

slowly moved from shore I standing at the bow of the Ark while Charles was aft in charge of the scow, my assistant at one of the sides. - The Ark was not a Clyde built steamer but a rectangular craft 7' 10" and 2' deep, stem & bow identical & each provided with a scow ~~was built~~ besides having an awl at each side. - It drew about 10 inches of water and carried probably 3500 lbs, as tho its capacity was considerably more. It was built of nice spruce lumber not planed, there were three longitudinal ribs of 2" x 4" scantling supporting the flooring, the gunwale was 2" x 4" also. - The locomotion of the scow was the current of the Saskatchewan it was too unwieldy to propel it by rowing, save to pull from ^{or to} shore or to pull away from some stone in the river. - After rounding the point below the fort we pass the town proper as also the coal mine, a drift run under the town. Deposits of lignite are seen at numerous places along the face of the high cut banks. The mining is on a very limited extent, there being little demand therefor for want of people to burn it, besides wood is abundant. - The water in the river being high now and muddy in consequence there is a good current. The river is about 100 ft wide, has high clay banks with no outcrop of any rock formation. As we proceed the banks decrease somewhat in height, and occasional patches of open ground or prairie are seen. When night overtook us we had drifted about 15 miles, - and camped for the night. -

February 28
cool
cloudy
little rain

By 6 a.m. we were off again and had things re-arranged in a more convenient manner, this can never be done at the first go off. I found that we could easily do our cooking on board & thereby save a great deal of time. The sun being totally obscured we knew not whether we were drifting save down stream and from one bank to another. The scenery is monotonous to a degree, conversation flags & much credit & drift. Charles, who is somewhat of a character, broke the ^{silence} ~~monotony~~ by saying "we got lots of time to think." He has been in the country 30 years, has been for the greater part of the time in the H.B.C. service, "tripping" to York Factory, across the mountains &c, besides having been servant & cook for various factors. - At 8 a.m. Fort Saskatchewan is passed. Here are