

the whole State are numbered. It strikes the shore of Lake Superior, fifteen chains west of the mouth of the Montreal River. The north part of it was run in 1847, with Burt's Solar Compass, "double chained and very distinctly marked" by Mr. Henry A. Wiltse, a very competent and faithful officer. The greatest difficulties were encountered in running this line; the men were "packed" with the utmost limit of their strength, and yet each member of the party was restricted to the clothes upon his back, and a single blanket, that they might be able to carry the greatest amount of provision, which was made to consist of pork and flour alone. Such was the character of the country, that the usual weight could not be carried on packs through it. During four successive weeks there was not a dry garment in the party, day or night. The work was done in the long hot days of June and July.

"Consider a situation like the above," says the hardy surveyor, "connected with the dreadful swamps through which we waded, and the great extent of windfalls [trees prostrated by the wind] over which we clambered; the deep and rapid creeks and rivers that we crossed, all at their highest stage of water; that we were constantly surrounded, and as constantly excoriated by swarms, or rather clouds of mosquitoes, and other still more troublesome insects; and, consider further, that we were all the while confined to a line, and, consequently, had no choice of ground; that we were forced to follow that line wherever and through whatever it chanced to carry us, and you can form some idea of our peculiar, if not suffering, situation."

Much time was lost in consequence of the nature of the compass, which can only be used when the sun shines; many days were spent in waiting and watching for a ray of sunshine. Long before the party reached Lake Superior, their provisions became exhausted; "worn out by fatigue and hardship, and nearly destitute of clothes, they had now to make a forced march of three days for the lake, in search of provisions, of which, during that three days, they had not a mouthful."