

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
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Safford Man.
April 28. 74

My Dear Anna

I have written at some length to William & so must content myself with merely a short note to you. I think I have already told all the news. I have Duckworth hard at work again shooting & skinning birds & hope to get a good collection together. Spearman my old servant has left the Commission & I have another man called

Nilsson. I think he will do
very well but may be better able
to tell after a time.

I had a letter from Russel yesterday.
He has been surveying in the
Lake of the Woods region, & writes
that he has made a collection
of rocks &c, & wishes to know
when I am coming up to
Sarry. I had no intention of
doing so at all but may change
my mind when the boats are
running regularly, especially
as the part of the country he has
been working in is one I
want information on badly for

my map.

Life here would be sufficiently uninter-
esting if one were idle but - I have
still a day or two's work at my
reports & maps, & then have other
things on the tapis. Breakfast is
generally about 9 oc. Then those
who have anything to do go off & do
it - those who have nothing set
round the stove in the upper hall,
(our drawing-room) & Smoke. Lunch
about 1 or 2 as the case may be.
About 4. Go for a walk, or to shoot,
or to look at the river or any other
excitement. Dinner generally about
7 P.M. Then adjourn to the drawing room
again & Cards & Chess, & talk
& reading & Whisk toddy & Smoking

occupy the remainder of the evening.

In spite of the Commissioner's most strenuous efforts we have got our outfit allowance. It amounts properly to \$500 but he has managed it so that we have to pay for horse tent & saddle out of it so that some is absorbed. We have also the pleasure under a recent decision of somebody of paying income tax out of the half of our salaries supposed to be derived from England. However it amounts to a bagatelle. A lot of furs were got from the Indians at Tazth but last winter } Hill who was trading there for the Commission.

They consist chiefly of muskrat,
but there are a good many mink
& some ledger, bear, deer, wolf
fox etc. Several of us went over to
the store & picked out a few
the other day. Herchner (commissioner)
valued the mink at about \$2.50
per skin, but the commissioner
a day or two afterwards became
dissatisfied & gave out that they
were to be charged \$3.75 all round
which is the Montreal market
price for the best quality of prime
skins. Accordingly we returned
them all to store, & I only hope
he may get that much for
them somewhere else. I have

Got a first-rate Skin Shirt
& am getting a pair of trousers
made to match. On looking over
my clothes I find I have now
accumulated such a heap
that it would nearly take
a special wagon to carry
them all out on the line.

Hope to hear soon & favourably
of your health & hair.

Your loving brother

George