

The line was working well judging from the sharp clicks in the relay. For an hour he proceeded away (24)
to call for Du'Appelle and disgusted I had to abandon further work.

Saturday 7
fine

Busy during day at my principal observations of June. In evening Mr. A. Taylor was down to adjust relays for working with Du'Appelle and I was in hopes that a successful night would follow but was again disappointed altho' I got the first set of observations, but it was the telegraphic connection that failed, my operator as he says could not break Du'Appelle. — — — If I will do much more latitude work I'll learn to operate myself & thus avoid having a superfluous man, who as a rule only know the letters - can read and write - but about the instruments knows next to nothing.

Sunday 8
fine

Busy at computations. — What has struck me during the past week at midnight is the bright sky - twilight in the north, and always more east of north than west at or a little before local midnight. — In '84 I was as far north in July but it never struck me so as now. — — — Last year there was much want or starvation amongst the halfbreeds in this vicinity. They had invested their all in freighting outfits and killed little or no land. Unfortunately there was little freighting to be done and hence winter found them without means & unprovided. — The Government in consequence issued rations to them 1 1/2 lbs bacon & 5 lbs flour per head per week. Mr. Casey Inspector D.V.M.P. who issued the rations told me that by Thursday evening everything would be eaten & two days of starvation would follow. The halfbreeds like the Indian has little idea of economy — eat as long as it lasts.

In the afternoon the steamer Northwest arrived from Winnipeg or rather from Grand Rapids where she took the cargo of the Princess from Winnipeg. The steamer belongs to the Hudson

July

Bay Co. and makes one trip a year as far as Edmonton laden with H.B.C. goods for the posts in the far north. From here the goods are carried to Athabasca Landing on the Athabasca where they are then within the water system of the vast Mackenzie River basin, and the transport excepting at passages is by steamer and canoe. — For return cargo the Northwest took furs. Nearly all the furs from the various northern posts are brought to Edmonton for shipment east. Each post puts up its furs in bales of about 200 lbs., the bales are well corded but not covered and have several slats under the rope, on these slats is branded the number of the post, the district and the year. — Magquidwa after magquidwa I saw hauled down to the steamer today. Next year I suppose I could find them either at London or Leipzig — the two great fur markets.

Observed tonight and got the first successful longitude result for Edmonton. — Winnipeg had great difficulty in getting my clock beats.

Monday 9
fine

Busy computing. In the afternoon Mr. Gordon called for me with his conveyance to join in the reception of Hon. R. Hardisty Chief Factor H.B.C. here. He has been absent for 11 months & during that time attended his first session in the Senate and hence the reception. The day was fine and beside the town people the halfbreeds & others from the vicinity had turned out in holiday attire to welcome "Don Juan" home. All gathered on the high banks of the river at the Fort and gazed on the opposite shore for the coming of the bear of the hour. When he emerged from the road thro' the woods and stepped into the ferry — the two brass cannon, which in their day were to awe the Indians, were fired alternately half a dozen times while the ferry crossed the river. Beside the postmaster with four in hand drove Mr. H. beside whom was seated "Timber Tom" (Thos. Anderson — Ottawa timber agent), when the summit of the hill was reached the crowd gave "three cheers" but without stopping the ferry — in hand