

Please excuse the  
 bad writing of this  
 note but between  
 frequent interruptions  
 from killing of the  
 mosquitoes & the  
 bad health of my pen  
 I can do no better.  
 I left instructions at the  
 angle to forward supplies to  
 you to Humphy Hall at the  
 mouth of Rainy River  
 when I hope to have news  
 to start the N.W. angle  
 to the N.W. angle.

Serge  
 Chipp

MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
 ARCHIVES  
 ACC. NO. 909C/4  
 REF. 10

Dear Paper

I am at present Camped here with  
 Mr East one of the surveyors on the  
 boundary commission. The place, the second  
 point S of the N.W. Angle, a point not yet  
 honoured with a name though various have been  
 proposed. East left the N.W. Angle the day after  
 me with a large boat & several canoes to  
 establish a camp at this place & run a  
 due west line to cut the meridional part of  
 the boundary line. He caught up to my party  
 & we camped at the same place, I only intending  
 to stay one morning. As it turned out however  
 all yesterday & the day before a strong S.E. wind  
 with occasional thunder storms continued, &  
 raised such a sea that it was impossible  
 to venture on the lake in canoes, so I have  
 been obliged to stay here & put off quite a  
 bit of time. It is fine & calm today & as

we have had two whole perfect Sundays  
I think we will get off this afternoon & try  
to make as far as Driftwood point.  
Here one of Dr Byrby's limestone exposures  
is marked & I must try to find it. So far  
all the rocks have been Laurentian Granite  
& gneiss, all glaciated, but nothing of  
particular interest about them.

A Mr Harris with two assistants who is  
making a survey of timber in this region  
got in here this morning. He is going  
across the muskeg portage & down the  
Roxean R. to Superior which he hopes to  
reach in about ten days. I am entrusting  
this letter to him & hope you may receive  
it safely.

This part of the lake seems to consist  
principally of Rock & Swamp. The lake  
itself very shallow, between the rocky  
points rushes & water plants grow far  
out into the bays.

I had a good deal of trouble making  
all arrangements previous to getting away



from the N.W. angle, to procure proper  
canoes provisions & men. The Indians  
also gave a good deal of trouble & it  
was long before I could secure <sup>two</sup> proper men  
for sturmen. They are at present through  
their chiefs concluding a treaty at St. Francis  
& wanted to know my business in the  
Southern part of the lake. They seemed to  
know ~~from~~ <sup>in</sup> some way that I was not  
exactly one of the surveyors & as they have  
an idea that their land contains great  
mineral wealth, they looked with suspicion on  
my movements. I had several talks with  
them with the assistance of the H.B. agent  
here, through whom I got canoe <sup>& some</sup> supplies, & at  
length when they found they could <sup>not</sup> get any  
pork or flour or anything else out of me  
they proposed to be satisfied.

I then got a half-breed & an indian for  
sturmen without trouble. Some indians  
who were willing to go had been previously  
frightened by the threats of the others from accompanying

We had now all were anxious to come  
& I think I have got a very good man.

The Indians here are for the most part not  
Christianized even in name & very few of them  
speak anything but their own language so that  
it is rather hard to get suited in the way of  
guides or

Their great amusement seems to be gambling  
for clothes &c. They sit round on their benches  
& while one keeps up a perpetual drumming  
the rest chant in chorus. The game simply  
consists in changing a button from one hand  
to the other & guessing where it is. When near  
an Indian camp one hears their drumming  
going on nearly all night, or at least till  
past midnight.

I saw no exposures of rock on the road from  
Garry to N.W. Angle ~~save~~ till about 30 miles from  
the Lake Grants begin to appear here & there.  
I fear there is little chance of getting Silurian  
exposures between here & Red R.

With love to all & hoping you are enjoying yourself  
at R de Soup I remain your affectionate son  
George W. Dawson