

Tuesday 4.
cool
cloudy
windy

After enquiry from Clarke's Crossing whether he had a battery for the Prince Albert branch line that he could put on at night to strengthen the main line we learned that he had none, that is for the branch line, and also that the 20 cells which he has for the main line & which I supposed were on, have it been on for a month though some notion of his. His excuse was that the line acted strangely one day so he thought he'd take off his battery to improve & let it off. — A line of 600 miles with 202 cells at most & then to take off 20 cells to improve it, was ever a more insane act done. And where is the Superintendent and his usefulness to allow such a state of affairs. — Clarke's Crossing promised to fix up his battery & have it on for use by tonight.

The night was cloudy hazy & very windy & I only got my first set of transits & there passed. — Tonight the line works well & we mutually get exchange of signals. A great deal of the success of working was undoubtedly due to the fact that I had 20 more cells on (at Clarke's Crossing).

Wednesday 5
cloudy

Busy computing — The sky was totally cloudy so that I could not observe but we got exchange of signals. —

Thursday 6
pleasant
cloudy

Busy computing — In evening we got the regular fortnightly mail and all was well. — Observed at night & got exchange of signals.

Friday 7
fine
night 32° F.

Drove with Mr. G. G. Mann to Ft. Pitt this afternoon to attend to various errands. After arriving there I soon found that Ft. Pitt was in a semi-demoralized state. The mail conveyance had brought in a "permit" yesterday for McDonald the operator. Super McKay H.B.C. had gone off duck shooting to drive off some of the fusel oil, R. J. Hart H.B.C. was sleeping in a lounge — the stove being locked, old Dufresne was about but under the influence & McDonald altho' up was the worst of all.

September

That man is ~~sometimes~~ weak and will give way to passion we know but in this Northwest where quasi prohibition is in force that weakness is more the rule than the exception. Whenever a "penit" (2 galls. whiskey or brandy) arrives for anyone, the fact is immediately known, friends spontaneously arise - the keg is opened and the luxury or fluid damnation as the total abstemious choose to call it is abused. This would not occur were there no restriction but I will admit that more liquor would be consumed, it would be a steady consumption instead of by fits & starts -

- We remained with the McKay after he returned to his & then drove home. McK. is in rather a good humor of mind at present having yesterday received a telegram that his proposal to Miss Forbes' daughter of Cliff Factor Forbes' whom I met at York Factory has been accepted. Upon my remark to McK. that I thought that I had seen her "Isn't she rather tall" - "Yes she's quite a chunk of a girl" he replied. - I am afraid she would resent any such remark especially by her would be spouse.

— On the way to St. Bill I called at the Catholic Indian School. There were about 22 children mostly boys in a log hut seats or benches. There was one table in the room at which 4 or 5 boys were writing with ink. They had the first two of the Detroit series of copybooks & were making strokes & letters. The children had the first primer, one boy could read a little & did so for me out of a catholic reader. When I asked the teacher a French Canadian whether the boy understood what he read he said - no. - It is teaching under difficulties. The teacher knows a bit of Cree & the children of course no English. —

— While at Bill I got a message from King that the Survey General wanted us to determine Prince Albert also. This was the original intention but as the season is so far advanced & not through here yet I concluded some days ago that it would be too late to do it as we had to observe for personal equation yet to make the work that we have done valuable, besides the observations I want to take

in Winnipeg for sake of my chronometer which is very valuable fluctuating much with the temperature. In Winnipeg I can compare it daily & hourly with the clock which I put into the hands of the Clergymen to keep it at any even temperature. - That it is most desirable to put in Prince Albert this year I know & am only too anxious to do it, but in astronomic work where it is the "bread and butter" that we need to determine it is most unwise to sacrifice quality for quantity. We can not observe for personal equation when our body is chilled and hands cold, besides my chronometer will go to the "devil" in rate then. A fort can have a survey made but no fort can have good astronomic work done at an unpropitious time. - King wholly agrees in my views and wired me so. -

Saturday 8
fine

Busy Computing. In the afternoon I had a visit from Pée Dauphin who is in charge of the R.C. mission here. In the evening I had a visit from Rev. J. Taylor & Mr. Angus McKay H.B.Co. I took them into the observatory & showed them my instruments also transits of several stars. - The night was unpropitious for work, in my first set of stars I missed one thru clouds, then came the exchange of signals with Winnipeg which were very good, but the second set of stars I failed getting, the sky being completely overcast.

Sunday 9
little rain
cool
cloudy

Mr. Deccara & I took dinner at Mr. G. H. Dennis's, where were also Mr. Chickskill of Bellefleur, Rev. Taylor & Mr. A. McKay H.B.Co. of Fort Pitt. - Yesterday the Indians assembled at the agency for a pow-wow, but Mr. Deccara sent for Sergeant Hall N.W.M.P. who paraded with revolver buckled to his belt up & down before them, when they dispersed. It is forbidden for the Indians to gather at the agency for any pow-wow, and the Indians know it. - One must be firm with the Indians & they must know that Law is ever supreme. -

- Observed and got my first set but when the time for exchange of signals came I found that the line was grounded