

and charge in all their plans and disbursements in matters connected with immigration. I further took the opportunity of reminding the Dominion Government that the great Dawson route is still incomplete, and must ever be so till bridges are constructed across the Red River and the Assiniboine at Fort Garry, both of which are required to complete the road, and make it what it was and is intended to be, a complete road from Thunder Bay to Fort Garry. Up to the present time, the Province of Manitoba has been obliged to furnish ferries across those rivers for passengers by the Dawson route. It is satisfactory to be able to report to your Excellency, that the Government at Ottawa will, I have no doubt, if this matter of bridges is properly represented, build them without delay, and after all it is but a small matter in comparison with what has and is being done for other Provinces, such as the Intercolonial Railway, the Pacific Railway, and the great scheme of a system of canals for Ontario and Quebec.

In accordance with the Minute of Council, I made myself as well acquainted as possible in the short time I had at my disposal, with the requirements at the different ports of entry; such as Duluth, Sault Ste. Marie, Detroit, and other places where people coming to our Province by the American routes have to enter and pass their goods and stock. I found the same difficulties existing at all those places. Immigrants coming here are in the first place put to a great deal of inconvenience about the Custom House requirements. The great majority of them being farmers and mechanics know absolutely nothing about the mode of passing, entering, or bonding goods, and they are thus left at the mercy of those land sharks that are always searching around to prey upon the immigrant; and, again, our immigrants from Canada, the United States, and Europe, are, the moment they come to those places, surrounded by agents of American railway companies, who have large tracts of land to sell, and all kinds of inducements (most of them existing in agents' imagination only) are held out to induce them to stop short of our Province and settle down on the lands of those companies, in the neighboring States and Territories. By this means alone I have good reason to believe Manitoba lost, last summer, at least 250 families of immigrants. I would therefore recommend the immediate appointment of agents at Sault Ste. Marie, Detroit, Duluth, St. Paul, and Pembina, whose duty it would be to attend to the forwarding of our immigrants without delay, to look after them and their goods, and to see that they are not imposed on by land sharks, or by unscrupulous runners for land-speculating railway companies, and that the necessary entries at the Custom Houses at those points are properly and promptly made. I had the honor of urging these appointments at Ottawa, and your Excellency will see by the 3rd clause of the Protocol agreed upon by the Convention (Ap. III.), that the suggestion was not lost sight of. I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without recording my deep obligations to J. W. Taylor, Esquire, United States Consul at Winnipeg, for his very great kindness in furnishing me with all the information in his power, and also for the very valuable suggestion conveyed in his letter to me of the 29th August (Ap. IV.), a suggestion that I strongly recommend to your Excellency for immediate action.

In conclusion, I beg leave to assure your Excellency that next summer there will be no need of people coming to our Province by way of the United States; and, in fact, it will cost them much less, in time and money, if they will only be induced to come by the "Dawson Route," which will be in first-rate order throughout by the 1st of June next. Two very fine large steamers