

## From the Upper Country.

### LETTER FROM SAINT CLOUD.

THE GREAT TRAIN FOR FORT ABERCROMBIE — CROPS — STATE OF THE RIVERS — NEW COURT HOUSE, &c.

To the Editor of the Pioneer:

Sr. Cloud, June 1, 1863.

The "Great Train," which has been gathering at Sauk Centre during the past week, left that post on Saturday morning last for Fort Abercrombie. This train consists of one hundred and sixty-three wagons, drawn by two and four horses, and nearly seventy wagons drawn by oxen. During the past ten or twelve days all the force which the enterprising resident partner of the house J. C. & H. C. Burbank & Co. in this city could put upon the business of loading and starting teams from the several warehouses of that firm on both sides of the river here, has been actively engaged in starting and equipping these train teams. The average amount of freight put upon each wagon is 2,050 pounds. This immense amount of property consists of army stores, and merchandise, the latter belonging to the Hudson Bay Company and to traders in the Hudson Bay settlement.

From Sauk Centre the train will have as an escort a detachment consisting of forty two men from Capt. Henderson's company First M. M. Rangers, under command of First Lieut. Larned, and a full company of infantry, Capt. Pettit, Eighth M. V. At Alexandria the escort will be increased by Capt. S. H. Barrett's company Ninth M. V., who have been ordered down from Abercrombie for that purpose. The teamsters are all armed, and there is in the train an abundant supply of ammunition.

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Capt. Barrett's company have also one of the howitzers (not one of the four condemned articles) from the Fort, with men well trained in the handling of these pet army tools sufficient to man it, and a good supply of ammunition, so that, although the vast amount of plunder which goes up with this train may tempt the red skins to an attack, yet the force is sufficient to deter them, and no fears need be entertained as to its safe arrival at Abercrombie. The train is under command of that excellent and faithful officer Capt. T. D. Smith, A. Q. M., and the escort under command of Capt. T. H. Barrett.

Large shipments of Indian goods are now being made to the Chippewa Agency from this point.

We had a very refreshing rain on the 23d and 24th ult., but of an amount insufficient to affect the river. Though I learn that some of the upper tributaries, the Platte and Noka-sippi, were filled so as to enable lumbermen to get out their drives on these streams.

Crops never looked better, and the farmers are anticipating large yields of all kinds of grain. The wheat crop will be at least two weeks earlier this season than last.

Grass is abundant, and cattle are in much better condition than at this time last season.

The corner stone of our new court house was laid with appropriate ceremonies on Thursday last, and the building will be pushed on rapidly to completion. The contractors Messrs. Tenvoorde, Broker, & Tobey, are men of enterprise and wealth, and they express their determination to give us as soon as possible, a building which will be a credit to the county, an ornament to the town, and will compare favorably with any in the State.

Labor of all kinds is in great demand, and the supply entirely inadequate. Ordinary farm labor commands \$1.50 per day. O.

Note Alexandria Mentioned