the first portage;" the men excused themselves by saying that as it was a Sunday evening, they did not know they were to be called on. I, however, took measures to prevent any ground arising for such complaints in the future.

At this time, the voyageurs were by hundreds within easy reach of Shebandowan Lake, engaged in dragging boats to the Oskondagé, or in scows carrying stores from Ward's to McNiell's Landing, and had only to get warning to be in readiness at a moment's notice. But I had extreme difficulty in getting guides, the Indians, as already shewn, having had enough of it in the rapids of the Kaministaquia. There could, however, be no difficulty in reaching the Height of Land Portage, with the aid of a map, and at the latter place, I had met some Indians who engaged to pilot the brigades in Lac des Mille Lacs, and soon afterwards a few of the Fort William Indians rejoined us. But, even among the Indians, there were few really well acquainted with the route. It had been long abandoned as a line of traffic, so that with the exception of such as had gone on voyages to Port Frances—and the number was limited—it was known only to a few wandering families of hunters, and fortunately these came to our aid when most wanted.

On returning to the camp at Shebandowan Lake, I found Col. McNeill, V.C., most actively occupied in organizing the Force, arranging stores and sending off the boats. I had stationed at this place Mr. Graham, who displayed great energy in arranging the boat outfit, getting the boats repaired, and organizing and telling off the voyageurs for the different Brigades.

Rapid progress was now being made, Col. Fielden, in advance, was leading the way to the interior, and Col. McNeill, who evinced a most extraordinary faculty for eliminating order out of chaos, was sending off brigades as fast as stores and outfit arrived from Ward's Landing.

At this time waggons were coming through from Thunder Bay to Ward's Landing. The voyageurs were mostly on the river between Young's Landing and the Oskondagé, but were bringing the boats rapidly forward, and a few additional Indians came up from the Mission to act as guides.

Matters being in this favorable position, I again went forward with a light canoe, and overtook Col. Fielden on the evening of the 26th July, at the Deux Rivières Portage; most of his stores and boats were already over, and in eight days more he would be at Fort Frances. He had crossed the following portages:

	Miles.	Chains.
Kashaboiwe.....		60
Height of Land.....	1	
Barril Portage.....		16
Brulé Portage.....		20
French Portage.....		25
Pine Portage.....		30
Deux Rivières, nearly crossed.....		32
	2	43

Col. Fielden, with the advance, was now fairly over the most difficult section of the route. In nine days he had made a hundred miles, and crossed seven portages, the aggre-