

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 909B/13
REF. 46




Pembina

March. 30th 43

Dear Dawson.

As you want to know
about what Kit will be best I will
tell you what I know about it - as
far as I am able - This is a pretty
civilized country so your dress
should be adapted for comfort and
not for show - in fact you will have
a good opportunity of wearing out
any old clothes you may be the
happy possessor of and the older the



Better - there are no ladies here except
two and everyone goes about as they
like - as regards winter clothing
they make skin suits here and I
wouldn't purchase any furs until
you arrive -

The country where you will
be this season is very marshy so
waterproof longboots might certainly
be a portion of your kit and
everyone here tells wonderful stories
of the power of Mosquitos to make
themselves disagreeable to Mosquito

Nothing for your bed and also
for your face will be necessary -
you had better buy your mocapens
in Canada - get them of moose skin
they use buffalo skin here - but the
former will wear out two of the latter.
You can bring as much baggage as
you wish to Pembina where we have
comfortable winter quarters which we
shall occupy next winter and where
you can leave what you don't
want to take in the field with
you - I should also bring bedding

brassers as you can get nothing
here in that line - we have a
tailor who can do repairs but he
is not much in the cutting out line -
Colonel Forrester, one of our Surveyors
is now in Ottawa, and he knows the
country which you will have to work
in, so if you want any information I
would write and ask him for it -
Hoping to see you here soon.

I remain

Yr. truly

A. A. Ford.

You will want a gun for your naturalist
work, and you cannot get the fine shot
here that I believe naturalists require to use.