REEL No. I.M. 779

(SERIES I.)

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Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2nd MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 105

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 10

DESCRIPTION LAC LA PLUIE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1834-1835

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HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
B 105 e

LAC-LA-PLUIE

REPORT 1834-35

10
1834-35

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B 105/e/10
1834/35

Lac la Pluie ex 124/554

Report of Lac la Pluie District 1 June 1835

I arrived at Fort Frances on the 13th September 1834 with three Boats. The Goods were landed in good order. I again found the water excessively high from Lake Ouinipique to Lake la Pluie and was so throughout the route to Fort William. The Consequence was, a Compleat failure of rice throughout the Country which was the third Summer in Succession a Circumstance that rarely happens. Mr Sinclair's Management of the Company's business during Summer, as usual met with my unqualified approbation.

The Farm did not yield much in Consequence of heavy rains towards the End of May - and the most part of the Month of June. Barley did not produce more than half the Seed Sown which was eight Bushels. Potatoes not more than three for one. the produce of Wheat was Ninety Bushels. Nearly five for one.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

The Rice having failed also a part of our grain I did not deem it prudent to send People to winter at Bois Blanc. It would have risking the Lives of the Men too much who must have been exposed to inevitable Starvation as that Lake does not abound in fish, and is altogether destitude of other resources for food. We therefore sent word to the Indians of that Post to come to Fort Frances for their Supplies - which they did after my departure for Bas de la Riviere

I Sent Gebeston (Interpreter) to White Fish Lake with an Outfit same as proceeding year.

I was much grieved last fall to find, that the Hooping had seized all the Indians - Many of them had beside, the Common Cold by which they were extremely distressed. The Season was late, the weather disagreeable, and frequently nothing to eat. Several adults besides children died - Seven Men eight women - the latter - young married women, and fourteen children. To this deathly list I have to add one of the Company's Servants who died on the 13th April of Inflamation

of

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Inflamation of the Brain, also two Children belonging to men wintering at the Dakes and White Fish Lake. Henry Loutet was the name of the Company's Servant & John Cromerty was also brought to the Brink of his grave by an Inflamation of either Lungs or Pleura caused by a sudden Checking of Perspiration He is still very low and extremely weak. I intend taking him to the red river to see if any thing can be done for him there. This Man is one of the best Servants the Company has of his Class.

I arrived at Fort Frances on the 17 Ult^o and I am happy to say, that I do not think Mr Sinclair's judicious Management of Provisions, Men and Indians could be surpassed by any Man in the Country. From the Manner in which he had been Harrassed by travelling Gentlemen and Expresses, I did not expect he would have got through his difficulties in collecting Provisions so successfully as he did in consequence of his best men being absent the most part of the winter, and who of course rendered but little service to the Fort.

The Indians generally speaking have exerted themselves well. The most of them have made pretty good Hunts. The Post will turn considerably more in Muskrats, martins and some other, than both Bois Blanc and this Post together did last year. In Beavers and Bears, there will be a considerable decrease. As there are a number of Indians yet to be seen we cannot make out an account of what the whole may be.

I found the Indians much pleased and satisfied with their treatment. — We however have suffered some loss. A few Indians, good hunters had received their supplies last fall at an average of forty Skins each. They part winter and made their Hunts about Vermilion Lake their usual hunting grounds. Mr Aitkins sent People on two trading excursions to Vermilion — first on the Ice, and secondly by water, by which we lost between two and three Hundred Skins — We had not anticipated such clandestine proceedings on the Part of Mr Aitkins, otherwise, we would have taken precautions against it inasmuch as we might have had a couple of Men in

Maicanne

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Maicanne Lake from beginning of March, who would not only have secured our own debts, but in all probability have drawn some of Mr Aitkins. This is not the only Instance wherein Mr Aitkins has deviated from the Letter and Spirit of the agreement. His People at Red Lake had sent men on two trading excursions to Reed Lake where a Number of Fort Frances Indians pass the winter. Reed Lake is close by Lake of the Woods.

James Foebester had nearly 4000 rats less than last year, but an increase in every thing else — I think his return will count as well in Pounds Shillings and Pence as the year before.

When I part at the Dakes, Mr McIntosh had one half of his Indians yet to see — which is also the Case at Fort Alexander. Both these places, I expect will turn out better on Paper than in bulk — In Fact the great decrease in Bear Skins will diminish very much the bulk from what it was last year. —

At Fort Frances there was twenty Bushels of wheat sown, four Bushels of Barley, and four Bushels of Oats — besides fifty Bushels of Potatoes that were Planted.

At Fort Alexander there were twenty four Bushels of Wheat, eight of Barley, seventeen of Pease sown, and twenty eight Kegs of Potatoes planted.

J B Cameron C.F.

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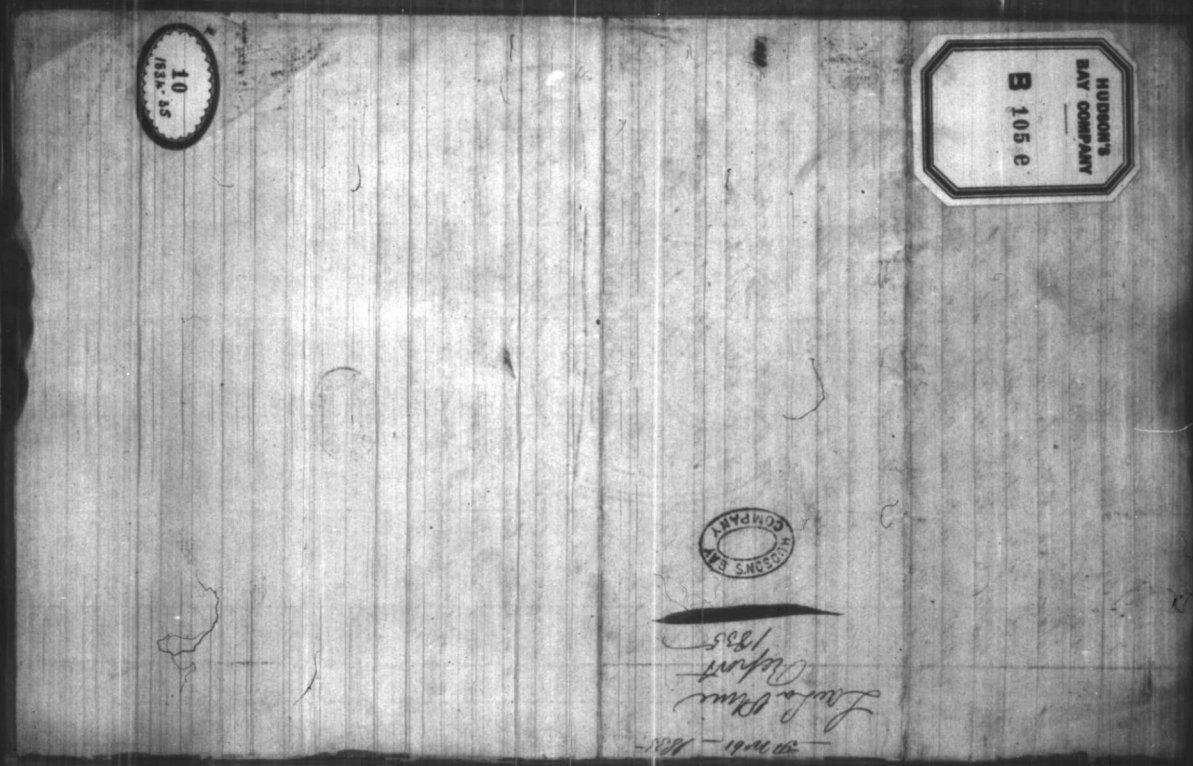

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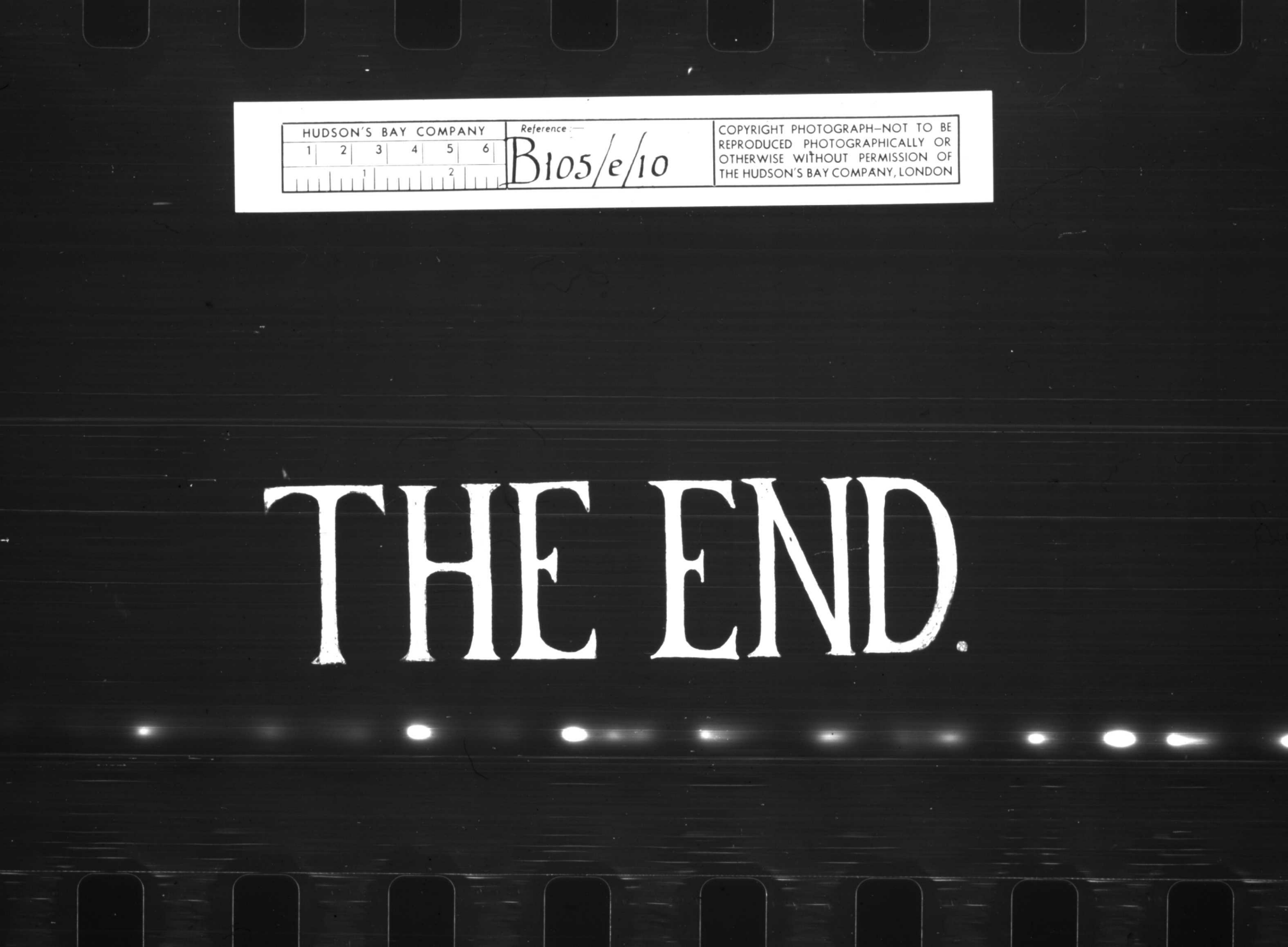

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INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 105

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 11

DESCRIPTION LAC LA PLUIE

REPORT on DISTRICT

UNDATED

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B 105 e

LAC-LA-PLUIE.
EXTRACT FROM
REPORT 1831-35

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

11
UNDATED

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HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Report of Lac la Pluie District

① B 105/e/11
undated

The writer reached Fort Frances on the 13th of September 1894, when he found the water exceedingly high from Lake Winnipeg to Lac la Pluie; and continued so to Fort William. The consequence was a complete failure of rice throughout the country. This had occurred in three successive summers. The farm did not yield much in consequence of heavy rains towards the end of May and the greater part of the month of June. Barley did not produce more than half the seed sown, which was eight bushels; Potatoes not more than three for one. The produce of wheat was ninety bushels; nearly four for one. The River failed to give its usual supply.

The whooping cough prevailed to a mournful extent among the Indians. Their distress was great from the lateness of the season, and the bad weather, and scarcity of food. An unusual number of deaths occurred.

The report mentions that Wheat Barley oats and potatoes had been sown, but gives no results.

J D [illegible]

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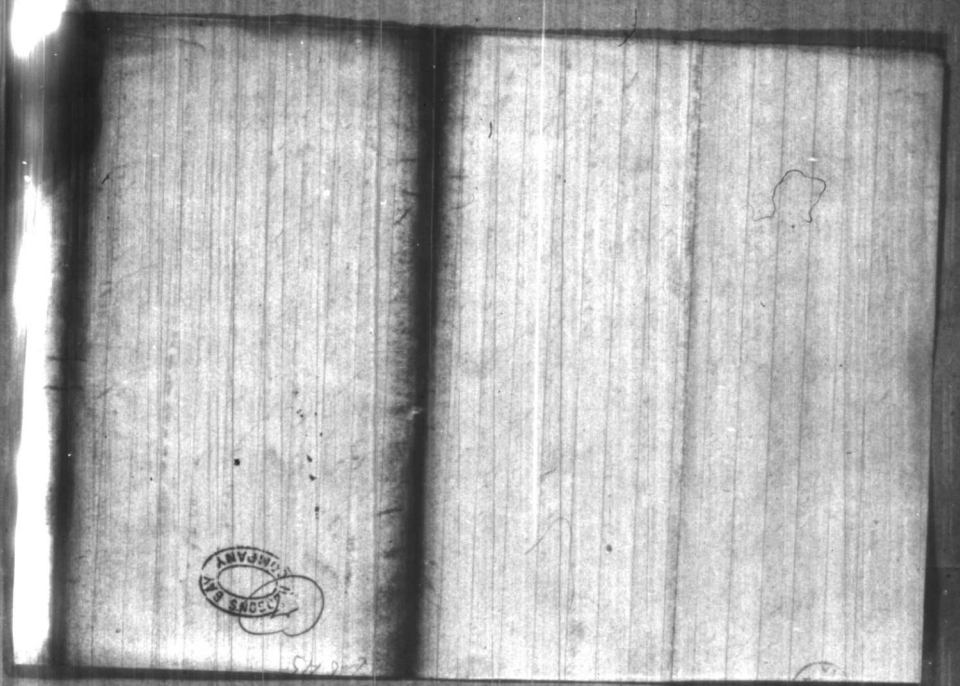

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END of SECTION B

CLASS 105

SUBDIVISION e

TO 1870 INCLUSIVE

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
B 107 e

LAC SEUL

REPORT 1823-1824

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1823-1824

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No 69 - AR - 1824

Reports of Lac Seul and Osnaburgh Posts

1823/4.

1st Narrative On the 1st July Messrs Nicol Finlayson, James Slatter, Robert E. Ryfield and Edward Morwad with sixteen Men left Albany with the supplies for the upper Posts in three Batteaux, on the 15 July they reached Martins Fall, and on the second of August arrived at Osnaburgh house all safe, Mr Slatter and ten Men and Mr Morwad were left to transact the business of this Post and Keat Lake. On the 5th August Messrs Finlayson, Ryfield, and La Rond (the latter summered in and was in charge at Osnaburgh) and five Men with the assistance of two freemen on their way to the Red River Colony manned a Batteau and Canoe loaded with the supplies and servants Baggage for Lac Seul. — being wearby Maned and meeting with much wind and bad weather they were prevented from reaching Lac Seul till the 10th day. Mr Finlayson arranged the business of this Post and gave up the charge to Mr Ryfield leaving Mr Larond to assist him — five Men. — while he proceeded on to Scarbichewon with four Men including Morrisseau and arrived there on the 28th August with the supplies for that outpost in a large and two small Canoes. The freeman Jn Daniel accompanied them. On the third of September John Davis and four Men left Moore Factory in a Canoe, on the 8 reached Albany and left it on the 10th on the 23 arrived at Martins Fall and left it on the 25. arrived at Osnaburgh on the 10 October being much retarded by wind and rain. on the 12 left and arrived at Lac Seul Post on the 17 following after breaking through the ice in places. On the 10 December Mr Ryfield and two Men to assist him and his family on the journey were sent to Osnaburgh. On the 17 February the Dispatches from the Southward to Northern Department reached Lac Seul and was sent off for its destination 19 following and was at Dalles Post on the 25th. On the 28 [illegible] the [illegible] Nor[illegible]

[illegible] and [illegible]

on the 6th and reached Osnaburgh on the 12 [illegible] it was sent off on the 16 following to Martins Fall. On the 20 March two Men were sent to Sturgeon Lake Post for two Rolls of Tobacco lodged there for the [illegible]

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Albany Interim owing to arrangements made by Mr R. Hem last year, this tobacco is not wanted this year, but as it may serve for next year I have sent for it. — On 2d April I went from Lac Seul to visit Scarbecheewon and survey the places where it is proposed this post is to be shifted to, left Scarbecheewon on the 11th and arrived at Lac Seul on the 14 following at 2 o'clock P.M. met some Indians on the route among others we saw Waypishkeewon who I was not personally acquainted with, the two Men with me La Vence and my Servant A. Saunderson did not recollect him at the time as they had seen him only some years back, on our questioning him he gave a false account of himself. — I have since found out this Indian was the cause of all the blood spilt and mischief done about Sat Lake outport, he deliberately and without any apparent cause or reason in September or October last way laid and shot dead one of Cotton Shirts Sons, in revenge for which the Cottons Shirts Gang sought him out in Winter and at last came upon his tent, but fortunately for himself he was at the time absent at a considerable distance and did not return to his tent for some days, by which he avoided the fate of a Brother and another Relation who though innocent of the murder committed by this wretch nevertheless suffered for his crime by falling a sacrafice to the revenge of the Cotton Shirts gang. — On the 29 May (as early as they could go for ice) the Men and an Indians with Mr La Ronde were sent off for Scarbecheewon in a large Canoe. On the 31st a Canoe arrived from Scarbecheewon with 36 Bags and Bundles of Rice — June 5th Two Men and an apprentice arrived from Osnaburgh at Lac Seul on the 9th following Mr Sinclair was arrived from Scarbecheewon to Lac

in place of which we took a Bateau manned by 6 of the Indians for Men &c and arrived at Albany on 4 July 1824

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

O 2 State of the Posts. The buildings at Lake Sal Post are in a very indifferent state the Mens house and Store in particular and will soon fall down if not taken down. The Masters dwelling is Old and so defective and cold as to require another building. — The stockades were put up on only two sides of the square that was to enclose the buildings, but I found them too far extended for so small an establishment. — After I had fixed in my mind by actual survey and all the information I could gather that it was not only useless but that a loss would be sustained by removing this Post from its present situation to within the Works or Cedar Lake. — I began to prepare for erecting new buildings and make alterations that I conceived would be productive of comfort to the residents and advantageous to the interests of the concern. Stockader were got to finish inclosing the buildings [illegible] already [illegible] down in part

[illegible] Mr [illegible] Davis and [illegible] Swanston [illegible]
went up from Lac Seul to Osnaburgh with the Returns &c including 31 Bags of Rice arrived at Oxk on the 21st and left Oxk the 23d with the Returns of Osnaburgh leaving most part of the Rice there and one of the Canoes

[illegible] and others [illegible]
up and finish a Mens and Clerks Dwelling [illegible] in one building having two entrances, and Teapot at will be furnished for a Winter residence by the fall of the [illegible] as W. Taylor and Br Scollie were left in to further [illegible]

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object, the renewing of the other buildings at Lac Seul may be a consideration when the present work on hand is finished it is not necessary an additional Man should be kept for this purpose as the People kept to convey in the supplies and protect the Post may do this work. — The garden ground has been inlarged and improved by manuering it, forty five keys of cut Potatoe seeds were planted. — a small spot of ground was sowed with Barley and another small spot with Talavera Wheat both of which came finely up and there is reason to suppose these grains will succeed as the seeds were produced in a part of the country not so congenial to vegitation as Lac Seul, a little Indian Corn was likewise planted for experiment, the seed was procured from the Indians at Eagle Lake where they cultivate this productive plant to advantage.

At Ornabuch the buildings have been entirely renewed within this last twelvemonth — The Masters house and Stores are finished and the Mens and Cattle houses for the means left there in summer may be expected to be compleated before the winter sets in. They consist of three buildings occupying three sides of a square and at a distance calculated to be safe to others in case one building should take fire. The stockades inclosing the buildings have been reset and for the most part renewed, the front ones are pointed in two and edged close together. The whole of the garden ground has been fenced round and a greater quantity of Potatoes set put in the ground than was last year.

After a deal of consideration in my own mind I judged it most advantageous to give up the outport at Scarlechewon. — The Post at the Dalles must be kept up on account of it being a route to War path and [illegible] the Indians about this country. Scarlechewon [illegible] at the Dalles

I was likewise convened of the inability of Scarlechewon preventing the Indians going to the Dalles that this may be perceived by persons not acquainted with the Business of the place and character of the Indians it is only necessary to peruse Mr Tomlayson's Journal of occurrences at Scarlechewon — in a letter sent the December and

answered 28 following and Mr Tomlayson's Letter to Mr Rose of [illegible] 1824. On perusing Mr Tomlayson's Report (at the conclusion of his Journal) it will be perceived the Scarlechewon Indians are in the habit going to Lac le Bois and Dalles nor can they be prevented under any management that may be adopted at Scarlechewon. It appears to me the Post at the Dalles as most likely to prevent the Indians [illegible] fears to the Americans. At the same time the Master at the Dalles should endeavour all he can to keep the Indians at Lac Seul this principal should never be lost sight of for independant of the risk of loosing some of their hunts, the furs to a certain extent are got cheaper the farther they are procured from opposition.

The Indians at Scarlechewon were all accepted three informed that the Post would be given up and they might have their choice of trading either at Lac Seul or the Dalles they chose Lac Seul, the other three Indians Wimpetoway his Son and Longalevein are turned over to Wineyeg River as they [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

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some instances accomplished by the rascals who hunt to the North and west of Osnaburgh Port.

The two Ports of Lac Seul and Osnaburgh are quite sufficient for the Trade to be procured in these parts. they are for the ensuing season connected and under one management, Osnaburgh to be considered as a Port depending on Lac Seul, by this means the business will be simplified and a saving of Men will be attained as well as other minor considerations of advantage to the business, Between the Ports there were for the past season five Clerks an Interpreter and twenty two Men with two apprentices, by the present arrangment the business may be conducted without the loss of a skin to the concern or in the least making the condition of the Indians worse, but on the contrary would better their condition. by Two Clerks and an Apprentice Clerk and 1[illegible] Men with four apprentices which is the compliment of Osnaburgh and Lac Seul for 1824/5 at present under the direction of Mr Finlayson who is to winter at Lac Seul and Mr Slatter is to direct the trade at Osnaburgh. The business might be done by eight Men provided Canoes were employed to supply the Ports instead of Boats as though the Canoes could not bring up the supplies in one trip there is ample time to make a second or third trip, but I would not advise so few as eight Men to winter in this quarter for the present as the Indians who frequent the Ports particularly Osnaburgh are of so bad a disposition that on perceiving so few Men they might be induced to repeat their former attempts to plunder; besides Batteaux are proffferable to Canoes on many accounts.—

The Port at Sturgeon Lake which is outfitted from Lac Nepegone should if thought necessary still to keep it up be supplied from Albany Depot. The proximity of this Port to Osnaburgh and Lac Seul and the co[illegible] between the Indians of these several posts, is not the only inducement I have to mention this subject, for it appears to me a saving of three or four Men may be accomplished by supplying this port from Albany River instead of by the way of Moose River, the journey from Albany may be much more expeditiously and cheaper performed

than by the present rout. the present number of Men at Osnaburgh and Lac Seul are quite enough to support Sturgeon Lake likewise. consequently the Men at present sent from Lac Nepegone to Sturgeon Lake may be saved, or if from circumstances of which I cannot form a judgment of, correctly, for want of particular information it is found nevertheless (notwithstanding Sturgeon Lake is detatched from Nepegone) Nepegone cannot dispense with these four Men to bring in the supplies still they might be more advantageously employed looking after the petty traders about Lakes Superior or perhaps Lac Nepegone. It appears to me likewise sound policy to supply the Ports situated in the Company Territories from and by the Bay when it can be done without loss, and not by Lake Superior.—

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Conduct and Character of Officers &c. Men.

Nicol Finlayson was in Charge of Scarbeckewon and had the arrangement of the business both at Osnaburgh and Lac Seul in the performance of these duties I was satisfied. Mr Finlayson is a remarkable good Trader for his experience and few of his time in the country have gained such a knowledge of manners, customs and the language of the Indians as he has, is well educated and competent to make up accounts which duty he has performed (previous to, and in 1820/21 he made up the accounts sent to England for Henley District. the ledger Journal and journal of occurrences at Scarbeckewon are sent home with this as samples of his writing &c The principal objection I have to Mr F. Character is too much easiness and good [illegible] which at time [illegible] to lay [illegible] open to the artful and designing tales of the Indians, but this part of Mr F. Character has improved this year and will from farther experience. Mr F. expressed to me disappointed hopes with respect to his salary as he was led to suppose at the expiration of the then contract he would get 100 £ Pan[illegible] instead of 75 to which he was recommended I explained to him

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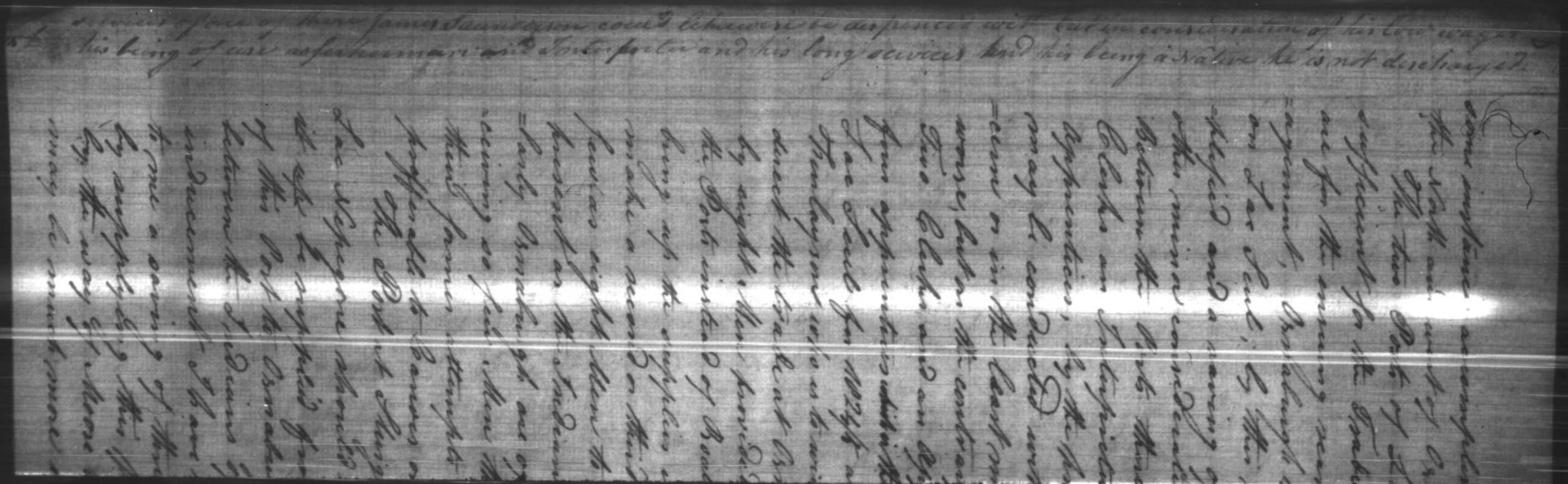

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the mistake and that he was recommended to the clerk that it was first proposed by the Honorable Committee should get 100£ but afterwards was altered to 75£. Mr F. has served in the Country nine years and I do not hesitate in recommending Mr F. as a sober, attentive and intelligent Officer of considerable promise particularly as a Trader.

Byfield Robert Elliot has this year finished his first contract is a young Man of hitherto sober and attentive habits tolerably handy in the store and at making up accounts but has no experience as a trader, his services are not required & he has been discharged. In one instance we learned [illegible] he was so abusive to me personally that I thought proper to dismiss him from the Fort till he went to Ormaburgh and in another instance one of the Canadians complained to me that he had struck him without any provocation to justify it in a Clerk, in his first contract he received £[illegible]

Dellarond Louis Denis (D) an Apprentice Clerk of the late N.W.C. is a native of Canada has received a French Education, cannot write english. — I cannot recommend this young Man as an Officer for which he is deficient in most essential qualifications, but from his quickness in acquiring, and present knowledge of the Indian Trade and active habits as well as his local knowledge of the country about Fort William it is a question with me it may not be adviseable to engage this young Man at the expiration of his agreement to prevent his entering the service of the Americans.

Howad Edward was in charge of the outpost at Cabbitt and gave satisfaction

Slatter James was in charge at Ormaburgh and conducted the business to my satisfaction.

Brown Henry, Labrer and good able Man

Kenny George Labrer Useable Man

Corrigal James supports his character as a useful able Man of the description to Boat steers

Kirkness William Labrer a good common working Man honest and attentive

Sinclair John is smart and clever and the most able Boat steer in the River.

La Pine J. B. is an Old experienced hand at and about Lac Seul on which account he is very useful is full of tricks, a great liar and dishonest.

Mescusar Hugh Labrer a good working and promising boy

Manson John Labrer an indifferent hand though not sufficient so to be dismissed the service on that account but is one of those that can be dispensed with at Ormaburgh.

Morriseau Antoine unfit for the service went to the Colony at Red River on the 15 June last.

Pebles James — an old and faithful servant, few Men in his capacity have deserved so much from their Masters for devotion, none more so, than this honest Fellow, he does not spare himself to the utmost of his abilities. on the 17 Feb? he brought the Despatches from Ormaburgh to Lac Seul being only 5 Days coming being a shorter time than I have known this journey performed in at that season, from his former exertions he is now failing fast

Quintalle Antoine an Old Man wished to go to the colony and was consequently discharged

Saunderson James nearly superannuated fit only for fishing and domestic duties,

Saunderson Robert a useful and sober young Man

Scollery R.t an able clever Man one of the first class of Labrers

Spence John an indifferent hand for most of the inland duties but was nevertheless found useful as a Carpenter at Ormaburgh being something of a Sailor is now on board the Sloop

Moar John D an indifferent hand for inland service

Fubisler John is but an indifferent Labrer is idle and has other bad qualities that renders him not desirable

Taylor William is an able trusty Man

Thomas Richard a useful hand in many respects.

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Thompson Andrew maintains his character as a good working Man

Trembla Alexes the service is benefited by his going to the Colony on 10 June last.

Yorston Peter an indifferent Laborer and it is not likely he will ever be useful Inland. is brought down to be discharged if not wanted elsewhere

4 Indians At Lac Seul there are 25 hunting Indians & 26 at Scarbechewon took debt, but four of these from the proximity of their hunting grounds belong to other posts, At Ornaburgh there were last year 38 Hunters and at Cat Lake 20 got advances and traded there, 7 of these (the Macimmies) belong to Ornaburgh but hunted the first part of the season at Cat Lake, six Indians from the Northern Department likewise visited this post, making on the whole one hundred and ten hunters between Lac Seul and Ornaburgh Posts, — those at Lac Seul as well as generally though this part of the country have had a bad season to struggle through and those that were not so provident as to reserve Rice for winter use suffered extremely though none perished the snow being shoal till February few large animals could be killed though many of the Indians employed their whole time in going after them consequently the trade suffered particularly in Martins. want of the first necessary of life is the source of most of the miseries of the poor Indian as well as of great injury to the trade, in these parts, could the Indians be brought to dwell more at one place and employ less of their time in seeking the Deer and Moose they might be induced to cultivate the soil and otherwise improve their condition, that the Indians at Lac Seul in particular, might be [illegible] for themselves, with assistance and instruction at the commencement by the Traders I have great hopes of, particularly as they have an example shewn them by the neighbouring Indians at Eagle Lake who are greatly benefited by it, as well as the trade see Mr Finlayson's remarks on the Turtles Eldest Son whose grounds are far from being so plentiful in fur

animals as those of many of the Lac Seul Indians. —

At Ornaburgh the Indians likewise felt a scarce and severe season particularly to the Eastward where there are a greater proportion of Furs than in other directions, but notwithstanding the scarce season were the Indians of industrious and provident habits they might have done considerably better. (I recommend that an experienced and intelligent trader should reside at either Lac Seul or Ornaburgh Posts or both alternately till the Indians are brought back from the idle and bad habits they have acquired from the late opposition — for though Beaver are scarce in this part there still remains Martens Musquash and Otters in tolerable numbers which under proper management would afford much better returns than is at present procured: — The tariff of Barter is altered for the ensuing year much in favor of the Indians in ammunition, twine and other articles that are essential to an Indian in particular, in the hope it will prove a stimulus to their exertions in procuring furs, this standard is only used in trading but when advances are made on credit the old standard is used thus the Indians in time will for their own advantage prefer trading to taking good in debt which according to the past practice I consider an injury to the trade in these parts, and on the whole of no real benefit to the Indians themselves but on the long run an injury, a change however in their old habits and ways of thinking should be effected gradually — indeed advances on credit in articles of actual necessity for hunting can never perhaps be intirely done away with, as from the precarious mode of life the Indians lead, and their improvidence, cases must arise when advances on credit are necessary.)

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5th Trade The returns from Lac Seul are short of the preceding year 43 Bears, 76 Beaver, 323 Cats, 10 Foxes, 1095 Musquash and 41 Otters, and more than last year 332 Martins and 23 Fishers. — but though the furs procured this year are fewer in number than last season, are as many or more with perhaps the exception of some cats and Bears. and for the Turtles gone traded at Lac Seul (instead of white fish Lake) as they did last year it would of exceeded last years returns in number of skins — valueing the furs as last year there is an increase of £200 on the profits of last year.

At Osnaburgh there are 17 Bears, 41 Cats, 112 Musquash and 10 Otters more than the preceding year and 132 Beaver, 65 more 582 Martins and 58 Minks less. The Indians at Osnaburgh have not repained so much as at Lac Seul from killing summer skins for there is still a too great proportion of this description in the returns. I can only account for the falling off of the trade at this post to the Murders at Eat Lake and the bad season but for these circumstances I should have looked for an increase on last years returns there was only a trifling increase of £5 — on last years profit.

John Davis.

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SECTION B

CLASS 107

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 2

DESCRIPTION LAC SEUL

REPORT on DISTRICT

1823-1824

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B 107 e

LAC SEUL

REPORT 1823-1824

2
1823-1824

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Ex 696
B 107/e/2
1823/24

No 69 . . . NR . . 1824

Reports of Lac Seul and Osnaburgh Posts
1823/4

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

1st Narrative On the 1st July Messrs Nicol Finlayson, Jas Slatter, Robert E. Byfield and Edward Mowad with sixteen Men left Albany with the supplies for the upper Posts in three Galleaux, on the 15th they reached Martins Fall and on the 2d of August arrived at Osnaburgh house all safe. Mr Slatter and ten men and Mr Mowad were left to transact the business of this Post and Cat Lake. On the 5th August Messrs Finlayson Byfield and LaRonde (the latter summoned in and was in charge at Osnaburgh) and five Men with the assistance of two Freemen on their way to the Red River Colony manned a batteau and Canoe loaded with the supplies and servants baggage for Lac Seul being weekly manned and meeting with much wind and bad weather, they were prevented from reaching Lac Seul till the 10th day. Mr Finlayson arranged the business of this Post and gave up the charge to Mr Byfield leaving Mr LaRonde to assist him and five Men, while he proceeded on to Scarbithewon with four Men including Morrisseau and arrived there on the 23 August, with the supplies for that outpost in a large and two small Canoes. The freemen J. Daniel accompanied them. On the 3d of September John Davis and four men left Moose factory in a Canoe, on the 8th reached Albany and left it on the 10th on the 23d arrived at Martins fall and left it, on the 25th arrived at Osnaburgh on the 10th October being much retarded by wind and rain on the 12th left and arrived at Lac Seul Post, on the 17th following after breaking through the ice in places, On the 10th December Mr Byfield and two Men to assist him and his family on the journey were sent to Osnaburgh.

On the 17th february the dispatches from the Southward to Northern department reached Lac Seul and was sent off for its destination 19 following and was at Dalles Post on the 25th. On the 23th the Dispatch from the North to the South department reached Scarbithewon

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At Oxnaburgh the buildings have been entirely remodled within the last twelvemonth — The Masters house and Stores are finished and the Mens and Cattle houses, from the means left there in Summer, may be expected to be completed before the Winter sets in. They consist of Stone buildings compying three sides of a square and at a distance calculated to be safe to others in Case one building should take fire.

The Stockades inclosing the buildings have been renewed and the most part removed, the former ones are ripped in two and edged close together

The whole of the Garden ground has been fenced round, and a greater quantity of Potatoe seed put in the ground than was laid down last year —

After a deal of consideration in my own mind I judged it most Desirable to give up the Outpost at Searbatchewon. The Post at the Dalles must be kept up on account of its being a to Mas[illegible] path and must frequented by the Indians about this Country. Searbatchewon would not answer the purpose of a Post at the Dalles being out of the road.

I was likewise convinced of the inutility of Searbatchewon preventing the Indians of Searbatchewon going to the Fines, that this may be perceived by Persons not acquainted with the Musings of the Slave and Character of the Indians it is only necessary to peruse Mr. Finlaysons Journal of occurrences &c. at Searbatchewon in a letter sent 15 December and answered 21 following, and Mr. Finlaysons letter to Mr. Ross 6 June 1824 — On perusing this Reports (at the Conclusion of this Journal) it will be observed the Searbatchewon Indians are in the habits of going to Lac de Bois and Dalles nor can they be prevented under any management that may be adopted at Searbatchewon — it appears to me the Post at the Dalles is much likely to prevent the Indians taking Furs to the Americans: at the same time the Master at the Dalles should endeavour all he can to keep the Indians at Lac Lal, this principal should never be lost sight of for independent of the risk of losing some of their hunts, this Furs to a certain extent are got cheaper the farther they are procured from opposition.

The Indians at Searbatchewon seemed much surprised when informed that the Post would be given up, and they might have their choice of Trading either at Lac Seul or the Dalles, they chose Lac Seul, the other three Indians Winkatoway his Son and Songstairs are turned over to Winipeg River Posts as they hunt nearer there — indeed it is of very little

inconvenience to the Searbatchewon Indians, and last Winter notwithstanding the Post was up many of the Indians did come to Lac Seul, and there were few or none who got cloth at Searbatchewon but would have come to Lac Seul Post had they been permitted.

The Outpost at Cat Lake has been abandoned, the trade procured there (four Packs of Furs) was not commensurate to the expenses concurring and the distance was not so great by any means as to prevent the Indians getting their wants supplied at Oxnaburgh, which was the case before the late oppositions, and many of the Indians besides those of Cat Lake came farther than Cat Lake to Oxnaburgh — the Murders committed last Year and its consequences the enmities subsisting among the Indians who traded at Cat Lake precludes even the hope of drawing the Indians again to this Post, one half of them South birds gang have gone and intend to remain at Lac Seul —, another the Macimonies have gone to Oxnaburgh and there only remains the Cotton shirts gang among whom are only 6 Lodges left The last disposition of the Indians presents another reason if wanting for giving up a Post of so little consideration for it is generally at these small scattered Posts the Indians murder the people, this has several times been attempted and in some instances accomplished by the rascals who hunt to the North and West of Oxnaburgh Post.

The two Posts of Lac Seul and Oxnaburgh are quite sufficient for the Trade to be procured in these parts, they are for the ensuing season conducted and under one management —: Oxnaburgh to be considered as a Post depending on Lac Seul, by this means the business will be simplified and a saving of Men will be attained as well as other minor considerations of advantage to the business; between the Posts there are for the past season five Clerks an Interpreter and twenty two Men with two apprentices, by the present arrangements the business may be conducted without the loss of a Man to the concern or in the least making the condition of the Indians worse, but on the contrary would better their condition by two Clerks and an apprentice Clerk and 13 Men (The Services of one of these Thomas Saunderson could likewise be dispensed with, but in consideration of his low wages his saving of none as first Canoe man and Tradesman and his long Services and his being a native he is not discharged) with four apprentices which is the complement of Oxnaburgh and Lac Seul

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for 1824/25 at present under the direction of Mr. Finlayson who is to winter at Lac Seul and Mr. Slatter is to direct the trade at Osnaburgh; the business might be done by eight Men provided Canoes were employed to supply the Posts instead of Boats as though the Canoes could not bring up the supplies in one trip, there is ample time to make a Second or third trip, but I would not advise so few as 8 men to winter in this quarter for the present, as the Indians who frequent the Posts particularly Osnaburgh are of so bad a disposition, that on perceiving so few Men they might be induced to repeat their former attempts to plunder; besides Batteaux are preferable to Canoes on many accounts —

The Post of Sturgeon Lake which is outfitted from Lac Nipigon should if thought necessary still to keep it up be supplied from Albany Depôt. The proximity of this Post to Osnaburgh and Lac Seul and the connection between the Indians of these several Posts, is not the only inducement I have to mention this subject, for it appears to me a saving of three or four Men may be accomplished by supplying this Post from Albany River instead of by the way of Moose River, the Journey from Albany may be much more expeditiously and cheaper performed than by the present route: the present number of Men at Osnaburgh and Lac Seul are quite enough to support Sturgeon lake likewise, consequently the Men at present sent from Lac Nipigon to Sturgeon Lake may be saved, or if from circumstances of which I cannot form a Judgment of correctly for want of particular information it is found nevertheless (notwithstanding Sturgeon Lake is detatched from Nipigon) Nipigon can not dispense with these four Men to bring in the supplies, still they might be more advantageously employed looking after the petty Traders about Lakes Superior or perhaps Lac Nipigon. It appears to me likewise sound policy to supply the Posts situated in the Companys Territories from and by the Bay when it can be done without loss and not by Lake Superior —

3d Conduct and Character of Officers and Men.

(143) Nicol Finlayson was in charge of Scarbeehewon and had the arrangement of the business both at Osnaburgh and Lac Seul, in the performance of these duties I was satisfied, he is a remarkable

good Trader for his experience and few of his time in the Country have gained such a knowledge of manners, Customs, and the Language of the Indians as he has, is well educated, and competent to make up accounts, which duty he has performed (previous to and in 1820/21) he made up the accounts sent to England for Henley district, the Ledger, Journal, and Journal of Occurrences at Scarbeehewon and sent with this as Samples of his writing &c. — The principal Objection I have to Mr. F. Character is too much easiness and good nature, which at times is apt to lay him open to the artful and designing tales of the Indians, but this part of Mr. F. Character has improved this Year and will from farther experience. Mr. F. expressed to me disappointed hopes with respect to his Salary, as he was led to suppose at the expiration of the then Contract he would get £100 — ℔ annum instead of £75 — to which he was recommended, I explained to him the mistake and that he was recommended to the Class that it was first proposed by the Hon.ble Committee should get £100 — but afterwards was altered to £75 — Mr. F. has served in the Country Nine years, and I do not hesitate in recommending him as a sober, attentive and intelligent Officer of considerable hormice, particularly as a Trader —

(134) Byfield Robert Elliot has this year finished his first contract is a young Man of hitherto sober and attentive habits, tolerably handy in the Store and at making up accounts, but has no experience as a trader — I one instance see Lac Seul Journal of 18th November he was so abusive to me personally, that I thought proper to dismiss him from my table till he went to Osnaburgh — and in another instance see Lac Seul journal 8 december his conduct was such as I did not expect to find in a Clerk on his first Contract —

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(149) Delaronde Louis Denis (D) an apprentice Clerk of the late N.W.Co. is a native of Canada, has received a french education, cannot write English. I cannot recommend this young Man as an Officer for which he is deficient in most essential qualifications, but from his quickness in acquiring, and present knowledge of the Indian Trade and active habits as well as his local knowledge of the Country about Fort William it is a question whether it may not be advisable to engage

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this young Man at the expiration of his agreement, to prevent his entering the Service of the Americans

Mowad Edward was in charge of the Outpost at Cat Lake and gave Satisfaction.

Slatter James, was in charge at Osnaburgh and conducted the Business to my Satisfaction

Brown Henry, Laborer and good able Man

Hurry George Laborer a desirable Man

Corrigal James, supports his character as a useful able Man of the Class next to Boatsteerers

Kirkness William, Laborer a good common working Man honest and attentive

Linklater John is smart and clever, and the most able Boat Steerer in the River.

La Pine J. B. is an old experienced hand, at and about Lac Seul, on which account he is very useful, is full of tricks, a great liar and dishonest

Mercuras ~~John~~ Hugh, Laborer a good working & promising hand

Manson John Laborer an indifferent hand though not sufficiently so to be dismissed the Service on that account but is one of those that can be dispensed with at Osnaburgh

Morriseau Antoine unfit for the Service, went to the Colony at Red River [illegible] June last

Pebles James [illegible] Servants, few Man in his capa[illegible] from their Masters for devot[illegible] his honest fellow, he does not spare [illegible] most of his abilities, on the 17 February he bro^t. the dispatches from Osnaburgh to Lac Seul being only 5 days coming being a shorter time than I have known this journey performed in at that Season from his former exertions he is now failing fast —

Quintalle Antoine an old Man, wished to go to the Colony and was consequently discharged.

Saunderson James nearly superannuated fit only for fishing and domestic duties.

Saunderson Robert a usefull and sober young Man.

Scotley Rich^d. an able clever Man, one of the first class of Laborers

Spence John an indifferent hand for most of the inland duties but was nevertheless found useful as a Carpenter at Osnaburgh, being something of a Sailor is now on board the Sloop.

Moar John D. an indifferent hand for inland Service

Foubister John is but an indifferent Laborer is idle and has other bad qualities that renders him not desirable

Taylor William is an able trusty Man

Thomas Rich^d. a useful hand in many respects

Thompson Andrew maintains his character as a good working Man

Tremble Alexis the Service is benefitted by his going to the Colony on the 10th. June last —

Yorston Peter, an indifferent Laborer, and it is not likely he will ever be usefull inland is brought down to be discharged if not wanted elsewhere —

4th. Indians at Lac Seul there are 25 hunting Indians &c 21 at Scabatcheeson took debt, but 4 of them from the proximity of their hunting Grounds belong to other Posts

At Osnaburgh there were last Year 38 hunters and at Cat Lake 20 got advances and traded there, 7 of them (the Macimmies) belong to Osnaburgh, but hunted the first part of the Season at Cat Lake, six Indians from the Northern department likewise visited this Post, making on the whole one hundred and ten hunters between Lac Seul and Osnaburgh Posts, those at Lac Seul as well as generally through this part of the Country have had a bad Season to struggle through, and those that were not so provident as to reserve Rice for Winter have suffered extremely though none perished, the Snow being shoal till February, few large animals

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would be killed though many of the Indians employed their whole time in going after them, consequently the trader suffered particularly in Martins, want of the first necessaries of life, is the source of much of the miseries of the poor Indians, as well as of great injury to the Trade in these parts —, could the Indians be brought to dwell more at one place and employ less of their time in seeking the Deer and Moose, they might be induced to cultivate the soil and otherwise improve their condition, that the Indians at Lac Seul in particular might be brought to practise cultivation for themselves, with assistance and instruction at the commencement by the Traders I have great hopes of, particularly as they have an example shewn them by the neighbouring Indians at Eagle Lake, who are greatly benefited by it as well as the Trader, see Mr. Finlaysons remarks on the Turtles Elder Lion whose Grounds are far from being so plentiful in Furr animals as those of many of the Lac Seul Indians.

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I recommend that an experienced and intelligent Trader should reside either at Lac Seul or Osnaburgh Posts or both alternately, till the Indians are brought back from the idle and bad habits they have acquired from the late opposition, for though Beaver are scarce in these parts, there still remains Martins, Musquash and Otters in tolerable numbers which under proper management would afford much better returns than is at present procured — The tariff of Barter is altered for the ensuing year much in favor of the Indians in ammunition, twine and other articles that are essential to an Indian in particular in the hope it will prove a stimulus to their exertions in procuring Furrs, this standard is only used in trading, but when advances are made on Credit the old standard is used, thus the Indians in debt will for their own advantage prefer trading to taking Goods

in debt which according to the present practice I consider an injury to the Trade in these parts, and on the whole of no real benefit to the Indians themselves, but on the long run an injury, a change however in their old habits and way of thinking should be effected gradually, indeed advances on Credit on articles of actual necessity for hunting can never perhaps be entirely done away with as from the precarious mode of life the Indians lead and their improvidence, cases much arise when advances on Credit are necessary

5th Trade The returns from Lac Seul are short of the preceding Year 43 Bears, 76 Beaver, 323 Cats, 10 Foxes, 1035 Musquash and 51 Otters, and more than last year 332 Martins and 28 Fishers, but though the Furrs procured this year are fewer in number than last season, Winter skins are as many or more with perhaps the exception of some Cats and Bears, and from the Turtles gang traded at Lac Seul (instead of White fish) as they did last year it would have rounded Last Years returns in number of Skins, valuing the Furrs as last year, there is an increase of £200 — on the Profits of last Year —.

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Signd John Davies

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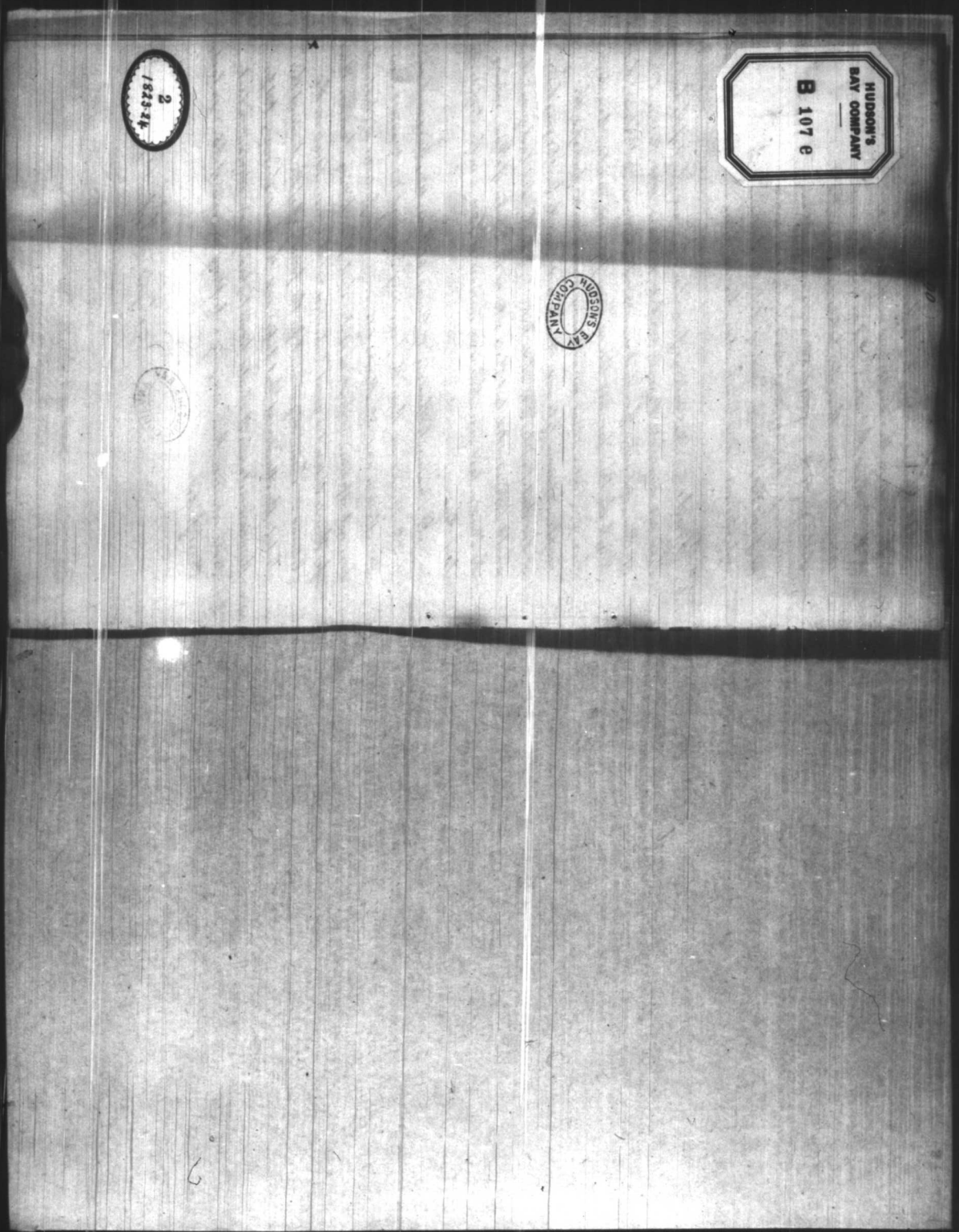

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SECTION B

CLASS 107

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 3

DESCRIPTION LAC SEUL

REPORT on DISTRICT

1827

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LAC SEUL

REPORT 1827

3
1827

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1792

Journal Copied of Severe Trading Post at Hood's Trail for [illegible]

1

There being a falling off in the number of Packs on the East quarter this year it becomes my principal duty to endeavour to explain what appears to have been the principal cause of that failure.

The winters in this part of the Country were early last Spring to an unheard of length & continued in that state during the whole summer fall, that the Indians could find no Musk Rats, which of late years have been the Chief part of their hunts & support — The natives maintain that this extraordinary high water destroys all the Rats & that it will require a few years before they will be so numerous as heretofore

The Indians say that the few Rats who have escaped brought forth in the woods & on the hands of old fallen trees, but that the first breed, or Spring breed were entirely destroyed, the rush of water being so great & sudden, that the young Rats had neither strength or cunning to escape — They also assured us that they had found & killed some Beaver who appeared to have brought forth their young in the Spring & to have lost them as the Rats did — When we question an Indian & ask him, why the Beaver are getting fewer yearly, Considering the small number the natives kill? say, that the Beaver flies away & dies for want of Security — If ever there are too much truth in their assertions they are seldom mistaken in these matters, which, whatever faith we may put in them, they believe them & kill them with the greatest confidence —

Another material cause of the failure in the rambling Rats was, the poverty of the Country in all Animals of the Deer kind by which the natives could not procure wherewith to make Shoes for their feet or for making Snow shoes, Consequently are reduced to walk upon pieces of Cedar Boards instead of Snow Shoes — The husbands & Wives made many shifts to find some bits of Leather to make a Pair Shoes, but the young ones of the family had nothing better for shoes than a small piece of Rabbit Skins to wrap their feet in —

Since the disappearance of large Animals on this part of the Country Fish & Rabbits became the Chief & only food of the natives, which kind them to custom Spots where those are to be found in greatest abundance, so that they [illegible] have destroyed all the small animals within a circle round of those places — Even those large animals, to enable the Indians to live, & even on the forests we found no doubt the could collect a number of small furs such as

Martens

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Martins Cats & Otters in the diffrent seasons when these are of most Value—but the miserable state of the Country could not admit of this, as they cannot live where these animals abound—particularly the Martens

The Country from the borders of River Ounipigis up to the Head of Athabaugh Lake is nothing but one devastation of Woods where it yields no shelter to any animals in the winter season or shade in Summer from the heat & flies & the Ground is so Encumbered with fallen trees that no animal but Cats except the wolverines Could make their way through such places—

The Indeans the poor were very ill situated this last season, being blindly headed, & did every thing in their power in the latter part of the season to spoil their Clothing & other little necessaries—the result of their exertions did not prove altogether in vain—It is to be hoped that more favourable years than Experience will appear to Grant to advantage—

This post has an Outpost at Cedar Lake these two last years, which proved very beneficial to the Indeans, & answered the end intended at first—It keeps the Indeans as far as practicable from wandering towards the American Lines—The treatment they have on their own Lands being most liberal & as Good as they Can expect from the Adventurers, it likewise enables them to make better hunts—live more peaceable—& not like with strange Indeans, Consequently prevented many hostile Quarrels which otherwise would have taken place—

The Returns from these two posts last year were 80 Packs—those of this year but 24—but it is hoped, tho' life in Quantity will by the quality be as valuable as those of the preceding year—Whether Cedar Lake is kept up, or any other place in that Quarter that may be found most Convenient to both Indeans & Trade, it is naturally to be supposed that the trade be as Lucrative as for several years past—The Expences are very trifling to what they would be by keeping up one Post only for the Outs & Ins must be Expended where ever the Men are—the Chief & only food for one & sometimes at both places being Fish—which Cost little more than the taking of them—The Indeans, in good years give from 50 to 60 Bushels and Rice for which we pay but trifles & that in small Quantity articles—but this Rice Can by no means be depended upon for home consumption as but being necessary for us to trade with Encourage the Returns to Head Quarters as the European provisions Could be Carried thus far—

We raise a good Crop of Potatoes at Lac Seul in favourable years—The last year our Crop was about 550 Bushels which is sufficient for both the places & the Indeans—Several of the Indeans were Clearing Lands to get Seed from us this spring to raise Potatoes for themselves—

The number of Indeans of the two posts are about 60 scattered over a Coast of Land & the number of men necessary to Carry on these dispatches is 11, besides 2 men to keep the Summer on Land—The Indeans some years ago were far more numerous, but the Small Pox in 1819 Carried off two thirds of them & many of those who escaped feel the Effects of that dreadful disease to this day—

[I see nothing that Could be done to improve the trade only a Small post were Established at Red Lake—there is a wide & long Coast of Land on both sides of that Lake without a post, from any quarter—It was always duffelled from Lac Seul—The greater part of the Indeans of Red Lake pass this last winter at Cedar Lake discovering a desire to trade—whereas if they were on their own Lands they would live well & be able to Clothe themselves—for I know of no place within the bounds of Lac Seul where there are more furs to be got at than Red Lake & the only place where there are some Deer & Moose, which becomes objects on account of the Scarcity of Leather—]

Charles Mackenzie

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
B 107 e

Report of Lieutenant
Trading Post by
Charles Whitmore

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1827

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THE END.

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Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 107

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 4

DESCRIPTION LAC SEUL

REPORT on DISTRICT

1830-1831

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HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Report of Last Spring Trading Post in particulars of the Upper Parts of Albany River in general for 1830/31

1

1830

These upper parts being intrusted to me by Mr Chief Factor A McKenzie, in 1829 & that trust having been approved of by the Council or rather by the Governor & Council - it becomes necessary for me to say something about the manner in which I discharged the duty which they were pleased to entrust me with & to show how far I fulfilled their expectations and the confidence they placed in my poor abilities & tho' they leads me back to what had taken place some years ago yet what occurred then has such a connexion with what followed that to a good understanding of the one the other must be told - for what past in 1828/29 & nothing more than the beginning of a chain of events which I trust have ended in 1830.

Although the Post of Osnaburgh & Sturgeon Lake were not in my immediate charge some years back I made it a point of duty to supply each with every thing they wanted and I could possibly spare - of which I have given occasion - In February 1829 Mr Collie sent two men from Osnaburgh for a Supply of Rum - having had the Misfortune - he said of losing a whole Keg, which by some accident ran out by the Cork - I made up that Loss by 10 Pts Rum from this place - but in the Spring a more fatal event took place at Osnaburgh - by the Indians having entered the Shop by the Windows - & taken away no less than 15 Pts Rum at once with several other Minor Articles - yet no one to this day knows who these Indians were the only suppose it must have been the Indians - tho' at the time there were not an Indian within 2 days March of the house - & tho' Mr Collie & his people were all in the House & from 15 to 20 large dogs. no one heard the least noise - I examined well the premises in the Spring & I remained sceptical and I am so to this day. The story was a well composed one 'tho enough' there was nothing impossible in it, but every thing improbable - particularly that Simple Indians would practise such Finesse to commit a Robbery - as he happened before the Navigation was opened there was not a drop of liquor for the Indians, & it is rationally to suppose that they were not well satisfied in the Spring - However they put for a true story in the Bay & thereby I mentioned in my Reply to Mr Chief Factor Kennedy, in answer to my Journey with a Journey was grave - & Disappointed guest - In passing at Osnaburgh the Summer before last, the Post was in a manner put under my care. I did not enter into a minute enquiry into the affairs as every thing appeared fair - what I remarked then, you & the previous things to confirm my former

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dwelt more than to destroy them. But as sooner informed of the destruction of the Shop and Store at Osnaburgh than I sent every thing that could be spared from this place to the assistance of the Trade of Osnaburgh - promising at the same time, if more could be spared in the Spring that I would bring it out to satisfy the already discontented Indians - which promise I fulfilled by a lot of Rum which I caused to be brought from Shingwauk Lake and which Rum I left with Mr Collie on my way to Albany, indeed, but that the explosion and the destruction of the Shop and Store was a mere accident, and not the work of an incendiary - tho it bore more resemblance to the latter than to the former - but to have it is to believe real appearances in such cases

On my arrival in August last at Osnaburgh I found the place in possession of the Colonists, who arrived a day or two before us, that I was under the necessity of turning out a whole family out of a temporary store to make room for the Company's property - Mr Collie was not in liquor - nor will I say that he was - but he was more like one who had lately shaken off a heavy "Jacket" than any thing ever I had seen, and not that only but like a person long habituated to strong drinking - for all his nerves shook so much that he was not able to take up a cup of tea to his mouth without spilling one half, to the danger of scalding himself and was not able to hold the Pen to sign his own name

I had taken Mr Collie aside and told him of these "symptoms" and what his own men said of him at Albany and along the "Route" and that by accounts of the many "untoward events" (for so they were) were not circulated below, but he only repeated the words "high higher" - I also offered him to come before my men and contradict what they said of him - i.e that he was never a day "sober" while he had liquor - & that several times during the winter he would shut himself up in the Shop, and that his wife often came to them to break open the Store door for fear that he would "hang himself" - to this request, he only said, that there was no use at present - tho' all these things and reports were more than enough to justify the removal of Mr Collie it was hard for me to come to that extremity - but when I considered the case with Coolness and that the Indians were dissatisfied and threatening to leave the place, I no longer hesitated to remove the man, at the hazard of being called to answer for my conduct by the Company - (for which I am ready) I then took an Inventory & an Overhaul of the goods & of the Summer transactions - & then indeed, proofs enough appeared of Malversation, to [illegible] more than I can even to the Gentlemen - that we might to day to-morrow - day -

I therefore appointed Edward Mowat to the charge of Osnaburgh and resolved to take Collie to Lac Seul either to pass the Winter with myself or send him to Cedar Lake, instead of Mowat who had been appointed for that place by the Council - I had no means of sending Collie down to Martins Falls and I was not without some hopes that the man would reform during the winter and would endeavour to retrieve if possible a share of his bad Character - but in these hopes I have been greatly mistaken That I saw the necessity of removing Collie from Osnaburgh, but at the same time I was most extremely sorry that that unpleasant duty had fallen to my lot and nothing short of my sense of duty to the Concern would make me the instrument in the ruin of a fellow creature - but had I acted otherwise than I have done, I should have been very unworthy (in my own judgement) of that confidence the Concern is pleased to place in me and which at this day is the most substantial reward I possess for nearly 30 years of my (I hope I can say faithful) services

It had been a matter of surprize to me that the Osnaburgh Indians had made such good hunts as they did the last two years, but tho' they were disappointed in the way of liquor that seems to have been made up to them in other articles - so true it is, that to cover one fault requires the commission of many more, but nothing saves the Trade at Osnaburgh, but that the Indians has no other place to go to with their furs -

The above is a true relation of what had taken place at Osnaburgh last Summer up to the period of my arrival at this place on the 15th August last - I must therefore take my leave of Mr Collie for a time to relate what past during the rest of the Summer & fall season

I have mentioned already I had left Mr Mowat at Osnaburgh with 3 engagés and 2 boys or lads - viz James Cowigal, A Thompson J. Pelly and his two sons - In due time Mr Rod. McKenzie left him for Shingwauk Lake with the second big Boat, 4 men and a boy - viz Jacob Daniel, P. Robillard, J. Knott, Antoine Morrisseau and the boy - four of the best men in the Albany River - All the Indians attached to this Post and those of Cedar Lake came in at the usual period to get their Winter Debts - after they made the Rice - of which we got a little more than usual - i.e 40 bushels - but the surplus we got by sending and trading it where it was made - which is not convenient for us to do every year

HUDSONE

Mr Collie being now more than a month, is recovered and is quite another man from what he was when I found him at Osnaburgh, I have made up my mind to send him to Cedar Lake, with a small supply for the Indians towards the Winter and to fill the Store with [illegible] rather than any one I expect from that quarter - but had I had a Clerk in whom I could place confidence I would make sending to Red Lake at the disposal of those who think that Cedar Lake is the safeguard of Lac Seul

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On the 25th Sept Mr Collie went off with the intended trifling supply for Indians already amply supplied - but no Rum is gone to that place Mr Collie has for men John Beads, John Sabiston and Henry Hay the Apprentice and I remain here with the following Servants viz. Pierre Ireland, Wm Kirkness Wm Sabiston, Patrick Abdamore. John Daniel and old Jack Daniel the Annuitant - a smart band who has the good quality of the one being as Antiquara as the other and that the most ingenious among them cannot help his own age - but they are obedient and ready to do what they can.

Our Stock of Pilatoes was good and our Stock of fish would amply by reason of a long & more than usually mild fall - which proved very providentially to save many of the Indians from immediate death by feeding them not only near at the houses, but by sending fish inland to them who were too weak to come to the house & I feared much at one time that we would lose many of the Indians by Starvation - but I hear of no deaths amongst them except of the Natagash who died not from Starvation but from other infirmity and weakness.

But that these starving Indians (and I should observe that by Starvation was general) should pay their debts, or make any thing like a good hunt is expecting impossibilities and but as our prospects are at present, they were far worse some time ago, and to despair and dispond will not mend the Matter. I am also sorry of them, that altho' some of them have slept in idleness the best hunting season and the little faith that can be placed in others. I do not see many among them, but who would be as happy as I could be that their debts were paid and have given themselves no small trouble to discharge their debts - but as their exertion was out of the proper season, in a miserably poor country - the result is, as it might be expected. The Indian life is become a most miserable life in this part of the Country - the procuring of the necessary of existence keeps the very best Indian in constant employment every day of the year - & that not to live as Indians were wont to live 20 years ago, but merely to exist. To their other misery and the poverty of the Country can be added as the greatest drawback on their exertions; for which they can find no substitutes, is the want of leather for they tho' they substitute pieces of boards for snow shoes the want of covering to their feet keeps them continually to a small spare of ground in Meaning to trap & in fact no other kind of Furs but Cats they [illegible] only in the Fall and in a very short Spring the Indians have can do any thing in the way of hunting. I do not know at this date (the 26th May

what the exact results of their exertions will come to - but I know that it cannot be otherwise than inferior to the last Springs returns and that one more than two thirds of last Autumns debts will be paid. I must own with some regret now that my debts were large at first, but when it is considered the helpless state of the Indians and that I had no desire to add that of nakedness to their other accumulating Miseries allowances will be made - and it must be also, not only considered but likewise practised that the Country is too poor and that the Indians are too miserable in consequence to pay for every article they stand in absolute want of, & which they were wont to get for nothing that they should get at the least 1/3 of their Ammunition for nothing - as well as some to raise their Nerves - for it is evident that they cannot pay & by charging all these articles to their debt we are only accumulating a drawback on their exertions - creating a false Stock in the Country which must be given up to them & lost to us without the merit of being generous - at least of appearing generous.

From the beginning of the present Season up to this present Spring I have acted upon the doctrine that the Indians should pay for every Article & I have been only accumulating old debts upon the hooks, to so large an Amt that I am now ashamed to show them - & that it would now be the height of folly to presume that 1/3 of them can ever be drawn - yet I do not believe I am any ways singular in this case for this doctrine did not originate with me - they were among the general Orders emanating from a different organ - good as long as they could be followed, I presume, is no longer - I have been under the necessity of deviating from this plan this spring and of giving the Ammunition to the Indians for Nothing - being convinced that they Could never pay it or their other debts without it - and I can say that at least they appear a good deal pleased at the change and seem to give themselves more trouble after furs than I expected - a couple of kegs of powder will be sufficient for this purpose, which is not to put a object to the Concern - I'm also certain that it is not the interest of any Post to be surrounded with poor Indians, no more than it is the interest of a landlord to have poor tenantry, who cannot pay their rents.

I have heard from the Posts of Donalbugh and Shargun Lake during the Winter - both of which were similar in circumstances to this post in regard to Provisions - that if they had taken 1/3 of last in the Fall which were almost unfit for being eaten by the length and fineness of the Season - I assisted Donalbugh with dry goods, liquor Traces & Belts of each as much as I could reasonably spare - and Shargun Lake with

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Rice & leather these Indians also were suffering from Starvation and those of Sturgeon Lake in particular & of course were doing very little but those of Osnaburgh did very well in the Fall - what passed since at these places is unknown to me at present -

I cannot brag of much "improvement" taking place at Lac Seul there were no body here that could much improve the place of late years but I can say that the men were not idle - they were cutting Cord wood in the Winter and towards Spring I got 120 logs squared on four sides of 12 feet long, & 10 by 6 inches deep - when 4 planks shall be sawn off each of 10 by 2 in - for flooring These are intended for a Shop and Store - for I am almost ashamed to have so miserable shop and Store as we have - when we burn nothing else but the best and largest Norway Pine in North America I also got this new house clapboarded on the Outside and I can say without vanity that it is the very best house in the Albany River if finished in the inside - but two essentials are wanting for that - a Carpenter & some hundred nails - it would be the better of another kind of covering than Cedar Bark We are about planting 60 bushels potatoes in several patches of cleared ground, which if they were joined or in one piece would form a large field - of horned Cattle too we have one bull, one ox, two cows & two bull Calves of last October & March - we lost a calf last fall either by being bruised by the others or by lightning as it is supposed, which had been the cause of my not killing one last Winter - but one must be killed this next Autumn from necessity - as we cannot supply so many in Fodder - I have now gone over the most part of what I think anywise of interest to those who wants the best information about places and things that regard them - but information of this kind is not easy given & far beyond the reach of my poor ability and I shall content me to suppose and hope that what I write with the best intention to please, shall be understood by those for whom Sake I entered upon the Fork & where I do not endeavour to hide my own faults or those of others

I have now to return to the Subject from whence I started, which to me is a most painful duty, and a duty revolting to human nature, in this Country in particularly, where such depravity in our fellow beings so seldom occurs - Notwithstanding that I did not send any Rum to Cedar Lake in the Fall, I was under some necessity of sending 5 Hds Rum in the Month of March as I was informed that the Indians were disentangled and not exerting themselves merely on that account, and being somewhat in hopes that Mr Collie was weaned from his evil propensities - but I was never more mistaken in my life - for the Rum was no sooner received than he

COMPANY

set about drinking it and was never seen a day sober until he finished it - 'tis true he gave a little to a few Indians who came soon after, but this was to a certain few only - About the 23rd April having persuaded his own men and all the families to remove from the house to a better fishing place with the most of the property - while Collie alone remained behind to take care of the remainder until the men came for it next day - The men came next day - but Collie and the property disappeared together & no one knew where to find them - Collie had absconded with the property in their absence, for which he had been long ago prepared of the Company's property he had a bundle of the best of the Furs made at Cedar Lake during the Winter - of exactly 60 lbs weight 3 nets powder, Shot, Tobacco, Flints Axes, Gun, Pistol - a 20 Ell Tent Twine and Net Thread, a bushel Rice & in short every thing that would be necessary for a man on a long Journey - besides his own private property but a more minute of these Articles shall be found in my Journal attested by the man who found him out in his retreat - Collie not only absconded and left the charge of his post with so much of the Company's property, but abandoned his wife and child to their hard fate - what could be done in such a case? After all search proved vain Beads sent Sabiston and an Indian to me - but before my men came to Cedar Lake, Beads had found his tent standing, the property hid in different places among the Rocks except his bundle of Furs which could not be found - Collie himself was in the woods for Bark to build a canoe - Beads therefore took every article he found and left him not an article of either his own private property or that of the Company's well knowing that Collie must give himself up He did come next day for his own things, which Beads would not give up to him before he brought the Furs. Furs he denied of having taken, which he could not do, as the man knew what there was as well as himself at length he consented to go for the Furs, but would not allow any one to go with him - and was back with the bundle a short time after the arrival of the men from here - he then made some difficulties of coming to the men's Hut - and acted the Madman not a little, but when they had taken him a prisoner he was quiet enough - and after many fair promises they allowed him to remain at Cedar Lake with his family for the rest of the Spring - It was also not very safe or rather convenient for them, or me to remove him - as the Ice was already very bad on the Smaller Lakes - He did remain quiet while at Cedar Lake - but on the 23rd of May on their way hither in a long Portage and not very late in the night he decamped with his whole family and had stolen 3 of the Company's nets again and the 20 Ell Tent - It

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was with some difficulty and late the next day that Beads came up with them, and none but a native could have followed their tracks over rocks and fallen wood which they had an interest in following — but Beads brought them back the same way & I have the whole family here at this present moment — Collie a prisoner confined to a small Cabin in the men's house, but allowed the limits of the Fort — for the miserable man's health — but told at the same time should he abuse this indulgence that I shall bind him hand and foot and confine him to close quarters I do not wish to go to this extremity without a necessity — but I am determined to deliver him safe at Albany I have forgot to mention that Collie had taken the Rum Keg and its contents with him the first time he went off and was found empty by Beads in the Tent, wet, as it had rendered its last gasp — that very morning for its breath was still strong Beads says — Collie had at the time, had all the materials ready to build a Canoe, and his intentions seem to have been to get to the first American establishment about Lac la Pluie for that purpose he got several Indians to make him out a draft or chart of the way to these places — Beads also supposes that some of the Company's property is still hid somewhere, which cannot be found out — a small Keg of powder & some Shot for instance — The Indian Debt Book & every other paper belonging to the Post — he had these with him and altho' he has given me the Indian Debt Book and some scraps of Papers — no one living can make any thing out of these for he gave up marking down any thing he received from the Indians or given to them, early in January — so that I am under the necessity of trusting to the honesty of the Indians themselves on these matters — but I have said enough — I have only to add that John Beads, throughout the whole of these transactions behaved with the greatest steadiness coolness, foresight & perseverance — That not one out of a hundred of the Company's Servants would have acted as he did — from the beginning to the end of the affair and notwithstanding Collie's wiles & craftiness Beads proved a match for him & brought him to this place — tho' the man was almost alone while the other men came to inform me of the affair, Beads never slept in peace until he hunted him out which was not easy — as the Snow was all gone in the woods and the Ice bare — there was no two Articles of the property hid in the same place — but all these he found out by dint of perseverance — except the Furs which could not be found — having recovered these and leaving Collie bare of his resources he obliged him to surrender himself, and tho' the man was in the custom of obeying Collie

as his Master — he compelled him by threats to yield up the Company's property I mean the bundle of Furs — & tho' after a short elapse of time, Beads returned the charge of the Property to Collie, the man says that he could never get an hour of sound sleep while at Cedar Lake — Beads did this to humour him, and not by my orders to Beads — yet Collie betrayed the poor man's confidence and had hidden every article of his own and his wifes private property — filled his boxes with Brush & stones & embarked with them quietly for this place — but after the men had finished carrying in a Portage of 4 long Stretches was fatigued and fast asleep — Collie gave them the "Slip" with his family — the Tent & 3 nets the Company's property — yet Beads hunted them out — and brought them back — such steadiness of conduct in a man of his class cannot be too highly appreciated and I trust & hope that so much zeal shall not pass unrewarded — I have a right being his Master "for the time being" to make this request — that something handsome should be given him for his zealous conduct in this affair but whether the Honble Company shall be pleased to grant this request or not, Beads shall not want my recommendation — A piece of hardship has been done to so trustworthy a servant as Beads, when he agreed last, much against my wish — by reducing his wages from £25 to £22. while Jacob Daniel was and is allowed the former Price — Jacob Daniel is an excellent man — but on the score of usefulness there is no comparison between himself & Beads — Beads in a Boat or Canoe is to the full as clever as Jacob in a Rapid — can make a Canoe, and perhaps make a boat — a clever hand with the Indians — the very best hand in the Albany River — could trust him without hesitation to the charge of a small Post — had he any one to keep the Indian accounts — I had given him the charge of Cedar Lake in January two years ago — when Mr. La Ronde was called to Lake Superior — and I have every reason to believe that the Post did not suffer by the change — on the contrary the Indians were more pleased & the Company's property as safe — therefore need again hope that the Governor & Council will be pleased to consider the conduct of this honest man not entirely beneath their notice

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Whatever little merit I myself may have had from the beginning in this affair the consciousness of having done my duty is reward enough for me — the greatest merit I could by claim to is there, that I did not consider on future consequences either to myself or to the individual in question — or if I considered them at all they did not weigh enough with me to prevent me from my duty — I had seen the evil and I applied the

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only remedy in my power to cut the evil Short - For there is not the least doubt, had the man acted as an honest man should act during last winter being the case forward before the Council this Summer, but that he would come off with the appearance of victory - as the nine tenths of the allegations against him were, what is called "circumstantial evidence" and there would be not a few who would consider him innocent and censure my conduct - for it is more easy to feel & perceive a grievance than it is to prove it - The fear of evil consequences to my private Interest held many an honest man from doing his duty - but these are "after" reflections which did not appear at the time I removed Collie from the Charge of Osnaburgh - Gentlemen may say that this is "fishing for praise" well if that was the case I can surely be forgiven men in my circumstances and particularly myself, require all these little aids, which chance puts in their way, to make up for other demerits, and keep them in their saddle - Evil report makes its way "through a key hole while the good is stopped at the outer gate" I have some reason to suspect that this had happened to myself on more than one occasion - not that I feared evil report, nor that such a thing got abroad, but having done all for the best within my limited capacity and some of these of a particular nature, which merited more notice than they met with - Strange as it may appear, Osnaburgh is the Second Post I have been the means of saving to the Company, out of the hands of unprinciple men within the last 6 years - I had arrived from Montreal in 1826 time enough to save the Post of Lake Nepisingue - which was only then half ruined & I had the satisfaction to have brought things round that the Company did not receive damage - I myself starved the more for it. There is a great analogy between the Characters of Thomas Cowburn & Alexander Collie that the one will put one in mind of the other and I doubt not but that their end will be similar - both full of Stratagem - low Cunning and regardless of every sense of honesty & truth - the one succeeded a La Ronde at Lake Nepisingue and the other a La Ronde at Cedar Lake, and Charles McKenzie had the unpleasant task of detecting both - but not before, they each played a conspicuous part

To my saving Lake Nepisingue from entire ruin Mr McBean can bear witness & tho' I believe this fact is yet unknown to the Council that Gentleman did not seem insensible of its value at the time - perhaps he was delicate about it, for fear of hurting my feelings - I can assure him or any other Gentleman, that I am not so very delicate and that it would neither hurt my feelings, or interest that every member

of the whole Concern should be acquainted with the fair instances I had the good fortune of being of service to the present Concern - for I have seen so many taking their several ways from this Country - some to their homes - some beyond the seas and the greatest number beyond the Concerns of this world, so that I am an almost a Stranger in the only corner of this world of which I have any knowledge This is one among many other disadvantages I labour under - the most that can be said of my capacity is "mediocrity" - I do not wish to take people by surprize. I have weighed my own merits with impartiality and I know I am deficient of what others possess - but in recompense I possess qualities tho' less bright, may not have been less necessary to carry on our pursuits in this Country. I thank heaven for three ingredients in my composition in particular Reverence to my God - integrity to my employers and good will to my fellow Creatures -

If I have been vascally enough to take liberties with the divine Precepts of the former, it was the frailty of human nature - for which I implore & hope his forgiveness and when I erred towards my employers it was the error of Judgement [illegible] and error is liable to human nature I likewise hope their forgiveness -

I have carried this to a shameful length, of which I was not aware when I began I have therefore humbly to beg the forgiveness of any Gentleman who may honour it with a reading - not only for its length but also for the many errors which run through it - I would make another copy of it were I sure of succeeding better

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen
Your most obedient and
most humble Servant
(signed) Charles McKenzie

a True Copy of Mr Charles McKenzie's Report —
Jacob Corrigal —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Lac Seul Trading
Post - Report - Summer
1831

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

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SECTION B

CLASS 107

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 5

DESCRIPTION LAC SEUL
REPORT on DISTRICT

1834

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B 107 e

LAC SEUL

REPORT 1834

5
1834

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B107/e/5
1834

Report of Lac Seul Trading Post for 1834.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
Box 1216/552

There were Seven Engages or laboring servants attacked to this post this last season & it is as nerve less than sex - these are Jacob Daniel, Pierre Robillard, Pierre L'Irlande - Robert Gill, Patrick Ahdemars, Thomas Hay, & James Harper - The five first named are very good servants each in his line - the other two Lads are young natives - their Capacity is not so well known - I can only say that they are all obedient servants -

Some improvements have been done at this place since the last Report - an Excellent Store was built of 40 feet by 25 - & of 12 feet posts - Pavellion roof, Coving with Cedar Shingles which had taken 7500 - the whole building is of the very best timber - Norway pine, split with the saw - it has also a Gallery or balcony at one End & an Awning before the Shop & Store doors - A new Byre or Cow house, & a fish shed has been built two years ago - there is also a Good dwelling house for the Master - but the Mens house & the Stockads require to be renewed next year - the Stockads in particular, ~~which~~ were put up in 1822, are falling & decaied at the Surface of the Ground - Nothing of the Kind Could be done this year - We have had Enough to do - to make out our own livelihood - The water was Extraordinary high the fall boisterous & Early - Consequently the fishing failed but by Keeping from 28 to 32 Nets down - from the 20th Nov. to the 15th February we got fish Enough to serve us until the Lake broke up in the Early part of May -

We Got a new piece of Ground broke up this Spring which I may say is the Case every Spring - the soil being very poor & sandy - wears out in 3 years - & our fields now are very Extensive - We planted this Spring no less than 75 Kegs Potatoes - which, should the season be a favourable one may yield about 500 Kegs potatoes - Such Ex

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Extensive fields require great attention, & the small work for two men to work, & for them three times in the Course of the Summer, for before they are done of the last, the first Hoed are more than ready for a Second hoeing — too much work for our present Summer Establishment. I need not Mention how useful Potatoes are in a fish Country, & particularly so in a bad Year. not only to ourselves, but to the Natives also, when Starvation Stares them in the face. The Company's Establishments have been, hitherto, their stay & Support —

I had been very fearful last fall of the lives of these "Woods men" — seeing that there was no fish. Corn, in plenty which were famous & seldom fail us — but I must own I have been agreably disappointed, & that there was less real want among the Indians in this Quarter than I have seen in a more promising season. That the Indians were short at times — & that it was all they could do to keep themselves alive, had nothing to spare — Cannot be denied — but I have not heard of such misery & Howling Stories, as I have often heard — Enough to make poor humanity shudder. Neither did the Natives trouble the House much — They Knew that we could not afford them much — unless in a Case of real Necessity — & as they had nothing to spare, they kept off. I was not sorry on this head — they do Visit us sometimes in the Course of the Winter in any Quarter — but when they are Compelled to Come to the House or near the house, they do Nothing at all — they then Consider themselves in a boarding-house — or rather living on their friends — some indeed, Consider it living "on the King."

I have nothing to Complain of in regard to the Indians I believe there are as many honest Men amongst them as can be Collected among an Equal number of Europeans — without the Spur of Shame & Punishment — They prove useless, & helpless on occasions — but they have good instructors — to afford them on their delinquencies —

Here we have been the Seine of sufferers of the frontier Posts of the Northern Department — for many years past — & whatever Plans was taken & Efforts made to keep the Indians back, from those Posts, they still Continue to go, year after year, & those that go seldom or Ever Come back — The System of Trade in those Posts is very different to Ours — but it were to be hoped & wished, when the Americans left the Frontier line & Posts that no Strange Indians would be received — but in Stead of this they are not only received, but Sent for to their hunting Grounds, after being indebted & ruining them under despotic Plans —

Some of our Indians after being indebted here, were Sent for, by an Indian from the Dalles, or River Wemoupa, those brought them down under great promises from the Person in Charge at that Post — Who Gave them Such debts there as well knowing, as he Must, that they were indebted here a few days before — One of these Came back — Who owned to me the Spring that he had taken for 80 Skins at River Wemoupa which he never intends paying — The three others here named, & a brother of these formed them Some, & tho' I had written to the person in Charge at the Dalles in March last, & had two men looking for these Indians for ten days this Spring — they were Kept out of our way — to this Day — unknown — When one of these Came in with a Bundle of 40 Skins & who says that his own Son & his two brothers had debts & traded at the Dalles Every Where they had last winter & Spring — he himself was at the Dalles this Spring but did not trade — Which appears to be the Case, as the furs are winter furs & Spring Rats —

Two More of our Indians have gone to White fish Lake last fall — Who owed a large debt here — which drove them to that Post — They got debts at that Place as if they owed nothing at any other place or if they belonged to an Opposition —

Three years after years Sent to White fish Lake in the winter — have written to them in the fall by Indians — to be sure of those from this Quarter that might go there to pay — but in vain —

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Beaver.— very Indians that went there way was equally well pleased whether a Rogues or an honest Man.— Sam sorry to have to make these remarks for I wish to be, and live on good terms with my neighbours.— Who are bound as Sam to serve honestly the same Hon: Company.— There as still four of the Indians belonging to this place absent, who wentwest at the back of Red Lake.— of whom I heard nothing untill lately that one of them went to Lake Winnipic & the other 3. to a Newly settled post of the Rs Dept.s at Sandy Narrows

Sandy Narrows is not established.— I have indeed, to be very thankful that no more than 3 of the Red Lake Indians paid a friendly visit there.— I remember well when that post was 1st before (from Albany) that it was a very sore thorn in our sides.— Even when both Red Lake & St Charles were up.— how much more must it prove now to this place.— so far from it, where the very best of our Indeans Lived every winter in that Quarter.— We are most Certainly surrounded by an opposing power, whose duty it should be to lind us a friendly hand to bring our refractory Indeans into obedience & honesty.— but instead of this our Northern friends have hitherto honoured as many of our Indeans as came in there.— Except when any of them went to Lac La plaines & Mr Chief Factor J. D. Cameron happened to be there in person.— He constantly warned them in a manner that they had no wish to part long there.— Stay or return there orders.—

When the Crafts arrived from Albany in Augt. last there was very fine appearances of Rain in Deep Small Lake where it used to Grow.— only that it was late in Making & short in Growth.— but this fine appearance was of short duration.— There fell such torrents of Rain in the Month of Augt & Sept.r that all prospects were intirely blasted & but few of the Indeans Could Collect even a Small Bag.

This was more Reasons for the Natives discontented to the traders.— which we feel to this day.—

Musk Rats also were more than Commonly numerous last fall but the high waters & a most boisterous fall season effected the Rats much.— The most of those we got were Shot.— which was not easy done, the water being far into the woods & Willows where these Small animals feed.— in perfect safety from the Enemys.— Were as if our Indeans had Traps.— Lakes there Neighbours of the Northern Dept.s the benefit would be felt in this Quarter.— as it is felt there, by both Traders & Indeans.— for they Employ there Traps at all Seasons of the year to advantage to themselves.— Let the water be high or low.— the weather Snow or Mild, so the Traps the Rats Cannot Escape them.— Thus is the greatest handsheps & drawback & Complaint among our Indeans of this Quarter.— I have often represented this at Head Quarters.— but hitherto to no purpose.— let Gentlemen look to this in time.— Rats were numerous this last season.— & we got more than an usual Quantity.— at the Exchange of from 4 to 500 lb Gunpowder.— How long will these Animals Continue a plentyful is very Problematical.— as the days they disappear Lac Seul post may disappear with them.— Lynx & other Kinds of Animals.— seem to be falling off very fast.— Martins are fine for some years back & they seem to be on the decrease.

Otter have greatly fallen off this year.— Bears have almost disappeared intirely this Spring.— the most of the Bears went to the South in Sept.r & Octr.— there being no fruit of any Kinds in this Northern Country last Summer those that remained were so very poor, that it is supposed they died during the winter.— in deed several of them were found dead by the Indeans in their dens.— others were taken by the more strong among themselves.— There was a few Cats or Lynxs in some parts of this Country.— but not Generally they seemed to keep in a Certain direction to the S. South & several Excellent Cat hunters did not Kill one during this last season.— As to Beaver I Can hardly offer an Opinion Beaver appears to me to be at a Stand for some years.— to increase they Cannot.— and it is most Surprising that

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vain!— Every Indian that went their way was Equally well received whether a Rogue or an honest man— I am sorry to have to make these remarks— for I wish to be, and live on good terms with my neighbours— who are bound as I am to serve honestly the same Hon: Company— There as still four of the Indians belonging to this place absent, who wintered at the back of Red Lake— of whom I heard nothing untill lately "that one of them went to Lake Winnipie & the other 3. to a newly settled post of the N. Dep.t at Sandy Narrows"

If Sandy narrows is reestablished— I have indeed, to be very thankful that no more than 3 of the Red Lake Indians paid a friendly visit there— I remember well when that post was up before (from Albany) that it was a very sore "thorn" in our side"— Even when both Red & Lake St. Charles were up— how much more must it prove now to this place— so far from it, while the very best of our Indians hunt every winter in that Quarter— we are most Certainly surrounded by an opposing power, whose duty it should be to lend us a friendly hand to bring our refractory Indians into obedience & honesty— but instead of this our Northern friends have hitherto humoured as many of our Indians as came in their— Except when any of them went to Lac La place & Mr Chief Factor J. D. Cameron happened to be there in person— He Certainly received them in a manner that they had no wish to prolong their stay or renew their visits—

When the Crafts arrived from Albany in Aug.t last there was very fine appearance of Rice in every small Lake where it used to grow— only that it was late in Meatoney & short in Growth— but this fine appearance was of short duration— There fell such torrents of Rain in the month of Aug.t & Sept.r that all prospects were entirely blasted & but few of the Indians Could Collect even a small bag

This was most serious for the Natives detrimental to the traders— which we feel to this day—

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Musk Rats also were more than Commonly numerous last fall but the high waters & a most boisterous fall season spoiled the Rat hunt— The most of those we got were Shot— which was not easy done, the water being far into the woods & willows where these small animal feeds— & in perfect safety from the enemy— where as if our Indians had Traps— like their neighbours of the Northern Dep.t the benefit would be felt in this quarter— as it is felt there, by both traders & Indians— for they employ their Traps at all seasons of the year to advantage to themselves— let the water be high or low— the winter severe or mild, with Traps the Rats Cannot Escape them— this is the greatest hardship & draw back & Continued Complaint among our Indians of this quarter— I have often represented this at Head Quarters— but hitherto to no purpose— Let Gentlemen look to this in time— Rats were numerous this last season— & we got more than an usual Quantity— at the Secretary of from 4 to 500 lbs Gunpowder— how long will these animals Continue so plentiful is very problematical— & the day they disappear Lac Seul post may disappear with them— Every other kind of Animals— seem to be falling off very fast— Martens are few for some years back & they seem to be on the decrease

Otter have greatly fallen off this year— Bears have almost disappeared intirely this Spring— the most of the Bears went to the South in Sept.r & Oct.r there being no fruit of any kind in this Northern Country last summer those that remained were so very poor, that it is supposed they died during the winter— indeed, several of them were found dead by the Indians in their dens— others were eaten by the more strong among themselves— There was a few Cats or Lynxes in some parts of this Country— but not General they seemed to keep in a Certain direction to the S. West & several Excellent Cat hunters did not kill one during this last season— As to Beaver I Can hardly offer an opinion Beaver appears to me to be at a stand for some years— to increase they Cannot— and it is most surprising that

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that there should be a Beaver found at this day on the Territories of old Lac Seul - Considering the Encouragements held out to the Indeans for these Animals - Yet a few are found yearly & but a very few - No Encouragements is necessary now for Indeans regarding Beaver - No Indean can resist the temptation of killing a Beaver at any season of the Year - if he can - the Skin is but a secondary Consideration whether in or out of Season - The most of the few Beaver we get is from the North & N. West of Lac Seul - from Indeans who go Easterly Canoe hunting in the Summer - We always Complain that these animals are getting scarce & so they are - Yet the Indeans do their very best, he gives us a good many of each Kind yearly - which often Confounded my reasoning powers - where Could they find all - The Lac Seul Indeans did little or nothing during the winter - some few Excepted but no Indeans in these Northern Districts Could Exert themselves more in the Spring more than these did - in such furs as they Could find - Martens Excepted - and N. Rivers well knows it - There are 55 Indeans who gave their hunt to the Post of Lac Seul this Season - Which amounts to a few pounds of H.Q. Packs, of 90 lbs Each - & I have no restrictions - in saying that had Each of these hunt, but 2 Rat Packs, the Returns this year would have been more than 60 Packs - Had I asked for 50 Beaver Boots as often as I have pleaded hard for Rat Packs - Each Indean Could be supplied, with Down long ere now - It is not a new thing among my Indeans to give a good Gun for a back Rat Pack -

Sturgeon Lake also, made out well this year, 15 Packs in prime furs from that Post, is what has not often been in the Returns of late Years - yet some of the furs were got on the Sturgeon Lake Territory - the most of the Beaver & some Hounds of the Rat Skins were killed on Lac Seul Grounds or grounds & almost all the Musk on that of Osaakenjigh Yet I have no wish to send down Sturgeon Lake tho' I consider it a useful Post, to the Hudson's Bay

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The best & richest part of Sturgeon Lake ever was always to the S. E. & S. West of it - & could have been so to this day were it not that the Lac Seul Indeans have over-run all that part of late Years - Either from fear of danger Mischief Thereabouts or that Sturgeon Should be the consequence I know not - they have taken possession of all that part of the Country or rather them Beaver has been proclaimed over it - which is terror Enough to deter all others Indeans from going that way - some go by stealth - as to an Enemys country - who make their out while they remain - but few likely to pass the winter - where such Destructions are daily & publick - not so much from fear as the wish to live in Peace - They have almost all of late, thrown their whole weight on this Post - where they get nothing but Rats - & those of them, who went to look for Beaver on this Side - found some - & the Lac Seul Indeans also - 'Tis said that some Bank Geese - Snapped on the Seasons between the Posts

Sturgeon Lake is indeed but a small Lake - between large Contending Posts - where each makes a stop - The Indeans were few in number - & knowing their superiority they were desirous of living on peace with all the surrounding Indeans - even to this day they are well received, when ever they go - I do believe that more Rat Packs Could be got upon Sturgeon Lake Post than on any other in this Quarter - but as to the Musk Rat Skins it is none - Some none - Except for the Sample of the hands which are absolutely [illegible] to bring to the Goods to this place - I might Count out what those more would be of - more Real Service to the Southern dept but I will not pronounce that any place where I Could settle there would turn out so many Packs as I do not hand in Drummond or other Posts —

Both the Red Lake & those of Lake St Charles are calling laudly for a post. As they are informed they are to have no more debts in the fall they are afraid of the consequence, so far from a Trading house, when they have a Skin. They may well be so, for the first year in particular. but these did better these two last years than they have done three years ago when they had a post. 'Tis true, they were well supplied with every necessary article for a long winter before hand which cannot be the case. Should the usual debts be with holden from them next fall.

As to the new system of giving no debts to the Indians & making them pay for all their necessaries I can say nothing. Should our neighbours of the northern dept. adopt the same system. we have as good a chance of succeeding as they have. but should their system be different to ours, or continue their present system. Our Indians will be supplied from these posts.

I shall say nothing regarding Osnaburg House. I know less of that quarter. I know its territory to be extensive & its Indians to be numerous. and it appears that both the Indians & their lands are very poor. The small quantity of goods that come yearly to that post shew the one & the small number of packs shew the other. Yet there are more good furs about Osnaburgh than in this quarter. but its Indians have learned the Art of doing without much European Goods. Ours must do the same. by the new system. Should that day come & come it must. we shall, indeed, have more goods in our stores. but less furs.

All respectfully submitted by
Sir.
Your Most Humble Servant
Charles McKenzie

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1834

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B 107 e

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to
Jacob Corrigal Esqr. C. T. Albany.

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SECTION B

CLASS 107

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 6

DESCRIPTION LAC SEUL

REPORT on DISTRICT

1845

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LAC SEUL

REPORT 1815

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1815

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1 Feb

B-107/e/6 LAC SUEL REPORTS

Report of 1845

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Lac Seul Trading Post for 1845

Although I am ignorant of the necessary form of a Report from an insignificant Trading Post, but what is so often repeated in Journals and Waste Books - I shall endeavour to say something about the Establishment and its appurtenance in a plain matter of fact but true statement -

There are six Engages or Servants on the Lac Seul Establishment viz. Patrick Ah'dmar - Guide - has a wife and 6 Children - an able bodied man for the duty for which he is Engaged - and in that respect no fault can be found - and if any 'tis merely from absence of mind - alone -

The Indians are apt to impose upon him - as he takes every thing for granted purely out of good nature - in every other respect a most trust worthy man -

Robert Gill - Stress Man - has a wife & 4 Children - A Careful man of able body - but met the accident of cutting the Pan of his Knee a few years since which prevents him from undertaking a long journey but able for any duty, long journeys excepted - his is also Careful and trust worthy in what is put under his hands -

Adam Head - a middleman - has a wife and 3 Children - I see no fault in this lad - tho' he is rather weak for hard work - but willing, and has a good heart - rather subject to ailments -

Samuel Rat - a Bow's man - a pure Indian - has a wife and one Child - he too is not fit for a long journey - by a Cut of an Axe on the Cap of the Knee - he also lost the sight of one Eye - and subject to feel sore eyes from time to time, as well as Aberration of mind -

Thomas Tait - a middleman - has a wife and one Child - a half breed partly brought up by Indians - & partly about the Establishments - very much his own Master - in want of food & raiment - such are subject to be saucy when they are taken into the service, nor does Tom: belie the General Character - but why find fault with people whom we cannot do without, and have none better to replace them - Tom: Tait is the least of all able for a winter journey to Albany - scarcely fit for two days walk - if he has a Lord to haul - yet bold and saucy about the Fort - subject to sickness of some sort or other -

Prosper Moor - well known about Moose factory - Agreed a Steer's man, but not fit for a Middle man - Can hardly Carry one Piece in a Portage - has 8 of a family - by at least one half too many for any man at Lac Seul - I know nothing of his Character - he may be very fit for every duty of which I have none to give him - he was sent here without a Call - feeling they Could do without him at Moose & Albany -

I have no wish or desire to say any thing hurtful to these men - such as they are they may do - they Can never be Good men for their duty with such large families - they have too much work of their own to take any interest in that of the Company - There is every reason to fear that the Company must abandon this post, purely on account of families - Each of these men has from 6 to 10 Nets in the water from almost one End of the year to the Other - and they are sure to fine the best Sets for their own Nets at all time, and the Company's Nets Come off the worse - 'tis innumerable what quantity of fish these families & their Dogs destroy in the Course of a twelve Months - and so free are the fish getting, and so very far from the Fort that there is hardly Existing here at Certain Seasons - True - as I am often told - "people must live" - but if the people would learn Economy they Could live with one half less fish and less Nets - There are Certain Seasons when the Pesch are numerous in September - that they take them in Shoals purely for their fat & Roe - while the Body of the fish is thrown on the beach - or given to old Indian women of whom they Keep a number about them -

I do not say too much - tho I did not Count them - to say that there Cannot be less than from 40 to 50 Nets here in the water within sight of the Fort - including those of the Indians who are Encampted on this Point -

The Building are not of the worst - but they often stand in want of Repair - The best sort of wood will soon decay in this Sandy Soil - The Master's House is now 18 years old - It was Covered, I know not how often - with Cedar Bark and it has no other damage Except the foundation logs are much decayed - The Company's Store is of the best in the Country - and will stand until the Foundation will Crumble - it is Covering with Cedar Shingles - but alas - there was none here who Knew to Make or lay Shingles Consequently - they now leak like Sieve - and Calls for another Shingling - It has been

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END of SECTION B

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SECTION B

CLASS 109

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 1

DESCRIPTION LA CLOCHE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1827-1828

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B 109 e

LA CLOCHE.

REPORT. 1827-1828.

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1827-1828

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(36) Lake Huron (4) Ex 864 B. 109/e/1 1827/28

Report

on the state of the Posts, Indian Trade & Character of the Indians in Lake Huron District. 1827/28

Extent & Boundary of the District & nature of the Soil.

The boundary of the District extends itself from Campement Dours to Lake Nepisingue running in a direction about S.W. & N.E. and its Longitude about 85 Leagues. – The North & South extremity of it is from River St Clair to the heigth of land which divides New Brunswick, Metawagaming and Lake Temiscamingue from Lakes Huron and Nepisingue, the longitude of which may as far as I can form an opinion be about 80 Leagues.

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Over such an extent of Country it is seldom that a good spot of ground can be found, the whole or nearly all which lays to the North of Lakes Huron & Nepisingue being a complete map of rocks. The East and South side of the District, that is, from L'Isle au Sable to River St Clair affords very extensive & good pieces of ground. –

Animals.

The Country North of Lakes Huron and Nepisingue affords very few of the large species of animals, If I except only a very few scattered Rein Deer and Bears. The only kinds of animals which afford sustenance to the natives are the Rabbits and a very few remaining Beavers, and even of these it is out of the power of the best hunter to procure a sufficiency to maintain himself & family. – What contributes greatly to the annual starvation of the natives

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natives and Whites in that part of the Country is the entire scarcity of fish throughout. The only part of the District where the Indians live tolerably well, is at Sagingue the Southern part of the British Territory in this Lake. The fallow Deer, Racoon, Bears and fish being pretty abundant and the Soil good for Cultivation, but in every other part, were it not for the assistance afforded to the Indians by the Traders not one could remain any time in it.

Number of Posts.— The Company's Trade in Lake Huron District is carried on at nine different Stations—namely—La Cloche, Nepisaguee, Green Lake, White Fish Lake, French River, Nepisingue, Sheshawinaga, Isle au Sable and Sagingue.— These Posts were manned by a Chief Factor, 6 Clerks Interpreter & 23 Men.—

Opposition Force. The force opposed to us by the opposition where we have Establishments—and in the neighbourhood where we have no Posts & consequently no share of the Trade is as follows— 101 Clerks and Men.—

Fisheries. The last fisheries, at such of the Company's Posts where fish can be procured has been very unproductive and in some places they have completely failed.— This was entirely owing to the height of the water & the high Winds we had in the fall. This failure would have been seriously felt at some of the Company's establishments had we not been prepared to gaurd against it in time. The fish procured in the fall is generally Trout

Trout & White Fish which are caught with the Nets, lines, and Spears and Salted for winter Stock.—

Wages of the District.— The Amount of Wages including Clerks and Men was £775.1.2 Sterling.— This reduction on Wages arises from our having engaged the whole of the men on the European terms except two whose Contracts were not expired and who would not change their agreements.

Food to Servants.— Where fish is procured and salted men are allowed 6 lbs fish and one Gallon of Potatoes per diem, and when fish are not to be had—they get 1 quart of Hulled Corn and 1½ Ounces of Grease, with now and then 2 lbs Flour in lieu of the Corn. The opposition people are fed upon Salt Beef, Salt Pork, Flour and Pease as much as they can eat. This causes many murmurs by the Companys Servants and is a very great temptation to the whole of them to join the oppositions.—

The Trade. The Trade of Lake Huron District would have been pretty good had not the three Posts on the eastern side of the Lake completely failed.— This arose from the Indians having nearly all been severely sick of the Ague from Fall to Spring which prevented them from going out to hunt.

The Goods brought into the District for trade by the Oppositions are chiefly all fine Goods, such as fine & Secd. Cloths of all Colours, Calicoes of every discription, Frock Coats, Silk & Belts, Trowsers and Waistcoats of every kind, with a large supply of Shawls and Handkerchiefs both Silk and Cotton, and a very Considerable quantity

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

quantity of Provisions of every discription.—
These fineries attract the attention of the
natives and in consequence we have the
mortification of seeing some valuable Furs
given to the Oppositions for such articles
as the Indians cannot procure from us.—
With provisions the Oppositions yearly
procure many valuable furs, which they
would not were we sufficiently provided
in that article to prevent it.—
To be able now to obtain our share of
the Trade in this District we require to
imitate partly our opponents in the
articles for Sales to Indians, that is, a
few low priced second cloth Trade Capots of
a fast dye of three sizes. Large, middling
& Small — for our blue Cloth Capots are
so well known now of being very bad
that in many instances I have seen the
Indians refuse them even upon debt when
in absolute want of that article.— Goods of
that discription have been & will continue
to be of great loss as long as we continue
to make use of them. I have above observed
that the Oppositions bring for Trade
nothing but fineries of every discription which
draws to them many of our Indians, and
will be the cause of the loss of many, if
immediate measures are not taken to prevent
it.— The manner that we are to be
equipt for the Trade of 1828 is such (Moose Factory
not being provided with the necessary
articles for this trade) that I am most
confident that the oppositions will reap
a great advantage from it and will
at

at last succeed in taking that footing which
till now we have prevented them from
obtaining.— As I find that the interest of
the Company is at stake, for the want of
the proper articles, and of good quality for
the Trade of this District, I beg leave to
request that all such articles of Woollen
Stuffs (as are sent us may be of a fast dye)

Character of Indians.— The Indians generally of this District
are of a mild disposition and would be the
best to be met with, were it not that they
have so many encouragements by the Traders
to become rogues. They are now come to
that state that it is dangerous to make
them some Advances. They are real Slaves
to Liquor and in consequence there is nothing
but what they can undertake to satisfy
that passion.

[In closing this, I beg leave to state
that I am fully satisfied with the conduct
of the Clerks of the District, and that
the men have all given satisfaction except
a young man from Montreal last Spring
of the name of Antoine Raymond who
deserted from one of our Posts during
last Winter]

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

La Cloche Lake Huron
16th June 1828

John McBean
C.F.

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SECTION B

CLASS 109

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 2

DESCRIPTION LA CLOCHE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1828 - 1829

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LA CLOCHE

REPORT 1828-1829

2
1828-1829

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1828/29 **Report** Lake Huron

on the state of the Posts, Indian Trade and Character of the Indians in Lake Huron District. 1828/29

Extent and Boundary of the District. State of the Country &c.

The Extent of the District is the same as stated in my report of last year, and the State of the Country is yearly continuing fast on the decline, so much so that Beaver has now become an article of uncommon scarcity.

The only Furs now to be procured from the Natives are Muskrats, Otters, Martins, Bears and a small proportion of the other small Furs generally found in this section of the Country.

Number of Posts. number of hands employed & amount of Wages.

The number of the Honble Company's Trading Establishments is nine. These Posts were manned by one Chief Factor, 5 Clerks, 1 Outpost Master and 24 Men. distributed as follows.

	Chief Factor	Clerks	Outpost Master	Labourers acting as Post Masters	Labourers
La Cloche	1	1			[illegible]
White Fish Lake		1			2
Lake Nipisingue		1			4
Thawinagar		1			3
Sagingue		1			3
Isle au Sable			1		3
Green Lake				1	1
French River				1	1
Mipisagueer					1
	1	5	1	2	22

The amount of Wages of this establishment is £781.17.2. Sterling.

Returns of Fisheries.

Where any fish could be caught at the above establishments. the returns of Fisheries in the fall have been better than those of the preceding years; but unfortunately to counterbalance this success in the fall, no fish could be caught throughout the winter, and [illegible] Spring. The consequence has been that the Indians have suffered very much for want of food and many would certainly have starved to de[illegible]

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

had they not been assisted in provisions by the Traders.

Food to Servants

The Honble Companys Servants have as usual ban fed with Corn, Flour, Fish & Potatoes and to each establishment where there were one Master & three men a Barrel of Pork was given, to be served out when any one went on a Journey.

Quality of many articles of our Goods, deficiency of Outfit and Consequences arising therefrom

The Common Strouds and Capots received from Moose were very bad and Consequently of no advantage to the Trade. Throughout this last year the natives have gone the length of returning back some of those articles after having taken them from us, and would not on any consideration have any of them - and they consequently had to apply to the opposition for better. - The fault found with the Strouds is the want of a Cord to it, of its inferior quality and of its losing its colour. - The Capots when exposed to the sun for one or two days turn from blue to gray - the introduction of such articles into this part of the country has been, and will be, as long as it is continued a decided disadvantage to the Companys Trade.

Moose Factory being very deficient in many articles indispensibly required for the trade of this District - the consequence was that the Outfit obtained from thence in the Summer was very short in those articles on which the greatest profit is to be made - namely - Printed Cottons, Second Cloths, Shirts, Shawls, made up Clothes of every kind - and Worsted. - The want of these articles forced the greater part of our Indians to have recourse to our Opponents, and would have nearly ruined the Company's affairs here, had not Mr Chief Factor Christie sent us an apportment of the above out of the importation of last fall, which supply reached this in November & without which [illegible] the Companys Trade must have suffered most considerably and the greatest part of our best hunters must have joined the opposition.

To maintain ourselves in this Trade I beg leave to

to state that it is absolutely necessary to be provided in such articles of good quality as the natives require - as without that we may expect soon to see all our Indians abandon us and join the opposition. -

The Grand River opposition having come up and stationed themselves at one of our Posts in this District (a circumstance never known before of the Grand River Traders penetrating so far) - they have introduced such low prices on their Trading Goods that it is not the least doubtful that the trade will suffer greatly on that account. - The effect of this measure of theirs, and our not having had in time the necessary articles of trade, is evident on the Balance Sheet of the past Outfit which only makes the profits arising from the Trade of 1828 to amount to two thirds of that of 1827

Opposition

The Opposition continues as formidable as usual by the Grand River Traders having introduced themselves in this District as above stated. - The most considerable of our old opponents the Messrs Robinsons of New Market last summer gave over the contest; but their Clerks for want of employment have bought from them what remained at their Trading Posts of the preceding Outfit and with some additional supplies they obtained from their former employers have carried on the opposition - but as these new Traders have no funds and there is not the least doubt of their having lost considerably on their trade of last Outfit I am by that led to expect that they will not long continue to annoy us

Before concluding I beg leave to state that the Company's Clerks have given satisfaction and that the men have done tolerably well.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

La Cloche 10th June 1829

John McBean
C. T. H. H. B. Co.

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SECTION B

CLASS 109

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 3

DESCRIPTION LA CLOCHE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1829 ~ 1830

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LA-CLOCHE

REPORT 1829-1830

3
1829-1830

B 109/e/3
1829/30
Ese 1009

Report Lake Huron 1

On the State of the Posts, Indian Trade and Character of the Indians in Lake Huron District

1829/30

Extent of the District and Nature of the Soil.—

The boundary of the District extended itself from Campement Dieux to Lake Nepisingue running a direction about S West and North East and its longitude about 85 leagues.— The North and South extremity of it is from River Sinclair, the discharge of this Lake, to the height of land which divides New Brunswick, Matawagamang and Lake Timiscamingue from Lakes Huron and Nepisingue; the longitude of which may as far as I can form an Opinion be about 80 leagues.

Owing such an extent of Country it is seldom that a good spot of ground can be found, the whole, or nearly all of which lays to the North of Lakes Huron and Nepisingue, as far as the heath of land, being a complete mass of Rocks.— The East and South side of the District, that is from Lisle au Sable East, to River Sinclair South, affords very extensive pieces of good soil

Number of Posts

The Company's Trade in this District has been carried on at nine different stations, viz. Laclache, Mississagué, Green Lake, White fish Lake, French River, Shawanaga or Grand Lake Isle au Sable and Sagueingue.— These Posts were manned by one chief Factor, 4 Clerks, 5 Post masters and Interpretters and 23 Labourers.— The force opposed to us consisted of 9 Masters and 42 Men

State of Fisheries

The fisheries at such of the Company's Posts where fish could be procured has been better than what I had seen it before, but in the winter and

Spring

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spring fish has been very scarce. so much so that had not the Indians been assisted by the traders many must have inevitably perished. —

The fish caught for the winter is chiefly Trout and white fish. — The former weighs three Pounds and the latter two. — These are caught with nets Lines and Spears — They are salted for winter stock. —

Wages

The wages for Outfit 1829 amounted to £730. 17. 2. —

As long as we have salt-fish, men are allowed, when at home, Six pounds of salt-fish and one Gallon potatoes, when upon flour they get 2 lbs with tallow to season it — If Corn, they get 1 quart with seasoning. — When upon a Journey, or upon Sundys, they are allowed 1½ lbs flour and ½ lbs pork pr diem —

Respecting the Trade

The trade of 1829 would have been very good had not our supplies from Moose Factory reached us so very late. It was not before the 18th of August that they reached this, Twenty two days after the greatest part of our Opponents had been stationed at their different Posts, Equiped the Indians, and sent them out to hunt. — The consequence was that the first hunt, which was excellent, mostly all went to our Opponents. — We had to make very heavy sacrifices to recall back to us such good Indians who had joined the Opposition. — Fortunately some of these latter having run'd short of Goods due [illegible] early part of the winter forced the Indians to bring to us a good deal of furs which if the opposition had been better provided would have gone to them; so that our returns have exceeded in point of value those of the preceding outfit of [illegible] £[illegible] [illegible] with us, part of our Opponents have done better than heretofore, but chiefly in Muskrats. —

Quality of the Goods

The common Strouds and Capots sent here for the trade are so very bad that no Indians of the best note will have any thing to do with it at all. The quality is bad and the die worst. — By the introduction of such articles for a Couple of years past I may safely say that we have lost some good furs and valuable Indians — The kind of Common Strouds required here is that with a narrow Cord, and every articles of woolen to be of fast die. —

Character of Indians

The natives of this District are generally of a mild disposition and would be well disposed and honest in their dealings were it not for the many encouragements and opportunities they have to become rogues. — They are now come to that state that it is dangerous to make advances to many. — They are real slaves to liquor and consequently there is nothing but what they can undertake to satisfy that passion —

Ground under Cultivation

The ground under cultivation in this District may consist of about twelve acres of clear ground of a very indifferent quality of soil, being chiefly sand on what is generally termed by farmers cold soil — Out of 48½ Bushels of Potatoe seed put in the ground last spring it yielded in all 656 Bushels. — Half a Bushel of oats was sowed which gave 9 Bushels. — The Kitchen gardens produced three Barrels of Onions, two do Carrots and five do Turnips, exclusive of Cucumbers and radishes which produced well. —

In concluding I feel a great pleasure in stating that I have satisfactorily been supported by every Gentlemen of this District, and that every one respectively has conducted the affairs of his post to my entire satisfaction

Laclache, Lake Huron 14th June 1830

John McBean C. F. —

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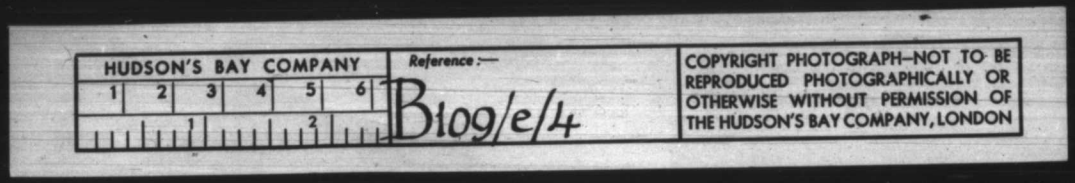

Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2nd MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 109

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 4

DESCRIPTION LA CLOCHE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1830-1831

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L.A. CLOCHE

REPORT 1880-1881

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(1880-1881)

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Ex 1034
Lake Huron

No 37 Th 1831

B 109/e/4
1830/31

Report

On the state of the Posts, Indian trade and character of the Indians in Lake Huron District 1830/31 —

Extent of the District & State of the Country

The extent of Lake Huron District is the same as stated in my report of last year and the state of the country continue fast on the decline, with respect to Beaver it is now become uncomly scarce. — Muskrat, Martins & Beans are fast declining the decline of the first has been occasioned by the excessive high water we have had spring 1830 — The Beans & Martins it appears have emigrated to the North & west of us —

No of Posts & employees & amount of wages

We have, as usual, occupied nine trading stations in this District, Namely Mississaqui & Green Lake under the charge of Mr Wm Cowel Clerk assisted by Post Master & Labourer Peter McFarlane & four Men. — Whitefish Lake in charge of Mr Alexr Wm McKay assisted by three men. — Lake Nepisingue in charge of Mr Francis Grant assisted by four men. French River Michel Rastoule Post master & labourer assisted by one man. — Shawanaga and Lisle au Sable under the charge of Mr Edward McKay assisted by one Post Master & labourer and four Men. — Sugaringue in charge of Mr Wallace assisted by one Interpreter & two men and Laclache in charge of C. Fuston John McBean assisted by Post Master B. McKenzie and five men. — The amount of wages to the above Servants is £807.10.2, including £12.10.2 Gratuities. —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Returns of Fisheries

The fisheries throughout the District last year have been tolerably good — In the winter & and spring the fish has been so scarce that the Indians who are in the habit of living chiefly on fish

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fish have suffered considerably by the great scarcity of them, and would certainly have died had we not been able to assist them.—

Quality of Good — The quality of goods received for this trade has given full satisfaction to all concerned.— Indians who had abandoned the Company on account of the poor quality of our Cloth & Capots are now returning to us & abandoning the Opposition.— Though the returns of Lake Huron for the Honble Hudsons Bay Company are not certainly what I would wish them to be, yet I may safely say that the different opponents we have had to contend with, though well supplied in every articles of Trade, have done by far less.— In short their ill success makes me expect that they will have soon to retire from the contest.—

Opposition — One of our most troublesome opposition Messrs Borland & Roe of New Market, have by the uncommon extravagance of their trade ruined and indebted themselves most completely.— The former has returned to the District with a little provisions and the little goods he had remaining of the year before.— Mr Mr Borland only occupied two Posts in this District to ten he was in habit of trading to till last year.— Mr Andrew Mitchell of Pinatangoushin and those he equipts are now those that call our attention.— They had ten Establishments in the District.— As their trade is very extravagant I have therefore every cause to expect that He will soon meet with the same fate as all those who have opposed the Company in this District since 1821.—

Gay & McGillivray of the Grand River opposed the Company at Lake Nepisingue.— Their bad luck there has forced them to recall their people and to leave us in peace.—

The Gardens in the District have generally failed.— This is owing to the continual rains we have had

had in May 1830 after the seed was in the ground, which distrayed it much.— The seed put in the Ground through the district was 66½ Bushels, which quantity produced only 619¾ Bushels — out of 2 Bushels of oats sowed we only got the same quantity — Kitchen Garden produced 2 Bushels Turnip & 1½ do carrot.—

In concluding I feel a pleasure in stating that the Companys Clerks have done every thing in their power to fill up their duty and that among the men some have have exerted themselves were whilst others have acted very indifferently

Laflache 14th June 1831 —

John McBean C.F.

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1830-31

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SECTION B

CLASS 109

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 5

DESCRIPTION LA CLOCHE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1832 - 1833

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LA-CLOCHE

REPORT 1832-1833

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1832-1833

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B.109/e/5 1832/33 1171/551 1

Lake Huron Report Outfit 1832 &c.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

The boundary of the District for the past Outfit extended itself from Cabonang S.W. One West to Lake Nipisingue East a distance of about 35 leagues and from the borders of Lake Huron South, to the height of land which divides the waters falling into Lake Huron from those falling into Hudsons Bay, North, a distance of about 35 leagues.

One such Post of Country, the Hon.ble Company had seven trading establishments Namely, Ste Marie, Mississagues, Green Lake, Whitefish Lake, French River, Nipisingue & Shawanaga These were manned by one Chief Factor, five Clerks, one Apprentice Clerk and 24 Men, among the same Indians the Opposition had twelve Posts, headed by Six Masters on their own account and two Clerks on Wages and 32 Effective men & 8 Steersmen

The fisheries throughout the District (except Green Lake and Nipisingue, where there is no fish) have been very good & Ste Marie was Salted 55 Barrels excellent fish at Mississagues 20 Barrels, French River 7 Barrels, Shawanaga 20 Barrels Fat White fish Lake Mr Alex.r Wm. McKay procured 5537 Herrings for winter stock. The Gardens produced tolerably well, Factors had 564 Bushels potatoes, 30 Bs. Oats, 1½ Bs. Barley, 5 Bs. Turnips, Onions & Carrots, at Mississagues Mr Cowie had 120 Bushels Potatoes at Shawanaga Mr Edwd. McKay had only 80 Bushels potatoes, & at Nipisingue Mr Grant had 60 Bushels potatoes — With this supply of fish and potatoes the Company's Servants have passed a good winter and afforded us the means of preventing the Indians from starving much by the assistance they received from us, but to counterbalance the success of the fall fishery, fish has been very scarce in winter and equally so in Spring —

The Goods received from Moose for the past Outfit were of such good quality that the Indians are eagerly pursuing and in consequence have obtained wells, as will appear by the increase in the returning of the District, the favorable

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in the quality of the common Strouds & Capots has reestablished the Company's name, which I hope will be maintained.

The Opposition continue as numerous as formerly, tho' we forced four to retire with Outfit 1831, four others replaced them the following fall, so that the Company's trade is as much annoyed as ever, — however there is one consolation which is that, by information I have received, their returns collectively have considerably failed, and consequently their profits, if any, must be very trifling.

The Post of Lake Nepisingue has, by order of the Governor, been transferred to Temiscamingue District, and has been given up at the close of Outfit 1832 — This step I am afraid will not realise the benefit expected. At Lake Nepisingue the trade is very low, which is not the case at Lake Temiscamingue, where every thing is more than 33⅓ per Cent dearer than at the former place. Will not this of itself cause much discontent among the Indians of Temiscamingue, when they find that those of Nepisingue get their wants much cheaper and will it not be a sufficient cause for them to come privately and trade their furs with the Opposition. Another unfavourable circumstances which may arise from this measure, is the opening roads from one place to the other, will it not be an encouragement to the Opposition to take advantage of it, by penetrating to Temiscamingue & getting a share of that trade? In my opinion the Returns made in the Temiscamingue Country ought to have been kept a profound secret from the Opposition, but now they will get what information they require, both from the Whites & Indians employed in the transport from Temiscamingue to Nepisingue, which may be attended with bad consequences, till now it was supposed by our Opponents that the communication was impracticable, but now they will find by our voyaging between the two places, that they can do the same.

Before closing this report, I find it a pleasure to observe that the Young Gentlemen attached to this District have exerted themselves

themselves well, particularly Messrs Cowie, Alexr Wm McKay and Wallace and that their exertions have been crowned with better success than usual. Mr Francis Grant, tho' his conduct has been no ways reproachable has failed in his returns, Mr Edwd McKay has done very little, the latter time is now out, he gave notice last summer of his determination to withdraw from the Company's service & in consequence will be allowed to retire. The men in general have acted well, except one (William Starkweather) who deserted from Mr Grant at Lake Nepisingue in the Spring —

Our Boats for transporting the property, required for the trade of this District, from Sault Ste Marie to the respective trading establishments are now so very old and decayed, that I fear much for the safety of the property put on board of them, they require to be replaced by a new set, which cannot be effected without a boat builder —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

La Cloche 14th June 1833

John McBean

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INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 109

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 6

DESCRIPTION LA CLOCHE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1833 ~ 1834

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LA-CLOCHE

REPORT 1833-1834

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1833-1834

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Lake Huron Report for Outfit 1833

The District stands the same as in Outfit 1832 with the exception of the Post of Lake Nepisingue, which formed part of it, having been transferred to Temiscamingue District at close of Outfit 1832 —

Lake Huron District is now composed of six Trading Posts, and the Establishment of clerks & men is as follows — viz

4 Clerks
1 Interpreter
16 men

superintended by Chief Factor Bethune, C. F. McBean having visited Lower Canada for the benefit of his health

The returns arising from Outfit 1833 have fallen much short of those of 1832, which deficiency arose entirely from the above transfer of Lake Nepisingue to Temiscamingue Distr, and the sickness and death which the measles caused during fall & winter

The number of deaths in the District since last September is as follows

	men	women	children
Laclache	1	7	8
Mississague	5	3	4
Green Lake	3	3	3
Whitefish Lake	1	0	2
French River	2	1	4
Shawanaga	0	1	1
	12	15	22

The opposition have failed throughout the District in collecting furs, except at Lake Nepisingue, where I understand they have secured more than 2/3 of the hunts

Chief Factor McBean having by his trip to Canada, absented himself from Lake Huron, Mr Wm Cowie was taken from his former place Mississague so as to manage the affairs of the District under the superintendence of Chief Factor Bethune, stationed at Sault

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at Sault St Marys — To fill up the vacancy occasioned by Mr Cowie's removal from Mississague, we had to give the charge of that post to one of the common men, there being not a single clerk in the District, but such as had the charge of a post in October the man in charge at Mississague fell sick & shortly after died, leaving only two young Canadians of 2 years standing in the country and consequently exposing the Trade of that post to fall into the hands of our opponents — Mr Cowie not having a clerk or even a man any ways fit to fill up the vacancy, occasioned by the above death, had to send an express to Sault St Marys to acquaint Mr Bethune with the circumstance & to call for a person to take charge at the Post — The season being much advanced for travelling in the Lake, it took a long time before the man sent by Mr C. F. Bethune could reach Mississague, during which time the Post remained in charge of a young man of no experience; another circumstance arising from this misfortune was the failure of the Fishery; all this would have been avoided had not the District been reduced so low last year, and I must further remark that as long as the District remains in the reduced state to which it has been brought and where there is so much opposition to contend with, I much fear, that the result will be of more loss to the concern than some are aware of —

The crops considerably failed all over the District, owing to the very little rain we have had during summer and the frost setting in early in the season.

In closing this I beg leave to observe that the manner in which Mr Cowie conducted and watched over the general business of the District, reflects much credit on his talents & exertion, which I trust will fully

fully show to the Company at Large that he is entitled to the protection & favor of all those connected with the same — Mr Alexr Wm McKay has as usual secured his good share of the Trade of Whitefish Lake and has by his influence prevented his opponents from making much — Mr Wallace has done well at Green Lake & his opponents much less than last year — Mr Grant at Shawanaga has done better than was done there for many years by Edwd McKay, but not so well as I should have wished, but I must observe, that if Mr Grant has not done more, there can be no blame attached to him for it; the impoverished state of the country, added to what I have stated respecting deaths & sickness, prevented it. French River under the management of an Interpreter has fallen short of the returns of last year and the expenditure of property is greater — The men generally speaking have done their duty well.

In the Outfits sent here for 1832 - 33. 34 the quality of printed Cottons for the Trade was too dear — The Surtouts sent in lieu of Frock Coats do not answer, the Indians do not like them — It will be necessary to send of the latter in future —

The Cotton Handkerchiefs are a profitable article of trade, we are always very short of that article — I shall feel obliged if the quantity called for can be sent.

John McBean

Lacloche 11th June 1834 —

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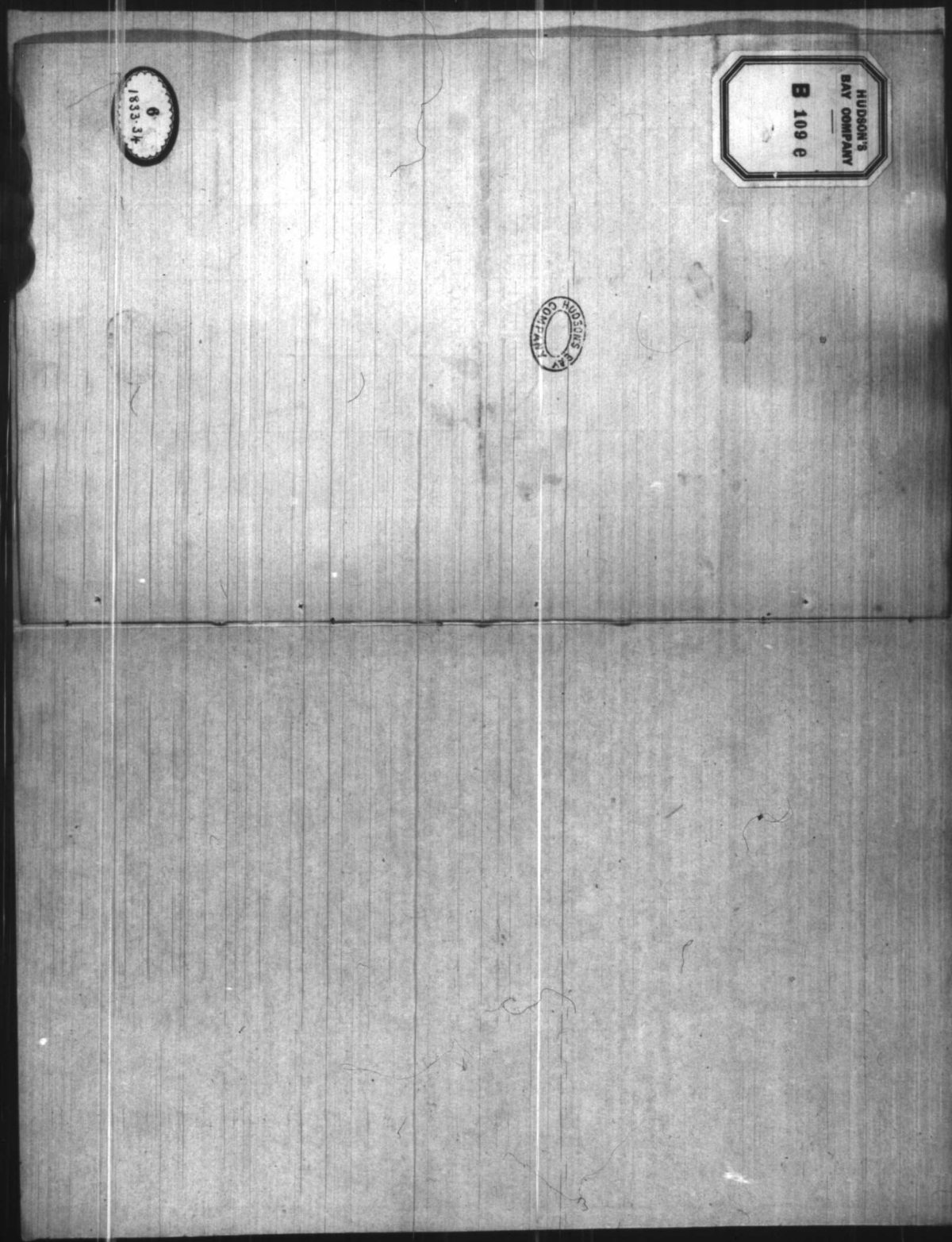

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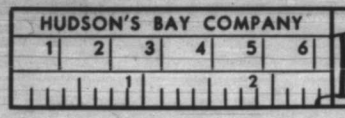

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SECTION B

CLASS 109

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 7

DESCRIPTION LA CLOCHE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1834 ~ 1835

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LA-CLOCHE

REPORT 1834-1835

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1834-1835

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Lake Huron Report Outfit 1834 —

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The extent of the Country remains the same as stated in my last report, and the number of trading establishments is six — Vizt — Laclache, Mississagué & Green Lake, Whitefish Lake, Shawanagah and French River. At Laclache there is one Chief Factor, one boat builder, one blacksmith and 4 men and an apprentice boy. At Mississagué & Green Lake we have Messrs Cowie & Wallace with five men. — At Whitefish Fish Lake we have Mr Alexd Wm McKay and 3 men & At Shawanagah we have Mr Grant and two men and at French River Michel Rastoul Intn and one man.

Throughout this District our opponents have had no less than ten parts, headed by men on their own risk equipped by Mr Mitchell of Pontangoushine, except three clerks employed by the same. — Their number of men in their employ is about the same as ours at each Station, with this only difference that they frequently employ indians for trips &c which when done they are discharged.

The Opposition have been carrying on the most extravagant trade yet noticed before. — Such a conduct on their part would lead to expect that they are coming to a close of their finances and are at the eve of giving over the contest.

The fisheries throughout the District have been generally good. — At Laclache we salted 60 p Bbls of excellent trout & Whitefish. — At Mississagué 12 p Do, Shawanagah 18 Barrels & French River 9 Barrels — Mr McKay hung up and salted 3000 Touchlies. — Green Lake, which is a very small one affords no fish, nor is there any to be found in the vicinity of it. Rabbits is the only resource that the place affords. J

[illegible] Corps of Barley, [illegible] Potatoes & [illegible] have failed of nearly 50 p Cent all over the District. — This is owing to the excessive heavy rains we have had after the seed had been

hurt

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part in the ground which caused it to rot.

The inland Indians have for the want of rabbits starved so much that they were forced to abandon their hunting grounds and come out to the establishments to save their lives and those of their children. — This scarcity in the rabbits was occasioned by the late rains we had in the fall which destroyed the greatest part of them. Regret it much as it was the cause which obliged the Indians to give over their hunting for the winter which have been made by their fall hunts and causing an additional augmentation of expenses to each establishment, having had to support them from December to the 19th March, which our good luck in our fall fisheries at some of our stations enabled us to do without expending much of our Goods as Slaves.

The returns of the District may be considered (Notwithstanding the above misfortune) an average one. The country is now so much depleated that little more than the present returns can be expected from this District.

The European Goods composing our Outfit is little of the same good quality as heretofore. Sinteuts and Low blue cloth are the only articles we cannot dispose of to advantage. The former is an article which appears to have been substituted for Trade Coats called for; and the quality of the low blue cloth is not the kind the Indians call for. That required is the low priced 2nd blue cloth with a white list. The printed Cotton ought to be of dark ground and of low price.

There is a settlement to be opened in the Canes of the Rivers in St Joseph Island in this District, which I fear will cause much Mischief to the trade. There is not the least doubt but that the settlers will have as close an intercourse with the Indians. As Seamen will they be able to procure Whiskey and Provisions each will turn to be a trader, and consequently will annoy us.

Before closing this report I beg leave to state that the Chiefs attached to this District have acted in a manner to give

great satisfaction. — Mr Williams Bonnie has now for five years superintended Missisagui and Grand Lake and has had the charge of this District during my absence to Lower Canada, during which time and at all times he has acted with much judgement and care. — Mr Alexander Wm McKay is a good Trader, much respected by the Indians and a very good accountant, in short he is a very useful Clerk. — Mr Wallace has at all times since he has been in the Hon.ble Company's service acted in a manner to give ample satisfaction, and so has Mr Grant. — The men generally have done their duty well with the exception of one of the Guides sent up from Penetanguishene Spring 1834 which I am sorry to say is entirely adapted for this Country, and will have to be returned. &c

Penetanguishene 31 May 1835

John McDonnell
Chief Factor

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SECTION B

CLASS 115

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 1

DESCRIPTION LESSER SLAVE LAKE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1819-1820

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LESSER SLAVE LAKE.

REPORT. 1819-20.

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1819-20

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Report of Lesser Slave Lake 1819/20

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1819-20

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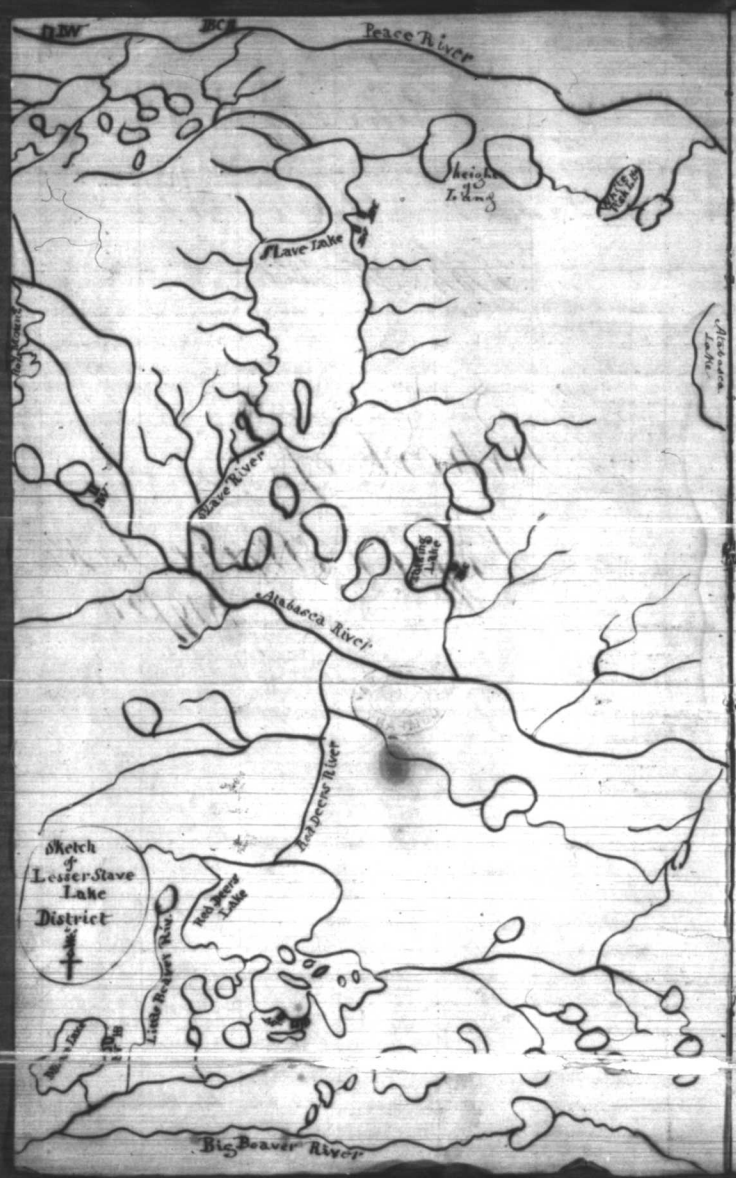

Report of Lesser Slave Lake District. 1819–20

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Sketch of the District. Numerous rivers and lakes lie scattered all over the district which formerly abounded with beaver and other fur bearing animals but of late years the quantity of these have been greatly diminished by the depopulating system of Indian hunting who spare neither young nor old that fall in their way. But still in the Rivers and Lakes ajoining to Lesser Slave Lake enough remains to defray the expences of the Trader. Previous to 1816 the NWCo usually made from 65 to 70 Packs of good furs annually but since the Opposition of the HBCo the returns of both parties does not amount to nearly so much as when entirely in the hands of the NWCo. This proceeds from the indolence of the natives who are now better paid for what they procure and of course have less stimulus to exertion in hunting.

The principal Lakes in the District are. Lesser Slave Lake which is 25 Leauges long with only one island at the East end. Red Deers Lake is 6 Leauges long, Talking & White fish Lake are about the same size and all the others are somewhat less.

The principal Rivers are. The Atabasca ~~with~~ which takes its rise in the Rocky Mountains and in its Course receives ~~the receives~~ the Streams of several Considerable Rivers till it empties itself into Atabasca Lake. The Smoky River takes its rise also at the Rocky Mountains; not far from its source Volcanic smoke issues from the [illegible] on its banks and from which the River receives its name. It falls into Peace River. Its breadth 200 feet

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Slave Lake River begins in Slave Lake and falls into Atabasca River where its breadth may be 180 feet. Red Deer River begins in Red Deer Lake and empties itself into Atabasca River when its breadth may be 160 feet. The lesser Beaver River rises among swamps and lakes near to Red Deer Lake and after a short and Circuitous course empties into the Large Beaver river where its breadth is only 40 feet. Large Beaver River begins amongst swamps and Small Lakes between Red Deer Lake and the Plains of Saskatchawan its course is very winding and its breadth unequal on an average not more than 50 feet but towards its mouth it may be 250 it receives several streams the largest of which is clear water River which falls into it a little below Moose Lake portage. Beaver River empties into Isle a la Crosse Lake the River received its name from the numbers of beaver & found in it by the early adventurers.

The whole of the district is covered with wood of various kinds chiefly Pines. Poplar & Birch (From the water of the latter extracted in Spring molasses is made 24 Gall.s of water yields when boiled one Gallon of Molasses) around Slave Lake the Saskatum willow grows in great abundance it yields a small fruit of a very pleasant flavor and sweet taste. Currants Red & Black, Pooreberries. Rasp, & Strawberries are found all over the District

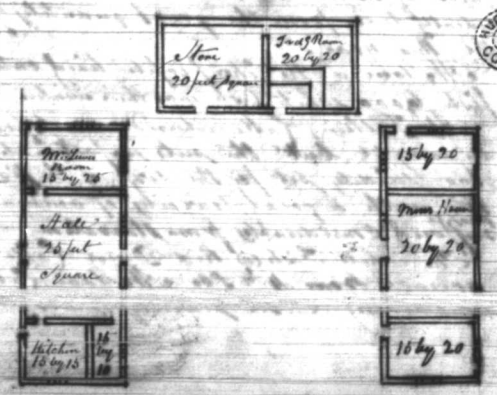
The Country towards Red Deer Lake is generally level but around Slave Lake it is hilly but there are some small Plains which yields excellent hay and pasturage for horses of which there are now six belonging to the District. About six days winters journey from Slave Lake the Plains of Saskatchawan Commence

[illegible] 8 days (winters march) from Slave Lake to Peace River Fort St. Maries 4 days and from Slave to Red Deer

Lake 12 and from the latter to Falking Lake 5 days.

II Situation of the Principal and Out Posts in the District &c. &c. } In consequence of the growing dissafection of the Natives of the district from the interests of the N.W.Co. The latter by circulating reports suited to their purposes particularly that the Beaver Ind.s with whom the Crees of this Place are at war intended to visit them in Summer of last year to avenge the death of some of their friends killed by the latter the preceeding year (1817) by them and other Reports fabricated by them they endeavored to accomplish what they had in view of withdrawing the Indians entirely from the District and encouraged them so so to Green Lake & Isle a la Crosse where the attachment of the Indians for the N.W.Co. had not yet been shaken by the slow progress that the H.B.Co. had hitherto made at that place. The whole of in consequence of these surmises left Slave Lake in Spring of 1819 and went to Red Deer Lake where they remained.

Mr Lewis in consequence had instructions to winter at this place with the Principal part of the forces Buildings of considerable extent wh. were erected here by of Course in the midst of a Canadian winter a Plan of them is as follows.



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all the good outside land within is opened.
(The M.Bo at this place meets only temporary
persons at about 400 distance)

Mr. Smith visited at Slave Lake with 4 men
and an assortment of goods but only 500 Skins
was procured there principally martyns there were no
Indians in that quarter & the freemen who wintered
there belong to the M.Bo. Mr. Stewart the M.
proprietor of place & Mr. Smith. (And Wm. Henry
for the M.Bo here) Bapte. Dejarlais an interpreter
was sent to Talking Lake with Goods and 3 men
but no Indians were in that quarter as yet only
what else that was procured was of our own freemen
excepting Beaver received from one of those belonging
to the M.Bo. The place was abandoned in the
expiration of the time of Bapte. Dejarlais on
the 23d. Feby.

III. Fish and other food procured) At Red Deer Lake plenty
of fish are caught all the
year but particularly at the time of making the
fall fishing before the Lake sets fast in some nights
from 350 to 400 have been caught at a point
of Land about one mile from the Fort. The
white fish were laid up as a principal food which
was the principal dependance. 80 animals being
mostly Reindeer & deer with Moose, Red Deer
& Buffaloe of the goods 458 but all were
unprecedently lean from the great quantity of snow
that fell this year.

At Slave Lake the people live entirely
upon fish. Good white fish was their winter food.

At Talking Lake abundance of fish
may be caught but the nets got tolerably
severe use frequently set for the size of the fish
there this with a great scarcity of animals and
they suffered considerably from starvation.

The white Fish & Red Deer Lake weigh
on an average from 4 to 5 lbs. At Slave Lake 3 3/4
[illegible]

III. Of the Indians their Total number and of those Trading with Bcr. and NWC. The total number Indians in
fall of 1819 amounted to 199 souls viz 43 men
54 women and 102 children they are principally
Crees brought here by the M.Bo from Green Lake
& Jack at Shaw-in Plains. 2 are Cotteaus and 6
Portuguese men. Rather more than two thirds
of the whole trade with the M.Bo the remainder
with the NW.

The language by them is the same as
the Southern the Southern Parts of the Country and
in their manners and Customs the same as the
other Indians within the M.B.o Territories

The name of the M.B.o Chief is Tulibis
a Cotteau by birth and 32 years of age in
Stature 5 feet 11 Inches his countenance denotes
good nature and intelligence. He speaks Respectable
French a Canadian and dresses the same as the
white people in spring & fall he receives a fine
suit of the finest articles of Clothing besides a
(and a keg of Indian Wine) The Greater of this
Period was under the disagreeable necessity
of making (at his cabin) Bapte. Dejarlais Half
brother of Tulibis a chief of the same consequence
as the M.Bo had made great offers to him
to be their Chief. he is a many favourite man
and of a daring ambitious disposition and
on these account much fear'd by the Indians
if he had not been made chief by Mr. Lemoyne
would have accepted of the M.Bo offers and left
the M.B.o with all his brethren and relations
and by his influence among the Indians have put the
M.B.o to a stand. He doubts the sincerity of these people
knows well how to take advantage of the times
but it is to be hoped that a time will soon come
or their present will be more kept under by the power
of a single Trader without opposition.

La Jeunesse is the name of the M.B.o Chief's
Consort in being a good hunter

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Vth Of the Freemen their number and the number of those trading with NWCo and Mc — Their total number in Spring of 1819 amount to 97 Souls viz 23 men 16 Womenn and 58 Children. The Freemen are Canadians and Iroquois of Lower Canada and their Descendants the Canadians are all the old Servants of the NWCo who have Indian Womenn and children by them and thus get Completely attached to the Country and Indian way of living and are all like them constantly roving about living in leathern Tents made of the skins of the Moose or Buffalo. The half breed their descendants are excellent hunters and well generally procure at Moose Lake from 150 to 200 Skins in a winter they are very active in all they undertake and far excell the generality of Indians in general. They are fond of dress in dress and this of the finest quality. They posses a large share of pride & vanity and their ignorance is deplorable and indeed it cannot be otherwise as of all the hired servants of both Companies and Freemen @ this place there is only one Inquire from that can read or write. But the Freemen are much Courted by the Traders of the Respective Co.s for the sake of the Interests of their employers. Their Pride & Vanity is flattered their faults overlook and in fact humoured in every respect. They are fond of Spirituous Liquors and on coming to the fort seldom fail to indulge in their favorite Beverage.

VIth Diseases of the Indians and an account of that brought by NWCo's intercourse of the natives with European Traders their diseases like their wants were few but since that the intemperate use of Spirituous Liquors has certainly tended to the shortening of their existence and has introduced some diseases of which they formerly knew in their happy ignorance. In the spring of 1819 a Clerk of the NWCo went from Fort de Prairie to Upper Moose Lake, and on seeing that the natives were procuring from their Establishment & the NWCo and trading with the English said to them on passing "Do trade with the English but before the first snow falls many a tear shall be shed & wives will mourn the loss of husbands and children & parents" (this was stated to Mr. Sinclair several times by several Indians) The prophecy unfortunately appears too true for in fall of the same year a woman & boy were brought by the NWCo Brigade sick of the Measles. The Indians were at this time all assembled at the Fort and as soon as the Intelligence was received the infection had an appearance and before the 1st January 1820 no less than 39 died in consequence including men, women & children among those were some of the best hunters belonging to the NWCo. The NWCo proprietor (Stewart) well knowing the effects of this disease among the natives equipped only a few of them and supplied the others but very sparingly many of their Indians in consequence left them and applied for and received Credits at the HBCo's house (upon their promising to throw away the NWCo's) as it was unknown to Mr. Sinclair what the disease was & or the effects so fatal resulting from it. And while all the Servants of NWCo were congratulating the master here upon the bright prospects of making good returns in the Spring this scene of Mortality appeared. For Indians as is their custom when bereft of Relations did nothing all winter and many who always before procured 100 & upwards of furs in a winter scarcely [illegible] they drank.

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VIIth Rates of vending goods to Indians and Freemen

To Indians — Skins

Cloth com.	Yd	1	4
Guns	No	1	10.11.& 12
Tobacco	Yd	1	1
Spirits	Gill	1	1
Powder	Pt. 1/2		1
Ball	No. 28		1

Besides all the articles used in trading with Indians several articles are brought for Freemen such as Fine Capots, Trowers, Stockgs. Hanfs. Hats, &c.

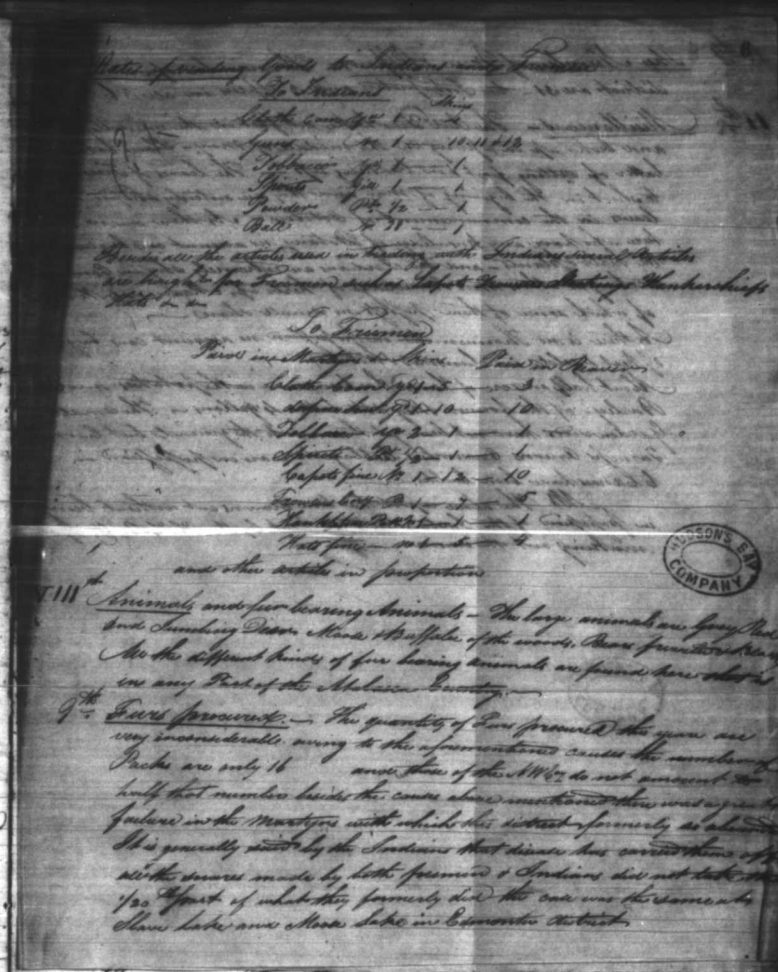
To Freemen — Skins

Paid in Martyns &c.		Skins	Paid in Beaver
Cloth Com.	Yd 1	5	3
Do fine	Yd 1	10	10
Tobbo.	Yd 2	1	1
Spirits	Pt. 1/2	1	1
Capots fine	No 1	12	10
Trowers Corf.	Pt. 1	7	5
Hankfs. Cotton	No 1	1	1
Hats fine	No 1	5	4

and other articles in the same proportion

VIIIth Animals and fur bearing animals. The large animals are Grey, Red, & Jumping Deer. Moose & Buffaloe of the woods. Bears Grizzly and Black &c. All the different kinds of fur bearing animals are found here that is in any part of the Atabasca Country.

9th Furs procured. The quantity of furs procured this year are very inconsiderable owing to the aforementioned causes the number of Packs are only 16 and those of the NWCo do not amount to half that number. Besides the causes above mentioned there was a great failure in the martyns with which this district are & formerly to abound. It is generally said



Rates of vending Goods to Indians and Freemen

To Indians

			Skins
Cloth com.	Yd	1	4
Guns	No	1	10.11.& 12
Tobacco	Yd	1	1
Spirits	Gill	1	1
Powder	Pt. 1/2		1
Ball	No 28		1

Besides all the articles used in trading with Indians several Articles are brought for Freemen such as Capots Trowers Stockings Hankerchiefs Hats &c &c

To Freemen

Paid in Martyns & Skins			Paid in Beaver
Cloth Com.	Yd 1	5	3
Do fine	Yd 1	10	10
Tobacco	Yd 2	1	1
Spirits	Pt. 1/2	1	1
Capots fine	No 1	12	10
Trowers Corf.	Pt. 1	7	5
Hankfs. Cotton	No 1	1	1
Hats fine	No 1	5	4

and other articles in proportion

VIIIth Animals and fur bearing Animals — The large animals are Grey Red and Jumping Deer. Moose & Buffaloe of the woods. Bears Grizzly & Black. All the different kinds of fur bearing animals are found here that is in any Part of the Atabasca Country.

9th Furs procured. — The quantity of Furs procured this year are very inconsiderable owing to the aforementioned causes the number of Packs are only 16 and those of the NWCo do not amount to half that number besides the causes above mentioned there was a great failure in the Martyns with which this district formerly so abounded. It is generally said by the Indians that disease has carried them off. All the sources made by both Freemen & Indians did not take the 1/20th part of what they formerly did the case was the same at Slave Lake and Moose Lake in Edmonton District.

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thrown into the ground. Bull carrot, turnip, Onions, Cucumbers, Cabbages &c are in possession. 6 Canoes have been built.

NB. The above Report has been drawn out without being in possession of the Journals sent out by the Committee of the HHBCo for making out the same. R Kennedy Dist. Acct.

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10th The Number of Men & Officers — The number of men [illegible] district are 31 — two Interpreters and 3 Officers in all 36

11th Miscellaneous — The Red Deer Lake set fast in the middle of [illegible] and broke up in spring in the middle of May — Slave Lake [illegible] latter of setting fast & in breaking up — The leaves of Trees [illegible] to shoot in the beginning of May and they are entirely stripped of [illegible] leaves in the commencement of October — As there are no [illegible] here who have any knowledge of Botany, no account can be given [illegible] the herbs & plants — and the Indians are extremely shy in Communicating to others their knowledge of herbs of Medicinal Virtues of which some of them possess no small share —

As there is no Thermometer in possession no account can be given of heat & cold in Summer & Winter —

About half an acre of land has been sown with potatoes and Barley — of the former 8 Kegs & the latter 4 gallons — The small Garden seeds have not been yet thrown into the ground but Carrots Turnips Onions Cucumbers Cabbage &c are in possession — 6 Canoes have been built —

NB The above report has been drawn out without being in possession of the Instructions [illegible] making out the same —

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this year are very inconsiderable owing to [illegible] aforementioned causes the number of Packs are only 16 and those of the M&Co do not amount to half that number. Besides the causes above mentioned there was a great failure in the martyns with which this district used formerly to abound. It is generally said

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10th Th...

this year are very inconsiderable owing ... aforementioned causes the number of Packs nearly 16 and those of the MBo do not amount to half that number. Besides the causes above mentioned there was a great failure in the martyns with which this district used formerly to abound. It is generally said

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10th Thenumber of men and Officers. The number of men in the district are 31. two Interpreters & 3 officers. in all 36.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

11th Misillaneous. The Red Deer Lake set fast in the middle of Novr. and broke up in spring in the middle of May. Slave Lake is latter in setting fast and in breaking up.

The leaves of the trees begin to shoot in the begining of May and they are entirely stript of their leaves in the commencement of October. As there is no person here who have any knowledge of Botany no account can be given of the herbs and plants — And the Indians are extremely shy in communicating to others their knowledge of herbs of Medicinal virtues of which some of them posses no small share —

as there is no Thermometer in possession no account can be given of heat and cold in Summer & Winter

About half an acre of land has been sown with Potatoes, and Barley, of the former 1 Keg and the latter 4 gallons The small garden seeds have not been yet thrown into the ground. But Carrot, turnip, Onions, Cucumbers, Cabbages &c are in possession. 6 Canoes have been built.

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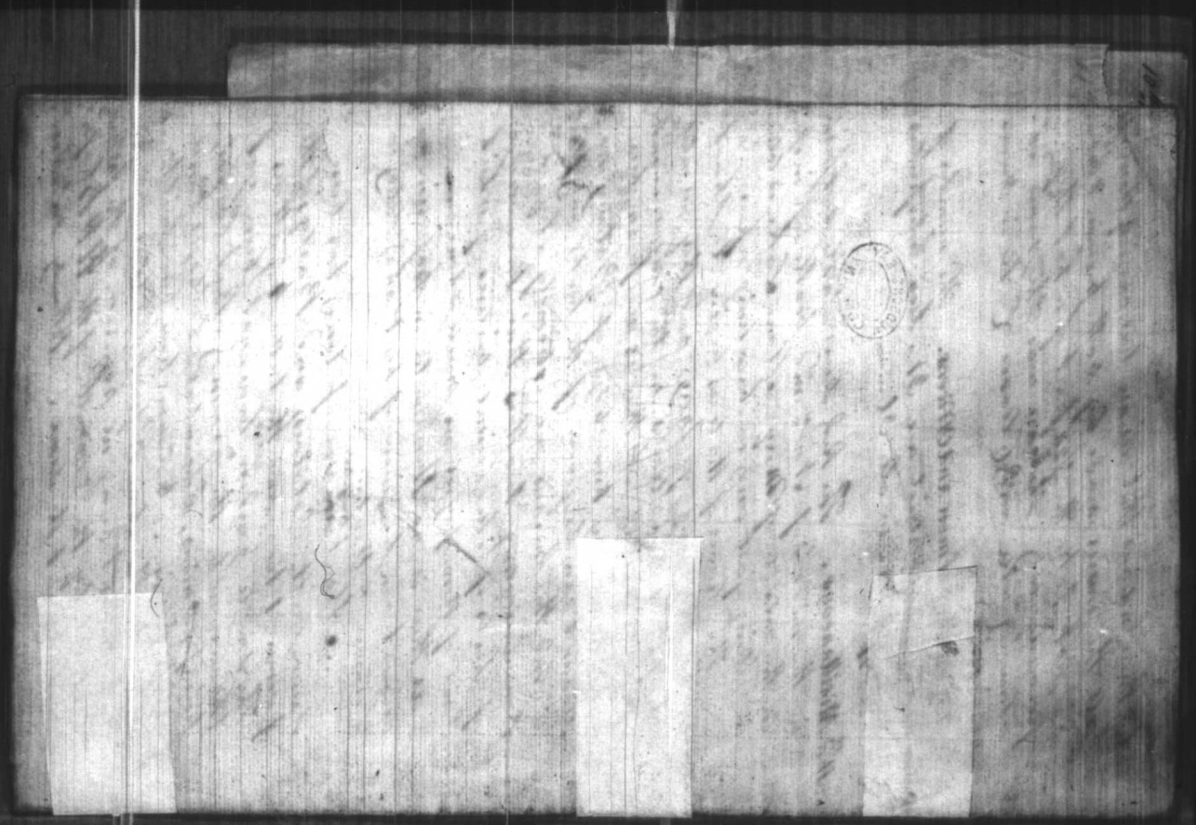

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Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 115

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 2

DESCRIPTION LESSER SLAVE LAKE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1820-1821

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LESSER SLAVE LAKE

REPORT. 1820-21.

2
1820-21

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Report of Lesser Slave Lake District

1820=21

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Robt. Kennedy
Accountant

2
1820-21

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Report of Lesser Slave Lake District 1820–21

As a refition of last year's Report is unnecessary in manny of the articles as no new information has been received It is deemed necessary only to give a general Statement of the Affairs of the District for this Year.

1st Sketch of the District and Ajoining Places

— This sketch shows the situation of Lesser Slave Lake and the Out Posts with all the Rivers and Lakes which are of any considerable size It was drawn from the Information of Meteomeg, and Pneas, Portways and others who have been for a great number of years Hunting in the Ground delineated the Distance from Lesser Slave Lake to Peace River St. Marys is 4 days — And from Lesser Slave Lake to Red Deer Lake 13 in the middle of winter so that this may give an Idea of the Distances to other places.

— Owing to the want of engaged men the Canoes did not start from Depot till a very late period as the men taking advantage of this would not engage but for very high Wages — Even after leaving the Depot

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the Brigade were detained 10 days on the same Account, And the Consequence was the M.Kay got to the Umbrina Rapids and Cedars out by for the greatest number of the Indians before the arrival of Mr Leveux — All the premier who Hunt alone for the L.B.Cay were waiting at Red Deer Lake when they Received their outfits for the Winter out of them took any Debt from the ~~H.B.Cay~~ M.Kay

The fishery at L. Lake was very efficient compared with what was taken in former years only 4000, in all the very possible exertion was made — At White fish Lake 3000 were taken — And altho' Isparguaches & Canadians were hunting for the post the scarcity of animals is also such that they only killed 12 in all and with 5 Rats Tallibis gave was the winters stock of animal food — The Sick with the exception of a month and Half were constantly tended which afforded some little Relief from absolute famine

Indeed for two Months no Venison Meat in two days was all that could be given to the people

At Both Red Deer Lake & L. L. Lake were very badly off for Ammunition & Rum for encouraging the Indians to make provisions only

a sufficiency was made at R.D. Lake & Lake & the Brigade from there to L. L. Lake. and some whatever at L. L. Lake. a considerable quantity of furs however were procured at both places during Summer —

From the want of Dried provisions for long voyages it was out of our power to be so troublesome & expensive to the M.Kay as could have been wished yet many voyages were made performed with success the the Rapids in the Course of them were rendered so ~~frequently~~ by the Necessity of eating their dogs —

At R. D. Lake & Athabasca Dejarlais was left in Charge with 8 Men and a Female outfit of goods;

At White Fish Lake near Upper Hare Lake a Post was built principally on acct. of the Furrs in that Quarter but it was of no service in this respect as the people from Peace River had a Post at Lac Pleant a short distance from W. F. Lake. — But it was Men of great service on acct. of the fishery 3000 were caught and without which we would have been reduced to the last necessity from famine — Jos. Cardinal Clerk who was engaged in the fall remained here with 8 Men the remainder only part of the Spring there.

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Tulibii conducted himself with his usual fidelity and received his present at the East end of the Lake L.S. when were assembled a great many Indians who received their outfits for the Summer hunt — Mannina has returned again for the HBCoy And the Little Soldier from the Plains one of the first Hunters of the NWCoy joined us again he gave 20 Beaver skins and promised 120 in the fall — Akwazzy the Costeray so much attached to the HBCoy died and Mr Sewes Interred him in the best possible manner during the body in his own property This poor Indian lost his life they saving the lives of the People By over exertion in hunting the year that Mr Sewes was taken by set fast by the Ice — The attention paid By Mr Sewes to the dead body of Akwazzy had such an effect upon Meteomeg his brother that he said he would take his brothers place and hunt Safely for the HBCoy he is without exception the Best Beaver hunter in this quarter he killed 120 Beaver alone during the Winter and found 50 Beaver Houses which is a plain proof that good returns can be made here yet. — two other Indians who accompanied the Soldier also joined the HBCoy —

Vishecabo who was made chief

last fall for the reasons then mentioned — Recd his usual present at Red Deers Lake — and gave as a present in return 25 Beaver — The Hunt of himself and his Band was not so much as was expected he himself gave 50 Beaver Skins but was unable to exert himself as he had promised as he had the venereal disease. — He with his Brothers and relations have since gone to L.S. Lake where they will remain

Mr Smith remains Inland in charge of L.S. Lake fort with 3 Interpreters & 4 Men as the NWCo leave also a strong party there

Red Deers Lake is abandoned only Jos. Cappleto remains to take care of the Fort.

Ant. Dyarlaiz will pass the Summer at the East end of Lesser Slave Lake unknown to the NWCoy the greatest number of the Indians are there and will be during Summer

The returns this year are 22 Packs including 700 Beaver and other furs

The Total number of Men belonging to the District are 31 Men — 4 Officers & 4 Interpreters the NWCoy are more numerous —

The Winter was uncommonly mild it rained in the middle of Jany a circumstance very uncommon in this quarter

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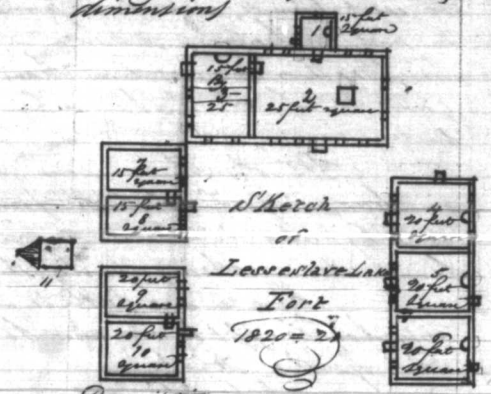
The Spring very backward R. D. Lake did not break up till the 20th May which is 11 days latter than last year.

The buildings at L. S. Lake Fort are not entirely finished but nearly so the following are the dimensions



Sketch of Lesseslave Lake Fort 1820 = 21

Description

N 1 The Kitchen
" 2 " Hall
" 3 " Mr Lewis Chamber
" 4 " Officers "
" 5 " Mens House
" 6 " Interpreters
" 7 " Lumber Store House
" 8 " Provision Store
" 9 " Dry Good "
" 10 " Trading Room
" 11 " Gate of the fort

Finis.

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INCORPORATED 2nd MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 115

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 3

DESCRIPTION LESSER SLAVE LAKE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1821 - 1822

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LESSER SLAVE LAKE

REPORT. 1821-22.

3
1821-22

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B. 115/e/3
1821/22

Ao 18th — 1822

The Junction of the two Companies had not the slightest influence in the Summer transactions of Lower Slave Lake, The latter Conveying that important intelligence arrived there on the 18th of August, but it was Conceived in such ambiguous terms, that neither Mr Henry nor Mr Smith, the Gentlemen who were in Charge of the two Forts, Considered it Consistent with their duty to depart from the usual mode of Carrying on the trade. Until such time as more authentic information on the subject should reach them; which was not earlier than the latter end of September, and Consequently too late to be of use. The expences were therefore as great as in former years; though the returns were much less, amounting to only 29 Beaver Skins at the Hudson's Bay Co. Fort, and to 217 at the North West Co. Provision likewise were far from abundant. It was from the Indians Chiefly that the few Furs & Provisions were obtained — The Free men having done little or nothing —

The Indians in General having been kept in good order, I had less difficulty to settle with them than I expected — I did not find it requisite to introduce any reform further than limiting their advances as nearly as possible, to such an amount as they might easily be expected to pay — The usual Gratuities were given them — With a very few exceptions, they all exerted themselves to pay their debts, and in General succeeded — When I speak of paying their debts, I mean those only they Contracted this year, for I have no hopes of their ever being able to discharge their old Balances; they may perhaps be gradually reduced a little — and I am of opinion, that if we can prevent them from adding any thing more to those debts, it will be as much in most cases as we can well expect —

The People who go under the Denomination of Free men Consist of Canadians, Half breeds, Iroquois, Sauteux, Courtoreilles and Nipissingues who were, during the late Opposition, accustomed to get good to any amount they pleased, and at very reduced prices. Besides this, several of those who traded with Mr Lewis were Cloathed as Chiefs, received Large Kegs of strong Liquor & presents. And many other things — Moreover their Brains were stuffed with so many promises. That their disappointment at not finding their expectations realised is heavily to

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Albany 1st June 1822

The Season of the two Companies had not [illegible] in the Summer Communication of Letters & Packets. The latter Company that important Intelligence Arrived there on the 15th of August, but [illegible] on Communication of such Intelligence Terms, that Another [illegible] from Mr Smith, the Gentleman who came to Charge of the [illegible] Conceived it Communicate such their Liberty to depart from the usual mode of Conveying a the Traders Annual Stock Some to more distant [illegible] informations on the Subjects should Local Them; which has not taken Place till the latter End of September, and Consequently too late to [illegible] The Depredations have Therefore to great to a former Year; Though the Returns have much less, Amounting to only 2/3 Parts of the Value of Hudsons Bay Co's Furs, And to 2/7 of the South Sea Co's Furs, Notwithstanding these Loss from Accidents, We have from the Indian Supply that the Loss Furs to Ourselves have obtained & the Loss Men having done little or Nothing.

The Indians in General having been Kept in good Order, I had no difficulty to settle such Trade Chiefs as Disputed — And we have found the Disposition to Industrious Men, to Peaceable Conduct & Honesty in Dealing as Peculiar to such Individuals as they might Severally be Entitled to Credit — The Annual Gratuities have given them — But a very few Exceptions, they all Evinced Attention to pay their Debts, Some of Considerable Amounts — Within 3 Months of the Expiration of their Debts; I mean those only they Contracted the Years, for them the Hope of their Ever being able to discharge Even the Balance: They may perhaps be four Years indebted a Little — but I am of Opinion, that if we can prevent them from adding any thing More to their Debts, I do not [illegible] to make in Number Cases a Bad Debt Expected —

The People who go under the Denomination of Freemen Canadas or Canadians, Half Breeds, Iroquois, Mountain, Canadians, and Nipissings Settlers here, Among the Late Opposition, Accustomed to get Goods to any Amount they Pleased, and at any Indicated Prices; Upon the Arrival of them Settlers Traders Such Mr Lewis here Bloathed & Cheap, Accused large Stocks of Strong Liquors to Penetrate Also many others Kegs — More than their Means even Hoped such as many Promises — That there Disappointments & not finding their Expectations realized; Scarcity to be considered — Many Goods & Stocks Still — It was absolutely [illegible] that some Agent or Order should be settled, which Annoyed People who had been so greatly Spoiled by extreme Indulgence, Could not be Appeased Instantly, Creating a Strong Degree of Dissatisfaction — The Natives did Not Consider Me much, People in Office & Consequence Such Them Some Might be Appointed by Me in the Hope that perhaps Some of Them

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might retire to other parts in hope of meeting with better usage.

These Considerations did not prevent me from putting my Plan in execution — The price of Goods was raised to the old Standard, and the Natives observed there is nearly a proportionate augmentation to the abilities of those who took them. Little presents, further than a little liquor, has entirely abolished — Such a mode of treating is done upon the head appears which must have arisen from the spirit of discontent which prevailed amongst those people — I opened them that they might rely on being treated with the strictest Justice; but that they should known be allowed to break so long & their indemnity thereby made them worthy of such indulgence — Such proposals to their chiefs, which in general are so heavy a task to admit the propriety of them ever being paid or not, they were told that to facilitate the payment of them, the Governor takes Moose Skins and Provisions in part — This Conception, with the promises of impartial usage, had evidently the effect of reconciling them to the new order of things — They refused two Encamping grounds better placed than I had expected — And more of them came down than I had requested —

The Traders received the Indians immediately on meeting: they are clothed & fed with them, and all from them for others this May you part of our Voyage they are in general good hunters of Furs — Two Strangers of the Slave Lake Moose and Beaver hunters, whom they knew by name, a great proportion of those Furs a taken up in proceeding down the Traders — I had many applications for Furs to make Nets, which I shall make the means of keeping them with me, having been advised to take them for that purpose, as being an article in favour of such a measure should either they make Nets or they remain along the Lakes and die like our Brothers — The Furs are scarce enough, and indeed appear to be always the Case as to their remaining on the Borders of Lakes — To all the applicants for Furs, although their Furs be few, and remaining along the Lakes Lake a Jobourne before, took a great deal of time in hunting the larger Animals, which might have been more profitably employed by Furs had had a Stock of Fish to subsist upon — The Sufficiency of Furs is evident from the pains to make the span down for people of the foregoing description — If upon trial it is found not to answer, the plan can be easily abandoned —

The Indians are only thirty in number able to hunt — These have the Furs upon hand about 45 Skins of which the Fifth is Beaver — They have all been equipped in Ammunition the young Apprentice to the Indians Trade Cattle Skins, & the Traders, with many Cattle which they had taken Summer —

The returns Amount of 1135 Skins Beaver 756 Common Beaver 18 Beaver & Sables Furs 27 Rep Cattle 61 Red detto 15 Cased Cat 5 Mackenzie 9 Black Cat 6 Minks 39 Fisher 7 Otter 24 Com detto 22 Fishers 45 Rabbinets 2 Bears, 69 do Partridges and 37 Ruffed Grouse Skins — I can form no Correct idea of what the returns may be the ensuing year from the great Scarcity of Beaver I do not expect that a greater Quantity will be procured than the year — Were the Indians made to be so liable to plunder that to impress a favourable idea on the Subject, every other Kind of Furs are very Scarce — Some might be obtained on Considerable Quantities, were they of sufficient Value to be Traded —

Although the strictest Economy was observed the Expenses are considerably greater — A Considerable proportion of the Supplies was expended in Equipments to Some Chiefs & Interpreters and Boatmen &c, four of whom, besides the usual Equipment were raised by their Equipments to such a Complete Suit of Cloaths — These Expenses together with the wages of a much greater Number of Men — than were required, and Some of them, either unable to do, little diminished many much, what little purpose them might otherwise have been —

The Summer Establishments have been reduced from three Clerks, two Interpreters and Six Labouring Men; to two Clerks, two Interpreters & four Men: A number quite sufficient to answer every Useful purpose —

Of the Interpreters which poised the preceding Summer all have taken, two have since deceased, viz Joseph Cardinal and Ignace Tetreau — The former time reported at the Entrance of the Slaves and he was of little — The latter had Stole one year to Some, before returning to be Free, his Engagement was thereupon Cancelled — By which the Equipments for a Clerk, and Interpreter Boatmen &c was saved; besides the people the Slaves deserted from his Hand which was Cancelled. This Man is a good Hunter and a fine Fellow for Nothing else — Two other are Antoine Beaulieu and Antoine Hoover, by whose Engagements terminate the ensuing Autumn; The first is a Man of good abilities as an Interpreter, but being also a very good Hunter, the Company could reap more benefit from his Talents as such, than in a Capacity in which his Services are not now required — The latter Servants will not be required after the expiration of his Contracts — And as neither he does not by any Means possess sufficient abilities to fill the Station which he is engaged to Interpret — The two Lads are Louis Beaucage and Michel Allaire — The former Engaged as an Interpreter & Interpreter State — he was of the Interpreters sent to me at Isle à la Crosse Willingly here left him as Some had to be Stationed to Slave Lake & the

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in attention and honest servants, to the Hudsons gear to serve —

Antoine De Jarlais and Bonneau have both Come out — The object of the former trip to Athabasca, to ascertain what encouragement the Red River holds out to people of his description, and if it answers this expectation, to encourage his Brother & Brothers in law to take settle thither, a circumstance which would require Many Lots of Leg or two good hunters —

The young Gentlemen who wintered with our Rivr Steph Smith Dawson, and Fraser, have behaved themselves to my satisfaction, but there was so very little for them to do, that I had no opportunity of judging of their Capacity — Mr Smith being the Senior then stays in Charge for this Summer, him to be assisted by Mr Paul Fraser, an apprentice Clerk — Mr Dawn not being at all required has accompanied me out —

The Property in hands amounts to 20 Packs, Chiefly very good — There is a Sufficiency Provision of every thing else for the Summer, except Gun powder which perhaps may be shorter in Consequence of what is owing to the Negligence of the Person who forwarded Mr Hodgson's for Upper Stations Outfits from Norway House — In the Memorandum I sent from Lac la Pluie, two Kegs of Gun powder were requested to be forwarded, but they are not arrived — The Slaves Company have supplies from the Natives who undertook to Collect it but stopped by the Ice on the Athabasca River — The Charge on Account of the Loss upon Skins, and from the Negligent manner in which the Goods had been laid up, Past New York & Montreal Packages —

Shortly after my Arrival at these Falls, Mr Henry set out for the Rocky Mountain, in obedience to orders he had received to that effect from Mr Grey — Owing to the Lateness of the Season Mr Henry procured Canoes to take his Party by Land, and notwithstanding his endeavours to reach it, he could not succeed, but was obliged to stop for the winter at the Head of the Smoothy River — How far the intention that so many Days men and Horses as could be prevailed upon, should have followed Mr Henry, with the Season too far advanced to admit the possibility of their performing such a long Journey; and even if this had been no Objection, the Indian Lots of these Falls Hunts which must necessarily have made such a Step, however have prevented me from attempting it that Season — and it is a fortunate Circumstance that the Canoes were allowed to Rest, by the information Mr Henry has subsequently received regarding their Journey to such a Country that no

Fur can be procured with Families Can Canoes may find passage Mr Brown is to be sent to the side the Mountain, to obtain the Natives Furs & procure some Provisions to the Head of the Columbia River, and from the Many Difficulties Journey there to pass through is much there please, Some Days Stay Canoes Men &c &c for further information in this Subject I beg leave to refer you to the Journal & Chart of the Gentlemen sent on this Service, where there is a perfect knowledge of the Lake Part of the Country —

The Roads of Provisions indispensable Requirements — The Accounts shall not be closed in Canada —

The Buildings in either of the Forts have had no Repairs — Some Improvements have begun last Season, which I propose shall be Completed by the Ensuing Spring — The Garden last Fall produced upwards of Three hundred Bushels of Potatoes; and a Very Fine Crop promised to be Considerably Exceeded. The Hay this Season be proportionably Great —

Animals being scarce, the Chief dependance for living is Fish upon Fish, which has long been abandoned, and with the Exception of Rabbits a Sufficiency Can always be obtained —

William Connolly

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York Factory July 9th 1822

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SECTION B

CLASS 115

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 4

DESCRIPTION LESSER SLAVE LAKE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1822 - 1823

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LESSER SLAVE LAKE.

REPORT 1822-23.

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1822-23

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Reports of Lesser Slave Lake District for 1822/23

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

From the circumstance of the Sascatchewan & Athabasca Gentlemen claiming a great part of what has hitherto been considered as forming part of the Lesser Slave Lake Department, it is difficult to define its limits - but as those claims have not as yet been admitted by the Governor & Council. I shall state according to the best information I have been able to obtain on that head, What I have been led to suppose may be considered the actual limits. The District of Lesser Slave Lake extends from East to West about 480 Miles & from North to South about 200 or 250. It is bounded, on the North & North West by a chain of Lakes which extend from the Loon River to the Wabasca Hills On the West by the Rocky Mountains, On the South by a part of the Sascatchewan Department, and on the East by the Red Deers Lake.

The only navigable Rivers by which a communication with Slave Lake is kept up, are the Red Deers, Athabasca & Slave Rivers. Several streams fall into the Slave Lake, Athabasca & Slave Rivers, but none of them are navigable after the Spring Fluds have subsided, except the Martins and Moose Rivers. The Lakes are numerous, but none equal in extent to Slave Lake: which with White Fish, Red Deers & Moose Lakes, as well as many smaller ones, abound with Fish. From the shoalness of the Beaver River, Canoes are the only means by which Goods can be transported from Isle a la Crosse to Lesser Slave Lake. From York Factory to Isle a la Crosse Boats might, in my opinion, be advantageously used. And thence two Canoes will suffice to take in the Cargo of one Boat, its Crew being quite sufficient to man them both. The only objection to this plan being adopted, is the danger to which heavy Crafts such as Boats would be exposed in Years of low water & early seasons of being stopped by the Ice. The route by the Sascatchewan would be every way preferable, was the Pambient River navigable throughout the Summer. But even this difficulty might be obviated, were it found practicable to transport the Property, at

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once from the Saskatchewan to the Athabasca River. as the distance of land Carriage would be increased only three or four days which is no material object. It therefore only remains to ascertain whether the ground between the Old Pembinat Fort & the Athabasca River be passable for loaded Horses.

The Country is Hilly & covered with Wood, except in a few places which repeated fires have turned into plains. The soil is Sandy & consequently not very fertile, in moist seasons Potatoes, Barley, Cabbages & Turnips thrive tolerably. The natural productions are a few trifling roots and Berries, such as grow in every other part of the Country.

The Animals bearing Fur are the Beaver, Black, Brown and Grizzle Bears, Martins, Otters, Minks, Fishers, Muskrats, Cats, Wolves Wolverens & Foxes. Of these the Beaver are the most numerous; all other kinds are scarce. Martins are some years abundant. This Winter hardly any were to be seen. To what cause their sudden disappearance can be ascribed, I never could discover. The large Animals, are the Buffaloes, Moose, Red & Jumping Deer, and in the Rocky Mountains Sheep or Goats of two different kinds, the Grey & the white. The most numerous are the Moose Deer, but they are far from abundant. This Scarcity, it is supposed, is owing to the great numbers that were destroyed during the Winter 1821/22. When the exceeding depth of Snow and the Strong Crust with which it was covered during the Months of March and April made them an easy Prey.

The Climate as far as I can learn, is in winter generally mild, but on this point I cannot speak with any degree of precision, for of the two Winters I have passed at Rave Lake, the First was the mildest and the last, the most severe I ever experienced. The Lakes & Rivers Commonly set fast about the latter end of October & commencement of November and are seldom navigable again before the middle or latter end of May. In Summer, the heat is great, but the air is frequently cooled by westerly winds, which seem to prevail more or less throughout the Year.

The only advantage the Department possesses, is derived from the Fish with which most of the Lakes abound, rendering the establishment of Rave Lake in a great measure independent of Hunters. by

by which all the Indians, excepting a Couple, are employed exclusively in hunting Furs.

The difficulty of the navigation to & from the Depot is well known That and the want of internal water Communications are the greatest disadvantages under which the Department labours. whilst large Animals were numerous in the neighbourhood of the Lake, the latter inconvenience was not much felt, but now that the Indians have to travel from three to six days into the interior before animals can be found, and not being able to convey more provisions to the Fort than their Dogs can carry. The quantity they can thus bring exclusive of what they require for their own support along the way cannot possibly be much. To this circumstance is owing, in a great measure, the very small quantities of provisions, which of late years have been obtained. To obviate this difficulty as much as possible, the Indians were told to collect provisions, and whenever the road would admit of it, that the four Horses we have should be employed in fetching them from their Fort.

Two Establishments, one at Lesser Rave Lake and the other at the Rocky Mountain, are all that have been kept up for these two years past.

For subsistence at Lesser Rave Lake the chief dependance is upon Fish, the greatest part of the Winter, and the whole Summer. In the winter season two Hunters are kept, which until this year sufficed to supply the Post with Meat. At the Rocky Mountain the living is entirely upon Meat. Two Hunters were this year employed at that establishment, but were unable to supply it with the quantity required which compelled Mr Henry to make use of some of the dry provisions he collected the preceding Summer.

O [The Officers are Messrs William Henry, William Robert Smith, Paul Frazer, & William Mittleberger.

Mr Henry from his length of Service in this Country must have a thorough knowledge of the Indian Trade. During the two Years he has been under my direction, he conducted the Post of which he was in charge with Zeal & ability.

Mr Smith from the weakness of his Constitution is unable to

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bear any hardships, & is consequently unable to act when any degree of activity is required. He is besides much disposed to indolence and by no means attentive to his duty. The Company of the men engrosses most of his time, and hence ensues a familiarity betwixt them quite inconsistent with the situations they respectively hold. In other respects, I believe him to be perfectly honest & one who would not willingly misapply any of the Company's Property.

Mr Frazer is a stout active Man & both able & willing to encounter any hardship. It is not without faults, but these I trust time & experience will cure him of. I left him in charge of the Post of Lesser Slave Lake, with written instructions for his guidance and I am in hopes that he will do well.

Mr Mittleberger is a fine smart Boy. And notwithstanding his Youth Can be of great Service wherever he may be.

Michel Klyne, an Interpreter, is a very useful, Honest Servant, he was for several summers in charge of the Post of Lesser Slave Lake, which he conducted to the satisfaction of his employers. Being the most experienced Trader I had, he was sent to the Rocky Mountain to succeed Mr Henry in the management of that Post during the present Summer.

All the men, except two, Conducted themselves well, and although they suffered considerable privations for the space of a Month, I never heard a murmur amongst them. They are in general an active set of Men, the few that are otherwise shall be dismissed this Year as well as those who have families, whose times are expired. The two men who have given me cause of dissatisfaction are Bte Delorme & Joseph Lefevre. The crimes of which they were guilty, is neglect of duty and disobedience of Orders. The Circumstances of the case will be laid before the Governor & Council who will decide on the nature of the punishment they shall undergo.

The Indians are of the Cree Tribe and consist of only thirty four men & a dozen of Youths. The total of Men, women & children is 164 as the accompanying List (No 1) will shew. They are in general a well disposed & tolerably industrious people. Their Debts this year averaged 42 Skins & their hunts 32 pr Man, 24 of which was Beaver.

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Had it not been for the failure of Martins, they would I believe have paid all their Debts. There are very few men of any weight amongst them. And those derive their consequence more from the notice that was taken of them during the opposition, on account of their being good hunters, than from any influence they have over their Country men. It is impossible to particularize the spots in which they hunt, as they constantly rave from one place to another & in the course of the Year overrun the whole of the surrounding Country. And extend their researches from three to six or eight days March from the Lake.

The Free men who trade at Lesser Slave Lake are a wretched assemblage of Canadians, with their half Breed Off-spring, Iroquois, Courtcoreilles & Nipissings amounting altogether to 58 Men & 126 Women & Children (see paper No 2) These people are with a very few exceptions, a most worthless set. Many of them are in the habit of passing whole winters along the Lakes where fish can be caught & as long as they have any thing to eat, trouble themselves but little about paying their Debts. An idea can be formed of their value by the Hunts received from them this year. Averaging only 25 Skins pr Man of which 13 were Beaver. Whilst their Advances averaged 45 Skins. It is true the scarcity of Martins & the extreme severity of the winter operated much against them. But the Rascals might have done better had they been inclined to work. The loss incurred is great & calls loudly for the adoption of such measures as may prevent any loss being hereafter sustained. This object might be easily attained if a proper understanding existed between the Gentlemen in charge of the Neighbouring Posts. For as long as they can obtain their supplies only at the trouble of shifting their quarters from one post to another, so long will they continue to rob the Company of its Property. I attempted this Spring to punish some for their laziness by refusing them a supply of Ammunition for the Summer. This I am confident would have had a good effect, were there no other place from whence they could obtain that article. But I understand that they are gone to Dunvegan, whither Mr McIntosh has invited them for the purpose of making provisions, so that this measure

from which I expected some good would have resulted is of no farther consequence than saving a few pounds of ammunition to the Posts of Lesser Slave Lake. The Free men who trade at Rocky Mountain House are, with the exception, of two Canadians, All Iroquois and Half Breeds. They are only twenty Men in all. The few who hunted about the Head Waters of the Smoky River & those that went across the Mountains made out about forty eight Beaver pr. Man. Thirteen of them are now across the Mountains. They are well equipped to hunt and being good industrious fellows Mr Henry confidently expects they will return in the Fall with good Hunts.

The Coalition has had a good effect with regard to the Indians, who see the necessity of being industrious. The quantity of Liquor being reduced to less than one third of what was annually expended during the Opposition, has a manifest tendency to improve their Condition & conduct. But the Free men are incorrigible. They [illegible] them in vain; and I fear that nothing but the severest of measures will bring them to their senses. They are now anxiously expecting an American Opposition, and endeavour to instil the same notions into the Minds of the Indians. As such Stories tend to nourish that spirit of independence which was excited by the late Opposition, they must of course be injurious, and the propagation of them ought to be punished. ~~[illegible]~~

Notwithstanding the repeated Complaints of Beaver being scarce the quantity we procured this year, at Lesser Slave Lake itself is not much less than was obtained nine or ten years ago from this I am led to conclude that those Complaints are not altogether well founded. However, by hunting repeatedly over the same grounds they must at length be entirely destroyed. To prevent this and at the same time endeavour to draw some benefit from the Freemen made me desirous to send as many as could be prevailed upon to hunt in the Upper Part of Athabasca River, between which & the Smoky River, Beaver are totally numerous. And to induce them to this they were promised that a winter Post should be es-

tablished about Mr Lord's Branch for the purpose of supplying them with their necessaries. Tho' many of them promised to act according to my desire, it was done with no other view than to deceive. instead of proceeding above, some of them are gone to peace River. and the rest to Red Deers Lake at neither of which places anything is to be had. Of the whole only five are going up. three of them to the Rocky Mountain and the other two, to hunt along the Athabasca River.

It seems doubtful whether Mr Annance penetrated so far in his excursions last summer as he says, be this as it may the success which attended the Iroquois who followed his real or pretended route, proves beyond a doubt that Beaver exist in that part of the Country in considerable numbers. Could a few industrious Trappers be sent thither in addition to those who are at present there, good returns, at least for a few Years, might I think be expected. The Rocky Mountain House being too remote from the hunting grounds, it would therefore be expedient to remove the establishment to the Head Waters of the Smoky River; from whence the Hunters could obtain their supplies & their hunts be got in without much difficulty. Besides this, Animals being there abundant, the Companies Guards would not only be fed at a cheaper rate, but a considerable quantity of provisions could be collected every summer for the supply of the Columbia People. At the same time, the people going to & from the Columbia would not by this change experience the slightest inconvenience, as the Horses that will convey the returns every spring to the Athabasca River, can be sent to meet them as usual on the Portage. And those sent in the Fall for the Outfit will have abundance of time to transport their Property across the Mountains and return before the arrival of the Outfit.

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SECTION B

CLASS 115

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 5

DESCRIPTION LESSER SLAVE LAKE

REPORT on DISTRICT

UNDATED

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LESSER SLAVE LAKE

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS 1822/23

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Lesser Slave Lake

undated

This district is computed to extend four hundred and eighty miles from East to West, and two hundred or two hundred and fifty from North to South. On the North West it is bounded by a chain of mountains which extend from the Loon river to the Wataska hills; on the West by the rocky mountains; on the south by part of the Sascatchewan department; and on the east by the Red Deer's Lake. The navigable rivers by which a communication is kept up with Lesser Slave Lake, are the Red Deer Athabasca and Slave rivers. There are numerous lakes which abound with fish, but except in this respect none are equal to Slave Lake.

The country is hilly and except in a few places covered with wood; the soil sandy and consequently not very fertile. Potatoes, Barley, cabbages and turnips grow pretty well, in a moist season. The fur bearing animals of the district are the beaver, the black brown and grizzly bear, with Martins (in some years abundant,) Otters, minks, Fishers, Cats, Wolves Wolverines and Foxes. In the last year Martins had disappeared, from what cause was not known.

The winters are generally mild; the lakes and rivers commonly frozen over by the beginning of November, and not navigable again till the middle of May; or a week or a fortnight later. From the supply of fish obtained here the establishment is in a great measure independent of the hunters.

1822/3

Wm Kennedy

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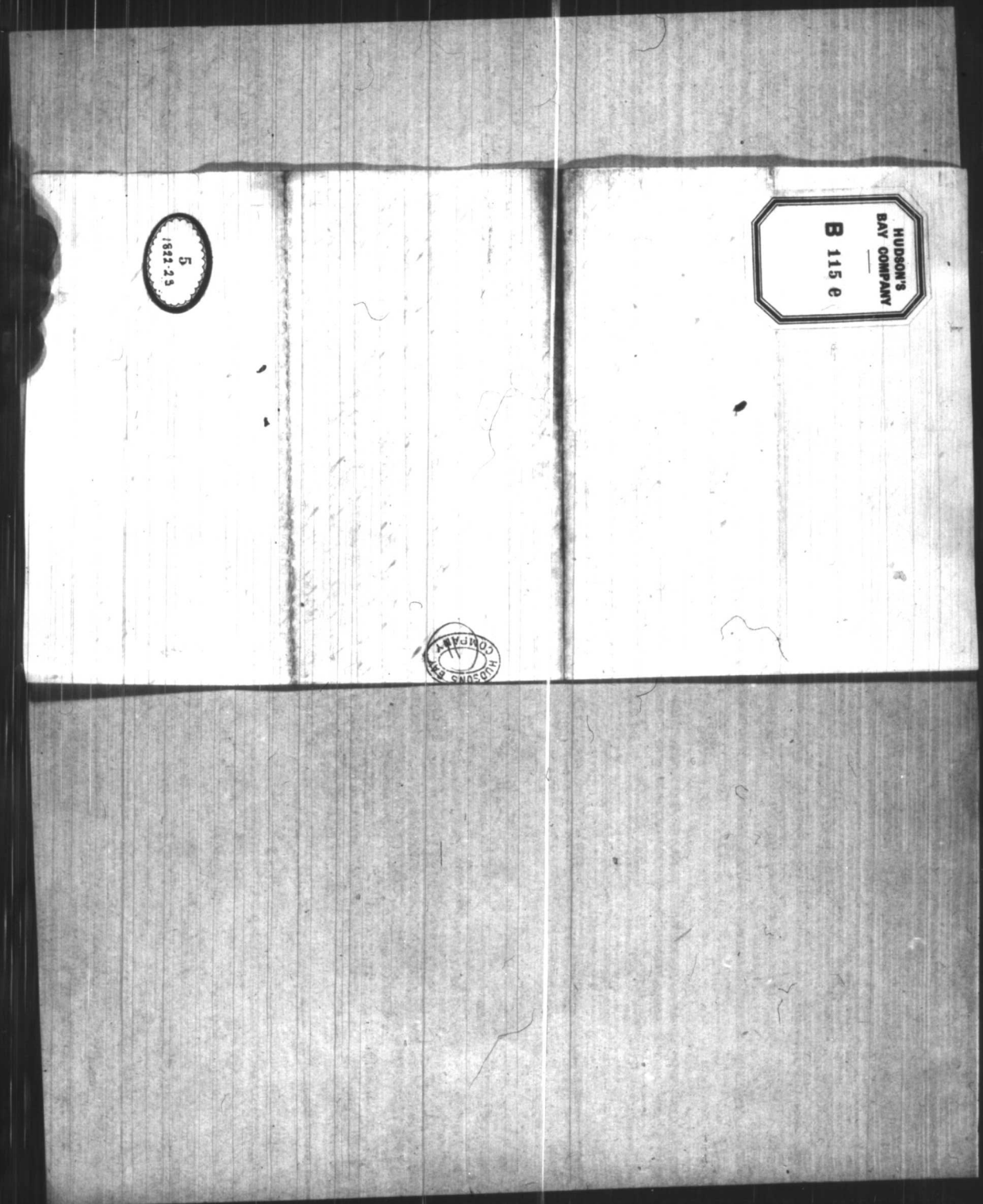

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SECTION B

CLASS 117

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 1

DESCRIPTION LONG LAKE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1816-1817

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B 117 e

LONG LAKE.

REPORT. 1816-17.

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1816-17

LONG LAKE

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No 1 — 2

James Lake

Henley District

Reports

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1816/7

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A Report of the principal occurrences that have taken place within this Destruct during the last season

1st. Nothing very remarkable has taken place during the year save that on my arrival here last summer from Albany I found to the no small loss of the place that the Indians had one of the Cattle killed which circumstance I should attribute to nothing but the cowardice of the men in permitting the Indians to take too great liberties with them and not exerting themselves in a proper manner on the occasion and the Indian having a very large family all starving and nothing here for them to eat prompted them to such a daring action, for further particulars see Journal page 3rd.

For the principal occurrences of my journey to Lang Lake I [illegible] to refer you to my journal page 6 to 8.

The loss of the property that was put by at Lang Lake last spring I attribute to Hugh Linklater and his colleagues negligence who left L Lake sooner than the rest as Wm Clauston was left in charge of the house when Mr McPherson was taken prisoner by the N.W.Co. together with Robert Dudley and Joseph Clauston and being detained with a view to go down to Montreal as evidences but being after informed they were not to go went to Kenogumyshish Lake with the only two nets at the place where they stayed for several days but being under the necessity to go to the Canadian house for something to eat and not getting any thing there, set off with the abovementioned nets to Henley and in passing the place where the property above alluded to was put by and seeing some of the things lying on the beach they endeavoured to Out it out of sight as far as their then distressed situation would allow, but the day being well far spent and no fishing place nigher than Large Pine Lake they were obliged to abandon the property and try to save their lives, whereas Hugh Linklater Jacob Daniel

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Daniel and Willm Taylor has 25 fish which was ordered to carry them to the aforesaid Lake, but instead of this they carried by & put the Carriages by and stopt at the forks of Winnipeg instead of proceeding expeditiously on their journey, a sure sign they had both time and provisions to lay the things by in a better manner.

I am aware the aforesaid remarks should have came in the last years Report, but as the discommencies arising from the loss of the above articles mentioned in my journal page 9th fell upon me I feel it a duty incumbent upon me to report the circumstances as far as related against misinformation.

2d. Notwithstanding the lateness of the season when we arrived at Lake we made a shift to contain the goods and furrs and settled to live at big Lake. there is a fine house & building already but I am sorry is so convenience it being otherwise scarcely habitable but shall have it to mend again when circumstances will allow. it is a fine house &c for indeed the best I have seen on this part the there is no addition to the ground that was in cultivation last year there would have been a very fine crop of potatoes there last year but it not been for my severe frost that interchanged them on the 24th August last. there were 60 Tegs of a pretty good size and quality raised last fall the barley looked as fine as any I have seen in Scotland but quite contrary of the substance whether it was owing to the aforesaid frost or to bad seed I cannot say. there were no garden seeds sent of any description as there might with facility be raised a good quantity of garden stuff which would be an excellent substitute for flour and prevent the disorders arising from a frequent use of salt provisions for this is by no means a good fishing place. there might have been a good garden planted & plenty raised there as there is a large spot of ground cleared yet I am sure the place in its present state could scarcely pay the expences of four men at it, as all the Indians who used to trade at it are taken away though they wished to remain and yet it is not distitute of beavers if there were Indians to hunt them.

3d. Having appointed Mr. Nicholas Finlayson to the command of this place (Hartley House) last fall with all necessary instructions for the management of the same with proper stock &c having got no instruction as to the trade the preceding winter by his own account tame). I nevertheless he conducted the business to my satisfaction until the Spring of the year when some Plaister Indians arrived here & pretended he treated their furrs contrary to my orders being anxious to procure a few skins at any rate and these Indians having told him that they had paid all their debts at Plaister he was induced to believe them. nevertheless I thought proper to bring him to Albany to answer for his conduct before the Chief [illegible] I am sorry to say it may appear mean it is a favourable opportunity of this justice I can obtain for procuring skins there were only one Dead to this place & with regard to the conduct of the men I have to complain to Montigne Jacob Daniel as being guilty of an important breach of duty for the particulars of which see Journal page 32d – after which I cannot but praise the mighty commiseration on him for his conduct and behaviour during the winter and as to his abilities in procuring the trade I'll venture to say there are few if any on the Albany establishment who can vie with him and indeed the greatest part of my trade was procured by his exertions – but I regret the spring he was again guilty of another breach of duty for the particulars of which please to see Journal page 48 & 52 – yet I cannot but further add that his abilities in managing a canoe is excellent as the rivers through which he had to conduct it is the worst I have seen in any part of N America through which I have passed.

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2nd Robert Dudley had conducted himself as far as I saw with propriety, but being informed by Willm Clouston and Willm Taylor that he had not obeyed orders particularly as a fishing place where I sent him together with Willm Taylor to make a weir instead of doing this he left Taylor behind and proceeded with an Indian and taking a view of the place he returned to the Fish tent and set nets there, though our lives in a manner depended upon how he obeyed his orders in this point of view having heard nothing of this conduct of his till the 28th Feby I intrusted with the charge of a post at Big Lake, when I sent William Clouston to superceed him and found too late that he had been very lavish of the property intrusted to him and procured very few furs I have further to remark that he is an extraordinary good walker and an [illegible] hand in the stern of a canoe or the bow of a boat

3rd William Clouston has beheaved himself with propriety and exerted himself with courage and fidelity in all the stations in which he has been placed. he is a young man that would as soon die as suffer himself to be imposed on by the Opposition having had occasion to send him off in company with an Indian to try for fish he was followed by two Canadians with whome he had a scuffle on the lake but declined fighting them on the water and returned to the house where he challenged them and they declined fighting in their turn, but being at big Lake in the month of Feby and having occasion to trade some rabbit skins from the said two Canadians they fell out about the price and gave him insulting language for which he gave one of them a sound drubbing. he is very attentive in keeping a look out for Indians and understands a good deal of their language, he also is pretty well versed in the tricks and intrigues of the trade, is a good hand at fishing and any other work he is put to.

4th William Taylor is a stout strong man but can take care of his strength if not looked after, for in coming from Henley last winter in company with Hugh Rich imposed so on Rich's simplicity that he made him beat the path till they came to Long Lake making him believe that his slide was weighter than his. nevertheless he has done his duty well when under my eye. being fisherman in the spring and one day perceiving a Canadian who was not accustomed to go to their nets take up his he made all possible haste to his canoe and got after the Canadian whom he disered upon his pirel to deliver the net and the fish this the Canadian did immediately on which Taylor took his paddle from him with which he gave him a hearty beating, when done he delivered him his paddle back again. he is a very good hand in working with wood, for after I left Henley House to Albany in the spring I left with him the rough plan of house which he has raised side-wall high as uniform a manner as a carpenter would have done it

5th William Scarth is a very good fisherman, having been under the necessity to leave him in charge at Henley house last spring, I found on my return that he had not been equal to the charge given him. see Journal page 3 & 4 yet he beheaved himself with propriety as labourer or fisherman

6th Thomas Heddle is a poor young man very obedient and willing but unfit to do a mans duty in my sense of the word

7th Andrew Thompson in the beginning of last season was a weak lad but is improved wonderfully and is now a good hand altho but a poor walker on account of his short legs

Hugh Rich is a soft good natured man see the report with regard to Wm Taylors character yet a strong working man and very obedient

9th William Cromartie the Apprentice who though but young can nearly do a mans duty is a good natured boy and very tractable in the summer during my absence he got wite delirious by eating some poisonous roots which he mistook for others of a more favorable kind.

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4th A list of those Indians who have traded into this District during the past season — Waywacee Pudskeecapaw Kepawakeechkoot Sceekesoce Tabawauel Cinggiawickee Mamiscoutchecapaw Tweighkeenootwawetch Ortaway Ashawapo Mpinse Whiscacapick Wabuhquekunechinow Hapsitikeechee Keeshee Keegdee Pelkawaee Eitawishquinyapi Awaheee Oeeshuegan Annawauby Keecanighkqueecapaw Keewecaughkconcapaw Keechebabyshish Wapistaskk Capabonnighkee Mitchimittee Pitcheweyqueshick Hoseweecapaw Thungqiung Spring Capt. — Those who have brought in a pretty good stud are those who have been punctual in the payment of their debts have their names marked thus x, they are in general a lazy set of Indians so much so that when they come to a fishing place they remain there till they catch nothing and although some of them have families and consequently have a good many hands they are generally starving especially in the winter season yet nevertheless a proud saucy set of cheats and unprincipled of the most selfish description which however might be overcome were it not for the opposition. They lived pretty well for the first part of last winter owing to their having made wiers in the Salt the water being remarkably low. — The following Indians are loyal to the Canadian interest having had no opportunity to deal with them viz. White-bear, Otter White coat, Keekamow & four sons Mountain & two sons, Wiesquank, Fishers head & indeed all those Indians who have traded with me have also had a with the Canadians except Cinggiawickee, Wapistabah Keecanneighqueecapapew, Quighkeenootwawetch, Waywacee and Ashawee, there are three Indians who got debt last year to a very large amount who had not made their appearance at this quarter during last season.

5th Of the Canadians it is impossible for me to give a correct statement of the furrs procured by them within the District, all I can say is that they procured 8 packs of 90 ℔ each and about 8 of which had been procured before my arrival at Long Lake They were in all nine persons viz. Mr. Solomon Hallbergen Chief Clerk — Sandies an Interpreter and seven men, the general tenour of their conduct was very forbearing more so than I have seen them any time before, they seem appear to have lost their former insolence of singing as a sure index of their prosperity.—

6th Trade of the District for the year viz.
264 Beaver whole, 23 Beaver Cub, Castoreum ℔ 12 Bears prime 3 Bears middling 1 Bear Cub, 29 Cats prime, Fox red prime 9 Fishers prime 1 Fisher damaged, 961 Martins prime 74 Martins damaged 76 Minks 1698 Musquash, 55 Otters prime 20 Otters damaged 6 Otters Cub 4522 Rabbits.—

I am not sure as to the amount of trade procured in this District last year, however I may venture to say it is nothing short of what it might have been last year notwithstanding all the failures and failiness that had taken place in the district: The cause of the diminution of trade at Pembly house is obvious when it is observed there were only two Indians belonging to the place, and the best hunter of those died in the beginning of last winter.
There were Indians both to Portage & Dutch for the place but have all been taken away. Yet I make no doubt if there were Indians sent to the place to hunt it would prove lucrative to the Concern, more so than the lazy and manner in which it is now kept up as I know for a certainty that it is not destitute of beaver and if no Indians be provided to come to the place I would recommend the non continuance of it entirely because in its present state it only incurs expences upon the Company's case if its non continuance the nearest place in my humble opinion is either Pigeony or Partridge Lakes which are said to be good fishing Lakes and moreover would in my opinion thwart the business of the Canadian traders at Red very materially — a nother place I would recommend as an impediment to their trade at Lake Winnipeg would be Raw Bone Lake which place I had been at in the Spring and I believe the supplies could be easier carried

carried to it by Sessakeenagar river as the water is generally too shallow for the navigation of a large canoe from Long lake to the above place.

The reason why I have not been able to transmit a proper statement of my proceedings to the Chief is for want of paper. Vide Journal page 34.

Having nothing to add.

I beg leave to subscribe myself Honble Gentlemen

Henley House
26th July 1817

Your Very Dutiful Servant

James Tate

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INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 117

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 2

DESCRIPTION LONG LAKE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1817-1818

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B 117 e

LONG LAKE

REPORT 1817-18

2
1817-1818

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A

B

A Report of the principals Occurrences in Henley District during the past season i.e. 1817/18 inclusive

James Tate

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

1st Something of a similar nature to the circumstance of 1815 happened here this year. The Cree and Carrier Indians there ordinary repartiers to Long Lake trade of some certain sweare which name of the people. That at the latter end of last November the Bucks mentioned in my last reports as having been killed by the Indians has been fully paid for being so by the return of the Indian who had me between 70 & 80 made Beaver in good furr and with I have many expectations will in future (accidents excepted) bring in a good trade.—

2nd The buildings are the same as last year with the addition of a Master House at Long Lake the Ground in cultivation the same as last year on account of the poorness of mould. 9 Kegs containing 9 potatoes planted at Henley House, procured 88 Kegs of a pretty good size and quality. Barley is the only place where potatoes has been tried in this District and this Barley which has been tryed repeatedly has entirely failed. I am confident could be good seed, procured that a considerable deal of turnips &c could be raised at Long Lake, which would be an essential benefit. The fishing during this last season has been of very little than last year.—

3rd I record to Godspower that opposite to the charges of arrest that I am sorry to say has not conducted himself to my satisfaction, his own accounts or his employers interest having contrary to orders allowed away a considerable quantity of goods to no purpose and having consumed to be of some Indian but supported Family to be filled up quantity of furr for the purposes [illegible] he still appears indifferent and unattentive on behalf of his employers.—

William Edwardson whom I left in charge of Henley House he has conducted himself entirely to my satisfaction during occasionally at Rock Lake over and above furr at his Rock there have ever been done before. He is an active deserving young man.—

James Daniel Cree & Metaskeeseo one of the best perhaps in this department and in every other respect an active good servant.—

William Taylor an able active good servant. has conducted himself entirely to my satisfaction has been only three years in the country is an excellent fisherman and master to steer a canoe, which duty he is very capable of, and also being courageously moved by the approbation, have advanced his wages £5.— for further particulars of this see conduct see journal page 42.53.57.20.—

Charles Grave canoe steerer pretty attentive, but very perfidious disposition under the eye of his master but cannot be trusted any way the upon, for particulars see journal Page 58. when this came to my knowledge I threatened him with the loss of his wages, he coldly answered he did not care a D— upon his wages, on representing this to the Chief he was determined to fine him £20.— so much proceedings must prove very detrimental to the concern.—

Hugh Rich a very good working hand, but prejudiced of no enterprize in the country last winter he was supported some Indians whose furs he was sent to take care of to Long considerable quantity to the canadian house, he is a pretty good fisherman and

be a good canoe steerer he has improved considerably in every respect during last summer

William Cunister a very poor hand but a steady sort has neither courage nor strength to maintain the rights of the service, having occasion to send him to some Indian tents he suffered himself to be pillaged by the canadians of a good quantity of furs for particulars see journal page 39 &c. —

William Scarth a good fisherman and has in every respect done his duty with propriety. —

Andrew Thompson a tolerable good hand has improved very much during last year. —

James Flett a very weak lad not able to do a mans duty. —

John Busby an active good servant and I think in time will make an useful man for the service. —

John Johnston one of a party dispatched from Albany to Albany, who on their way came to Henley where this man was left as being unfit to perform the journey an utterly good for nothing fellow and not owned in his senses. —

5th The Indians in general have had better winters for hunting this than the preceding but their hunts has been much the same as last year. There are odds to forty Indians in this quarter who trade with us and the Canadians nearly equally but none to any great amount indeed very few save it be the Tobacco or long & Black Face his Brother and the Jack fish but trade with both parties their stated mentioned & commonly true to the Company and with the exception of three, the Tobaccos are punctual in the payment of their debts. Tobacco has given us most of his hunt 67 made beaver, but it cost a considerable expence to get him to leave the Canadians as he till this year always gave them most part of his hunts the Indians about Long Lake have very poor lands and seldom pay their debts. —

5th The amount of trade procured by the canadians can hardly be ascertained yet I am very confident they have above 10 packs of cloth they were in number a chief Clerk Solomon Mattheson — Bayette an assistant Clerk and Lavarre Interpreter and several (most frequently eight) men all picked hands their canoes are nearly as fast sailing (a few instances excepted) as last year but about the 10th July when they commenced their usual system of pillage moreso than that season. For the case of Mr Tomkyns see for further particulars as to the correspondence occasioned by their unbecoming please see journal page 20. 21. 22. 24. 28. 29. 31. 36. 39 to 43. 47. 58. 60. 7

6th The trade is considerably better than last year. There are a good many more White beaver and Otters the other articles are much the same as last. There are more Musquash but Rabbits are considerably fewer than last year and were not considered good policy to take them from the Indians on account of the Canadians not taking any as these Indians who for most part trade with them, would only collect the rabbits for us. Altho the trade is better than last year it has been much more expensive in the collection by reason of every strong opposition their lavishness, and the scarcity and inability of our own men in general. —

Albany Factory
29th July 1818

James Flett

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A

A Report of the principals occurrences in Henley District during the past season i.e. 1817/18 inclusive

Severn Lake

B

1st Something of a similar nature to the circumstances of 1815 happened here this year. My two cows and calf. I left there on my departure to Long Lake; died of some distemper several which some of the people. I left at the lake, ascribe that Bulk mentioned in my last reports as having been killed by the Indians has been fully paid for this year. On the return of the Indians who paid me, between 70 & 80 made Severn on good terms and will I have more respects have will in future (accidents excepted) living in a good trade.

2d The buildings are the same as last year with the addition of a master House at Long Lake. The ground in cultivation the same as last year an advance of the quantity of manure. 9 Kegs containing 9 potatoes planted at Henley House procured 88 Kegs of a pretty good size and quality. Only is the only place where potatoes has been tried in this District and the early rose which has been tryed repeatedly has uniformly failed. I am confident of could be good seed procured that a considerable deal of turnips &c could be raised at Long Lake, which would be an essentials benefit. The fishing during this last season has been of very little than last year.

3d Samuel Linklayson Clerk appointed to the charge of an out post. I am sorry to say he not conducted himself to my satisfaction, his own credit or his employers interest having contrary to orders barrelled away a considerable quantity of goods to no purpose and having occasion to be at some Indian tents supposed himself to be pillaged of a quantity of furs by [illegible] he still appears misplaced and unaccountable on behalf of his employers.

William Edmonton whom I left in charge of Henley House he has not conducted himself entirely to my satisfaction selling occasionally at Cheek & Sakawiwin procured more fish at his post than have ever been done before. He is an active deserving young man.

James Daniel Canoe & Boat steerer one of the best practicals in this establishment and in every other respect an active good servant.

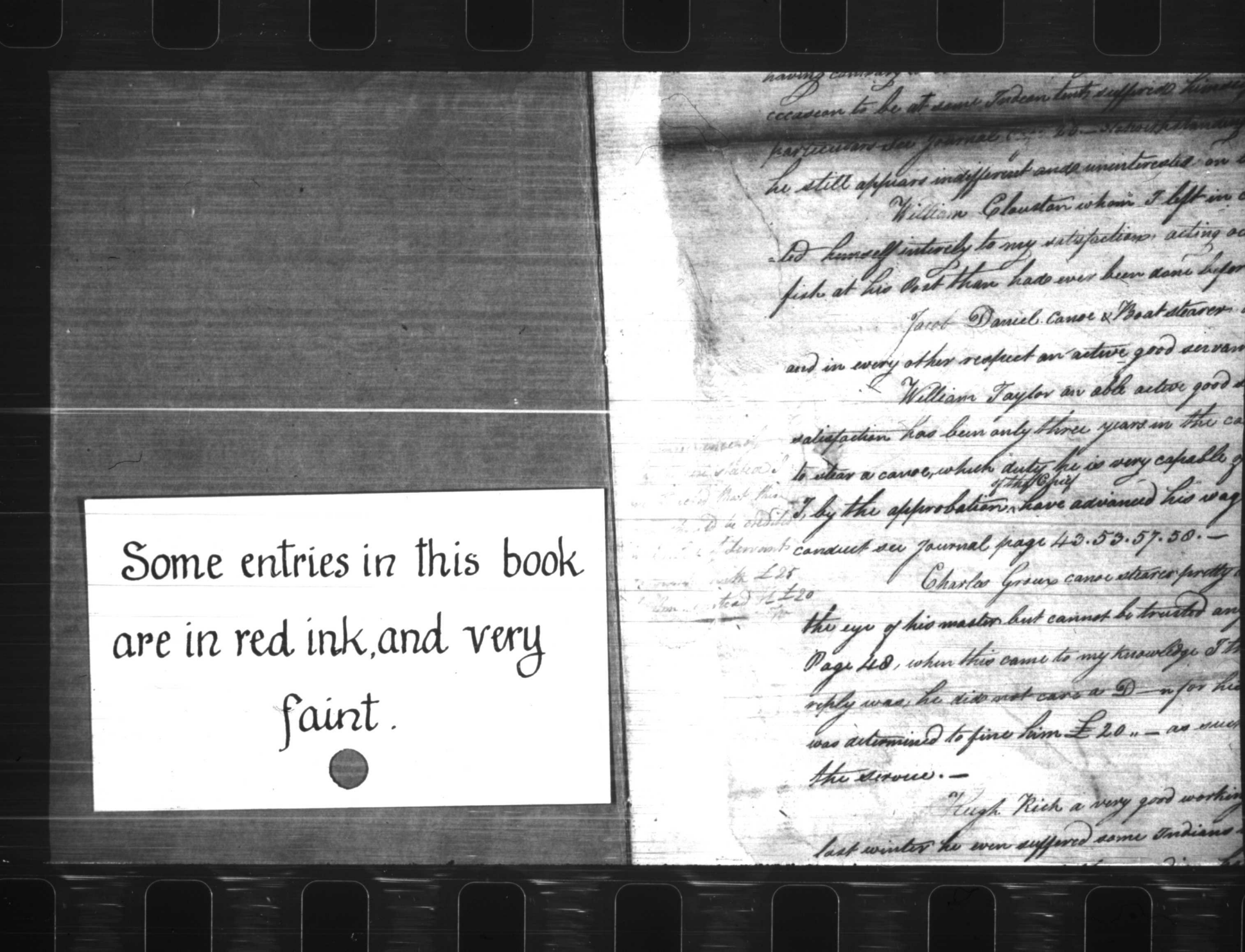
William Taylor an able active good servant has conducted himself entirely to my satisfaction has been only three years in the country is an excellent fisherman was intended to learn a trade, which duties he is very capable of, but the man being wonderfully averse to it by the approbation I have continued his wages £5. – for further particulars of this man conduct see Journal, page 42. 53. 57. 58. –

Charles Grimes canoe steerer pretty attentive, but very frequent delinquent while under the eye of his master but cannot be trusted any way the reason for particulars see Journal Page 48. when this came to my knowledge I threatened him with the loss of his wages his reply was he did not care a D – n for his wages, on representing this to the Chief it was determined to fine him £20. – on such proceedings must prove very detrimental to the concern. –

Hugh Rich a very good working hand but perceptive of no economy in this country last winter he was supported some Indians whose favor he was sent to take care of to large considerable quantity to the canadian houses he is a pretty good fisherman and [illegible]

Some entries in this book are in red ink, and very faint.

Some entries in this book are in red ink, and very faint.



be a good canoe steerer he has supported himself ably in every respect during last season

William Cornish a very poor hand but a Bowsman yet has neither courage nor strength to maintain the credit of the service, having occasion to send him to assist Indians both he supported himself to be pitied by the canadians of a good quantity of goods for provisions see Journal, pages 39. 120.—

William Scott a good fisherman and has in every respect done his duty with propriety.—

Andrew Thompson a tolerable good hand has improved very much during last year.—

James Flett a very weak boy not able to do a man's duty.—

John Budy an active good servant and I think in time will make an useful man for the service.—

John Johnston one of a party dispatched from Moose to Albany, who on their way came to Henley where this man was left, as being unfit to perform the journey, an utterly good for nothing fellow and not named in his account.

1st The Indians in general have payed a better visit for during this than the preceding but the trade has been much the same as last year. There are about forty Indians in this quarter who trade with us and the Canadians nearly equally but come to any great amount with every few some of the Indians pay a Black Face but the Canadians the [illegible] trade with both parties these last mentioned are commonly true to the Company and with the exception of three the Indians are punctual in the payment of their debts. Jobbers have given us most of his hunt 67 made beaver, but it cost a considerable expence to get it as the Canadians as before this year always gave their most part of the time the Indians about Long Lake have very poor hands and seldom pay their debts.—

5th The amount of trade procured by the canadians can hardly be ascertained but I am sorry to say that it is above 10 packs of cards they are in number a chief Clerk Steersmen Middlemen Waiters an assistant Clerk and Laundry Interpreter and sometimes frequently eight men all picked hands their conduct was mostly as reported (a few instances excepted) as last year about the 10th July when they commenced their usual system of pillage more than that referred to in the case of Mr. Finlayson for further particulars as to the correspondence carried by this expedition please see Journal pages 20. 21. 22. 23. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39.

6th The trade is considerably better than last year there are a good many more Whole beaver and Otter the other articles are much the same as before there are more Musquash but Rabbit Skins are considerably fewer than before as it was not considered good policy to take them from the Indians on account of the Canadians not taking any as those Indians make for most part trade with them, would only collect the rabbit for us. tho the trade is better than last year it has been much more expensive in the collection by reason of a very strong opposition their lavishness, and the scarcity and inability of our own men in general.—

Albany Factory
29th July 1818

James Foto

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SECTION B

CLASS 117

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 3

DESCRIPTION LONG LAKE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1818-1819

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LONG LAKE.

REPORT. 1818-19.

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1818-19

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Henley District Reports 1818/19

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1818-1819

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Henley District Reports 1818/19.—

1st Narative

1818 June 30th Dispatched (agreeable to the Chiefs orders) a boat to Henley house with some supplies, sent a letter to Mr Finlayson see page 1.— July 1st the boat arrived at Albany, brought some ash for boat timbers and a letter from Mr Finlayson to me, see page 2 29th Took my departure from Albany with two canoes and seven men with the remainder of the supplies for Henley District 31st Met a large boat from Martins Fall, from which I turned Duncan McMillan and George Scott.— August 9th arrived at Henley house at 2 O'Clock P.M. found that business has been very badly conducted here since last spring see page 3, self very ill.— 15th Agreed the Gross Cedar to steere a canoe to Flint Lake 18th Debted the Spring Capt and gang the Gross Cedar and wife deserted in the course of last night. All the Indians went off 19th Dispatched Mr Finlayson and three men to Flint Lake in in a big canoe with goods and provisions &c fit for establishing an out Post there, gave Mr Finlayson instruction for the better mana-nagement of the same, see page 5.— 20th Running heavy all day self unable to move by severe illness, had all the articles we intend to leave put by together with 20 pieces Pork and 100 Ths Flour for the use of packeters from the different quarters 21st Left Henley house in the evening, 24th Ram all day were obliged to lead up the canoes all day, came up with the Spring Capt from whom I procured a few skins and some beaver and bears flesh.— 25th Overtook Mr Finlayson and his party at Pyakeetchewan Forks he was laying there waiting for us as he could not proceed by that rout on account of the water being so low. 26th took Mr Finlayson and gang along with us up Pine Lake River.— 27th The Spring Capt and family left us to go to their own lands. September 8th The men hardly able to move in the portages on account of their feet being all flayed occasioned by continual Wading 11th Queyhkeenootenaweb who has been in company with us since the 22nd last left us.

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1813 Sept. 12th Dispatched Mr. Finlayson and three men from Keibiawatitam Lake to Flint Lake with their former corpse 14th Dettoed Waywace and sent him off to his hunting grounds.— 17th Arrived at Long Lake about 10 O'Clock at night 18th Duncan McMillan confined to bed with some nits and brought home the things that was put by last spring. 20th Dispatched Jacob Daniel and John Brody to Raw Bone Lake to search for Indians and Wm Cunister and an Indian that I agreed last spring to the Fish tents; two Indians arrived, brought 8 made beaver; they went off soon after.— 21st Wm Cunister and the Indian arrived, saw no Indians but say there are three Canadians at the Fish tents.— 24th two Indians arrived brought 16½ made beaver; Jacob Daniel and John Brody arrived, brought 70 made beaver; they say there are three Canadians at Big Lake, which makes thirteen of them in all in this quarter, all good hands.— 25th Sent Jacob Daniel and James Flett to Peiponiscowiwin to search for Indians; an Indian arrived, brought 14 made beaver.— 26th The Indian of yesterday took debt and went off.— 28th Dispatched William Taylor and John Brody to Raw Bone Lake with goods to make an outfit there; sent a little boy of Jacob Daniels along with them as interpreter. Jacob Daniel and James Flett arrived brought 25 made beaver; sent William Cunister and George Scott to the Fish tents to make a Fall fishing.— October 1st an Indian arrived secretly at the Canadian House, we know not what he brought.— 1st Sent Jacob Daniel and James Flett to Jack River to try for fish.— 13th The two men arrived from Jack River brought 100 fish.— 18th Sent Jacob Daniel and Duncan McMillan to Cat Skins basket to look for Indians.— 20th The two men of the Fish tents arrived brought 16½ made beaver.— Wm Cunister & George Scott also arrived from the Fish tents & say they have hung about 500 fish.— 25th The two men from the Fish tents returned to their tents.— 30th Sent Jacob Daniel & James Flett to Jack River to try for fish.

Indian woman a hunting mate, got pretty good luck.— November 2nd Jacob Daniel and James Flett arrived brought 62 fish.— 6th running several bays of the Lake full of ice.— 27th sent Jacob Daniel & James Flett to Peiponiscowiwin in search of Indians.— Duncan McMillan detected thieving sugar, see journal page 15.— 29th Wm Cunister arrived in company with an Indian who says he saw J. Daniel and told him to go to his tent and take his furrs.— 30th The Indian went off; Jacob Daniel and James Flett arrived, brought 29 made beaver.— December 1st sent Wm Cunister to the Fish tent.— 2nd Self unable to move in bed without the assistance of two persons to help me.— Jacob Daniel set a range of rabbit snares.— 6th Sent James Flett to the Fish tent to return along with Wm Cunister with all the load of fish.— 9th Upon suspicion that Duncan McMillan was able to work, I kept his allowance from him, when in a short time he got up and offered his services, consequently got his allowance.— Wm Cunister & James Flett arrived, brought 100 fish.— 10th Sent Wm Cunister, James Flett and D. McMillan to haul fish.— 11th The three men of yesterday arrived, brought 150 fish, very cautious in the same state without the least mitigation.— 18th Sent Jacob Daniel to Raw Bone Lake, by the way of Catskins basket to pay Catatin for some fish he bargained for on the 20th Octr last, the three men of yesterday went along Jacob to haul home some of the fish.— 13th The three men arrived, brought brought 150 fish. George Scott and along with them, brought 50 fish.— 14th Sent the four men of Yesterday to haul home fish.— 15th Three of the men arrived, brought 170 fish, say that McMillan pretended to be ill.— 16th Sent James Flett to look after McMillan and Scott & Cunister to the Fish tent.— 17th The three men arrived, brought 131 fish. James Flett says that he met McMillan going to the Fish tent, where he said he would remain till he got better.— 18th Jacob Daniel and John Brody arrived from Raw Bone Lake, brought 114 made beaver.— 19th Sent Wm Cunister & James Flett to the Fish tent to haul McMillan home.— 21st Wm Cunister and

and James Flett arrived brought 70 fish. M.Millan told them they should not haul him like a dog. 21 Sent Jacob Daniel & Wm Cunister to haul M.Millan home whether he would or not. 22d The two men of yesterday arrived and M.Millan along with them. They hauled him half way, when he requested to get up then he and walked home as well as they could do. 23d Sent John Brody, James Flett Jacob Daniel and William Cunister to haul home the remainder of the fish from Cat Skins back. 27 The four men of yesterday arrived, brought 200 fish. 28th Sent Cunister and Flett to the Fish tent. 29th The three men of yesterday arrived brought 190 fish. 30th Sent Wm Cunister James Flett and George Scott to the Fish tent. 31st Wm Cunister and James Flett arrived, brought 100 fish, say they left George Scott coming along with 50 fish on his sled, about 5 miles from the house with him M.Millan and the former two men carried Jacob Daniel immediately in search of Scott, he returned in about two hours carrying George Scott on his back in a dying state. Sent over for Mr Hutchings the officer for the District who immediately attended upon the unfortunate body, but in a minute or two the breathed his last without even a word or groan about a mile from the place where Wm Cunister & Jas Flett left him he had left his sled and struck up his snowshoes along side of it and Jacob found him a little distant from where he had left his things laying on on the snow shoes from which place Jacob carried him home on his back

1819 January 2nd Interred the remains of George Scott the Canadian Master and his men attended on the occasion without being requested. 3rd Wayvace arrived brought a letter from Mr Finlayson see page 18, says that he and his brothers have same furrs at their tents. 4th The Indian went off and Jacob Daniel along with him to fetch the furrs also John Brody and James Flett to Raw Bone Lake with same supplies for that Post. 5th Jacob Daniel arrived, brought 20 made beaver. 7th Sent down M.Millan to the Fish tent &

8th Two men arrived from the Fish tent, brought 100 fish. 9th Sent the two men of yesterday back to the tent. 10th The two men of yesterday arrived, brought 100 fish. 18th Raining. Dispatched Jacob Daniel to Flint Lake with supplies for that Post and a letter to Mr Finlayson see page 20. 20th Jacob Daniel & Hugh Rich arrived from Flint Lake and John Brody from Raw Bone Lake, brought 16 made beaver. 27th John Brody returned to Raw Bone Lake. 28th sent up Jacob Daniel and James Flett to the foot of Kenogomyshish to set my 29th Jacob Daniel & Jas Flett arrived. Sent Wm Cunister and D. M.Millan to set moccasins. February 4th Wm Taylor arrived from Raw Bone Lake three Indians arrived also brought nothing. Discovered that a bag of flour had been cut open and a good quantity of sugar taken out of it. I strongly suspect D. M.Millan as he has been once detected but have no proof. 6th The Indians went off sent Hugh Rich to bring their furrs dispatched Wm Taylor and Jacob Daniel to Flint Lake Taylor to take charge there so that Mr Finlayson may come here to attend to the business of this place, as he is very ill unfit for immediately doing so. 7th H. Rich arrived brought 1 1/2 made beaver, two Canadians arrived from the same quarter with a good quantity of furrs. 11th Sent James Flett to the Fish tent. 13th Mr Finlayson and J. Daniel arrived from Flint Lake and J. Flett & D. M.Millan from the Fish tent, brought 300 fish. 17th Dispatched Hugh Rich and Wm Cunister to Hunky have sent a letter to Mr Thomas see journal page 26. Sent J. Daniel and D. M.Millan to Raw Bone Lake with same supplies 18th Sent James Flett to Kenogomyshish to take up the note of one letter. 24th J. Daniel arrived from Raw Bone Lake. 25th made beaver. 26th Sent J. Daniel to Kenogamyshish with a little letter. 27th James Flett arrived. March 6th Jacob Daniel arrived, brought 7 Rabbits. 8th Sent Mr Finlayson and Jas Flett to the Fish tent an Indian arrived, brought 7 made beaver and 15 Rabbits see page 26. 10th The Indian went off

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and James Flett arrived 15th Hugh Rich and William Cursiter arrived from Henley House, brought part of the victuals distined for the Packeters and a letter from Mr John Davis see Journal page 26, these men found Henley all distroy by Fire and by an Indian seen by the packeters from Martins Fall, by all accounts this Indian has been a conside able time at Henley: has ate his wife and two children the bones of whom the men found in a cellar along with the kettle it had been cooked into. they also say that the packeters from New Brunswick have been at Henley and returned. 16th Sent Jacob Daniel to call Mr Finlayson home 17th Mr Finlayson arrived. 18th J. Daniel arrived. 19th James Flett arrived from the fish tent. 20th Dispatched Mr Finlayson and James Flett to Big Lake to make a small [illegible] 22nd [illegible] Wm Cursiter to the Fish tent. 26th Jacob Daniel and an Indian arrived from Raw Bone Lake, brought 30 made beaver. 27th The Indian went off and Wm Cursiter arrived. April 1st Sent H. Rich & Wm Cursiter to the Fish tent to visit the nets. 3rd The two men of the 1st Ind. arrived, snow birds &c 8th Sent Cursiter to the Fish tent. 10th Cursiter arrived 11th Sent Jacob Daniel & H. Rich to Flint Lake, sent a few lines to Wm Taylor see page 32. 16th sent Cursiter to the Fish tent to visit nets. 18th J. Daniel and H. Rich arrived, brought a letter from Wm Taylor see page 33 an Indian arrived, brought 11 made beaver. 19th Sent J. Daniel up Long Lake to some Indian tents. W. Cursiter arrived from the Fish tent. 20th the Indian went off. Jacob Daniel arrived, brought 57 made beaver. 23rd sent H. Rich & Wm Cursiter to Big & Raw Bone Lakes, with instructions for Mr Finlayson to come home. 29th J. Daniel to Big Lake to see what has become of the men I sent there 30th Daniel returned, coul not proceed their being too weak. May I received a note from Mr

Mittleberger directing his people at Big Lake to lend my men a canoe, as I have none there, dispatched Jacob Daniel with the note. 2nd An Indian woman arrived from Flint Lake, brought a letter from Wm Taylor see page 35. 3rd Mr Finlayson Jacob Daniel Hugh & Jas Flett arrived, brought 103 made beaver 10th Wm Cursiter arrived from the fish tent 16th An Indian arrived, says he left some furs by the way as he came in 17th The Indian went off, sent J. Daniel & Hugh Rich to fetch his furs, they both returned in the evening, brought 17 made beaver. 18th got about 17 Made beaver from Inds who are tenting across the Lake 19th Dispatched Jacob Daniel and Hugh Rich to Raw Bone Lake, with necessaries for the Indians on that quarter. 21st two canoes of Inds arrived at the Canadian house last night. Cursiter and Flett met them at the foot of the Lake and were so stupid as not to take their guns from them altho' they owe the Company considerably. 23rd Two Indians arrived, sent Wm Cursiter and James Flett to fetch their furs, they returned, brought 20 made beaver. 24th An Indian arrived, brought 15 made beaver. 25th Mr Finlayson visited some Inds who are tenting across the Lake, got 13 made beaver, an Indian arrived brought 4 made beaver. 26th The Indian went off. 27 Jacob Daniel and his son together H. Rich D. McMillan & John Brody arrived from Raw Bone Lake, brought 46 made beaver. 30th Sent Mr Finlayson and Hugh Rich together with two Indian women to Flint Lake. June 5th employed packing furs. 6th Wm Taylor and Hugh Rich arrived from Flint Lake. 10th at 8 O'Clock A.M. I started for Albany. 11th Sent Jacob Daniel & Willm Taylor to Moss Lake to look for Indians, they returned and the Indians along with them, brought 36 made beaver. 12th The Indians went off, we incamped at Keebesawathtan Lake to wait for Mr Finlayson from Flint Lake. 13th Mr Finlayson John Johnston and two Indian women arrived, brought three small bundles of furs.

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16th opened some of the packs gave them an airing and repack'd
them — 15th Employ'd putting by goods and settling business
with Mr Finlayson — 16th Left Mr Finlayson and James
Flett &c to pass the summer inland, decamped about 8 A.M.
19th Arrived at Henley, found the victuals that was put by
but 30 ℔s flour was intirely rotten saw two Indians from
whom we procured about 18 made beaver. 20th came to the
Spring Capte &c, and the Apprentice William Cromartie
procured 32 made beaver stopped most part of the day
with Indians started in the evening & drove all night — 21st
Spoke a boat from Martins Fall bound to Albany — 22nd
Stopped all day at Chumahagan waiting for Indians but as they
did not come at the time appointed we started at dusk
got only to Moose Island where we were obliged to put on
shore, an account of the wind — 24th Arrived at Albany about
6 O'Clock P.M.

2nd

The state of the Posts — There have been two out Posts established in the District during last Fall, the houses according to the report of the people in charge of them are in good order, and both are excellent places for living and pretty good for trade — the extent of ground in cultivation at Henley house was the same as the two former years, but owing to the swarms of cattle spoiling that in part this place the crop of potatoes was nearly all destroyed: indeed we only had about six or seven meals of them — Henley house being abandoned last summer was burned to the ground by an Indean in the course of the winter, see journal page 28 — There are no further additions to the buildings at Long Lake, but they are all in good order save one old house which will require some repairs done, I gave orders to be done this summer — Long Lake is by no means a bad fishing place, providing there are a good number of nets and proper hands to attend them, and the other two Posts are better (viz) Flint Lake and Raw Bone Lake, we caught about 7000 excellent fish last Fall, but as to any other article of country produce proper for food there are little if any to be got in this quarter

3d

Recommendations of the Officers and men — 1st Mr Ridel Finlayson Clerke a Gentleman whome I have had occasion several times to give instructions to for the better management of the Posts he has had charge of but such instructions he has thought proper never to attend to, see his instructions Journal page 5th and the Post Script to his letter to me page 19 he arrived here on the 15th February to attend to the business of this Post and to forward the writings as much as possible, but in this of which I could not get him to abide by it 6 minutes at a time either by good or evil, which conduct of his has doubtless occasioned some confusion in the accounts &c and I being confined to bed all winter, could not attend to business in a proper manner by any means — The greatest fault I see in Mr Finlayson is his proverbial and inattention to business, other wise he is a good natured man and a pleasant companion —

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2nd Jacob Daniel, canoe steerer which duty he is very capable of, and an excellent hand in procuring trade, as he knows every place on the Long Lake quarter where Indians resort to, but thinks too much of his own abilities, and in case of a miscarriage can cheat it with a lie and if angry will use the most provoking and abusive language to his master —

3rd William Taylor, canoe steerer a good hand also a very strong man but addicted to tattling and telling falsehoods, I had him in charge of an out Post all last winter in which station he acted to my satisfaction —

4th Hugh Rich, acting canoe steerer, is pretty capable of that duty and merits Encouragement and is an obedient good servant in every other respect —

This man is promis[ed] £2 10 [per] annum for [illegible]

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15th William Cumberland a pretty good hand, but rather stubborn on occasions and very severe on any of his fellow servants whom he thinks he can overcome. On Christmas day as is customary I had all the men than at the house, called in to get a dram, when all on a sudden he got up and knocked down George Scott at the same time exclaiming d—n the than never answered me.—

16th John Bordy, a good labouring hand only subject to the sulks occasionally, some times he will pass hours together without changing a word with his fellow servants,

17th James Flett an obedient, but weak servant and afraid to encounter the Canadians whether his cause be right or wrong

18th Duncan McMillan a clumsey leady servant, takes freaks of feigning himself sick, see journal page 14 & 15 he also is addicted to pretty freaks on page 13 & 22.—

19th George Scott [illegible]

20th John Johnston a foolish good for nothing fellow and much addicted to lying.—

21st William Cormack Apprentice, an active good hand according to his strength and in the course of time, or three years would make a good canoe steerer if encouraged.—

Indians

Quighkeenoolmawell	paid 56	made Beaver	generally furnished for	
Wayoace	do 22	do	do very conveniently to the Company	
Engumickee	do 33	do	do very true and peaceable	
Wapitabake	do 29	do	do gives half to the Canadians	
Keecmeiguecapow	do 83	do	do is true to the Company	
Manisecistickecapow	do 139	do	do is very true but expensive	
Kuwiaughcuecapow	do 30	do	do gave some to the Canadians	
Acabee	do 69	do	do gave some to the Canadians	
Pethawew	do 11½	do	do is good for nothing hunter	
Capasposmuskie	do 65	do	do is true to the Company	
Estawishqueyesp	do 16½	do	do is a great cheat this year	
Wistatapinnan	do 13	do	do generally hunts for the Slave	
Washcowishenkuskiskie	do 23½	do	do gives most to the Canadians	

Indians continued

Wechcuwagan	paid 11½	made Beaver	generally gives one of his hunt to the Canadians
Kispamekuchiskquis	do 99	do	do a true & honest hunter for the Company
Tabasance	40	do	do a good honest governed to the Canadians
Jackiskew	104½	do	do a very trustworthy Indian.—
Kispahaweycaniew	3	do	do a boy sent to me of the 3 Chiefs
Antaway	3	do	do a good for nothing fellow
Anaweby	1½	do	do generally hunts for the Canadians
Inawayash	2	do	do hunts for the 3 Chiefs an arrant cheat
Sheing Captain	135	do	do
Henewecapow	94½	do	do
Assamaqueapow	50	do	do
Kucapy	78	do	do
Anitchequskeich	16	do	do,

There are the Father and three Sons, what we have got from them is only about half of their hunts as the Canadians ages on their hand.—

There are a great number of Indians besides the above who are indebted to the Company, but at the hunt on the Lake Pt Arms quarter the Canadians have found means to keep them their, so that few if any of them have visited Long Lake during the past season, consequently the number of Indians from whom we used to procure a few skins are greatly diminished.—

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

The Canadians. They have by the information I can gain procured about the packs of furs in this District last season, they mostly all the Summer hunt, in consequence of their being on a month before us. Their Masters name is Solomon Mittleberger Chief Clerk and William Mittleberger an under Clerk and eleven Canadians twelve or thirteen men, all chosen hands capable of doing business at Indian tents. They have dealt with the Indians in a more generous manner this year, than I have known before.— Their general conduct throughout the season has been very forbearing and obliging, so far as their duty would admit. Indeed I am much obliged to their Masters for his great attention to me during my severe illness.—

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Int. Trade

The decrease of the trade this year, compared with last year is 4 Black bears, 1 Fisher, 7 p.c. 78 Rabbits, 7 Common Otters, 9 Cub do. 35 Musquash 6 p.c. 7 Beaver dum 1 Cat damaged and Stayed.—

The Increase of trade this year compared with that of last year is, 53 Cub beavers, 3 prime Cats, 73 prime Martins, 15 damaged Martins, 61 Minks, 9 Minkins, 5 prime Otters.— The expenditure of last year exclusive of servants wages was £516.1.11d½.— That of this year is £496.9.10

The trade of this year is upon the whole better and cheaper than last year; the cause of which is our procuring a considerable quantity of furrs from the Spring Capt.ns and gang; otherwise the trade would have been much much worse than former years, as the Canadians who were in Lake Nelson as had most all the Indians who hunt that way to Lake St. Anns all debted and sent off to that quarter from whence very few of them has returned as yet.

My severe indisposition was also unfavourable to the trade as I was by no means able steadily to attend to business, and having only one man (Jacob Daniel) who could steard for and find out Indians to oppose to a number of Canadians who were equally capable of that duty, little could be expected from one opposed to numbers. I was only able to send to one quarter at a time, whereas the Canadians if they got a sweet opportunity could and do to several quarters at the same time.—

It is true I had some good men besides J. Daniel but none who could find their way through the woods but him.—

In my opinion the trade of this District might be greatly increased by sending a sufficient number of half breeds who would be able to cope with those of the Canadians. Another thing that might be attended with success, would be to settle a Post in the Spring Capt.ns ground at a place called Kegagamy, in stead of Plant Lake.—

It will be necessary to keep up the Post at Bear Bone Lake particularly as the best hunter in the District is there and afraid to come to Long Lake. Bear Lake is an excellent place for fishing.—

If it were practicable a small Post would be very useful about half way between Long Lake and Lake St. Anns for there the Indians could be in a great measure be interrupted from going to the Canadians and if those posts were once well established a Clerk and three or four men would be quite sufficient for the Post at Long Lake.—

Albany Factory
July 20th 1819

James Yates

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FOLIOS 9 - 12
BLANK

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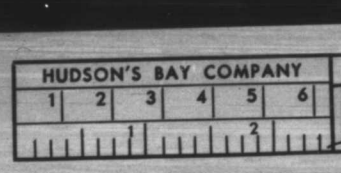
THE END.



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INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 117

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 4

DESCRIPTION LONG LAKE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1819-1820

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B 117 e

LONG LAKE

REPORT. 1819-20.

4
1819-20

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LONG LAKE
B: 117/e/4 1819/20
Ex 515/524 1
HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY B

Henley District Reports 1819/20

Narrative of Occurrences at this District.

23rd July 1819 left Albany Factory with a Boat & Canoe loaded with Goods for the service of this District, — on the 3rd August arrived at Henley House where I expected to meet the Spring Captain and his Indians who were hunting in that Quarter, — not finding them there, and knowing them to be very valuable Indians, early the next morning I despatched two Men in search of them, — on the 8th August the Men returned and brought with them the Indian Shouggong — Son in law of the Spring Captain I got 12 Mbr from him and he informed me that his father was hunting at a short distance, — I prevailed on him to go with one of the Men in search of him, — I waited most anxiously for their return (as the water was falling very fast) until the 13th August when the Man and Indian arrived with the Spring Captain and his Son Kreeapy, I got 20 Mbr from the former and 10 from the latter, — I could get no business done with them as they were drinking all day and night, — the next day they took part of their debt and on the day following I finished with them and proceeded on to Long Lake, — the water was very low and with much difficulty I reached Long Lake house on the 9th Sept. — I there met with Mr Finlayson and Jas Flett who had remained in the Interior of the Country the whole of the Summer, but had not been able to procure more than about 40 Mbr in consequence of no Rum being left with them and many of the Indians having gone to Pie. — I learned from Mr Finlayson that the Canadians arrived at Long Lake on the 28th August, — Mr Mittleberger Master and 10 experienced Men, several of their Indians had taken debt from them but none of our Indians had been near them, — they brought in a long Canoe and a half Canoe and were very short of Guns and Leather, — they had several Nets down but did not get from them near sufficient for their support, — Indian Corn was served out to the Men daily until the latter end of Sept. — Mr Finlayson & Self took an account of the Goods remaining & found them very deficient see fair account book page

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On the 12th Sept. I sent off Mr. Finlayson, Hugh Ritch, Thomas Wood & William Swanney in three Canoes to Flint Lake with a supply of Goods for an Outpost, principally on account of the Spring Captain and his Indians who promised to come in there, — Most of the Indians who used to hunt in that quarter now bring their furs to Long Lake and I think that that Post should be abandoned as it is only attended with unnecessary Expenses, none of the Spring Captain's Indians went in there nor have I seen any of them since I left Henley. —

Sept. 19th Sent off Wm. Taylor, John Brodie and William Cromartie in two Canoes with Goods for an Outpost at Rawbone Lake the former to take charge, the Indians are not many but they are in general good hunters and we get the whole of their furs some of the Canadian Indians hunt near there and we get a few Skins from them. —

Oct. 1st Sent off Wm. Cursitor and Hugh Sutherland to Moncton mago to make a fall fishing on the 11th Novr. they returned and informed me they had procured 860 white Fish, — We made a good fall fishing at Long Lake and had plenty to live upon the whole of the Winter, the Lake was completely frozen over on the 14th Novr. but we still continued to get a good many fish from the Nets set under the Ice. —

Febr. 16th 1820 despatched off William Cursitor and John Brodie with a Packet to Henley for Mr. John Davis at Martin's fall, they reached Henley House on the 29th Febr. and found John Smith, Laughlan Taylor and Thomas Hoddle who had been sent there in the fall with provisions to supply the people arriving with the different packets in winter, the Men with the Packet from Martin's fall having to go first to Albany factory did not reach Henley until the 29th March, early the following day William Cursitor and John Brodie having exchanged Packets set off and arrived at Long Lake on the morning of the 6th April, about the middle of April the Snow decreased very much and the Spring came on very rapidly on the 3d May the Lake was completely

clear of Ice & on the 12th June I left Long Lake for Albany and on my route down I met with Mr. Finlayson and some Indians at Indian Lake, the former brought with him 2 Packs of Furs from Flint Lake and from the latter I got about 50 Mrs. — I was under the necessity of remaining at this place four days in consequence of one of the Indians having to go a considerable distance to bring his furs having received them I immediately proceeded on my way to Albany Factory which I reached on the 26th June without having met with any accident. —

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State of the Posts

Long Lake is the principal post in this District the house is in a very ruinous state and will require a great deal of repairs this fall particularly the Men's house the front of which will have to be taken down. — there is no ground in cultivation as no one can live here in the summer in consequence of no fish being to be got at that time from the Lake, and in the absence of the Men in search of a livelyhood, in all probability the Indians would destroy the Crops, it would not be worth while to plant any thing but Potatoes as the Ground which is cleared round the house is of a very small extent. — Six packs of Furs were procured at this Post this year. —

Rawbone Lake is an Outpost from Long Lake the house is in a very good state but there is no land cultivated — few of our Indians hunt in this Quarter but we get the whole of their furs had we not had a post at this place the Canadians would have got their hunts as they had a post between this and Long Lake. Three packs of good Furs were got at this place and there is plenty of excellent fish to be procured. —

Flint Lake Outpost, was established this year principally on account of the Spring Captain's Indians they having taken near 300 Beaver in debt and promised to come in here in the Spring

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the other Indians who used to bring in their furs to this Post now generally take them to Long Lake — it is my opinion this post should be put down as it is attended with great expenses and little or no benefit is derived from it. — there is no cultivated Ground here and only two small Packs of furs were procured. —

Henley is now only a packet post — the ground is uncultivated no one having resided there for the last two years — there are no buildings of any description now standing having been burnt down by the Indians, — two Men have been sent there to build a small house for the convenience of the packets, — A good many furs might be procured in this Quarter but there are no Indians to hunt them. —

Conduct of the Officers and Men

Beads John — Steersman — A good hand in a Canoe or on Snow Shoes — with his Conduct I am perfectly satisfied. —

Brodie John — Labourer — A good working hand when well but is subject to temporary fits of Insanity. —

Cursitor William No 2 — Fisherman — A sober, honest, & industrious Man a good walker on Snow Shoes and capable of going to Indian's tents — his Contract expired this year but has engaged again for three years for the annual Sum of £25. —

Daniel Jacob — Steersman — An excellent Steersman a good hand at going after Indians and very industrious, — his Contract expired this year but has engaged again for three years at the annual Sum of £35. —

Flett James — Labourer — An ordinary hand not very strong but willing to make himself useful. —

Finlayson Nicol — Clerk — Had charge of flint lake outpost but got little trade there owing to reasons stated under the head flint lake, — he is very well acquainted with the Indian language and I have every

reason to suppose he used every exertion to procure a trade, — his contract expired this year but has engaged again for three years at the rate of £45. — for the first year and £50. — for each of the two last. —

Ritch Hugh — Steersman — A sober steady Man a good fisherman and capable of doing business at Indian's tents. — his Contract expired this year but he has engaged again at the annual sum of £25. —

Sutherland Hugh — Labourer — Is sober steady & useful his Conduct has been perfectly satisfactory. —

Swanney William — Labourer — A worthless, useless, idle fellow not unable but unwilling to do any work. — I was informed by Mr. Mittleberger that he went to the Canadian house on the night of the 7th Jan.y requested a conveyance to Pie and gave every information respecting the state of our trade &c. see Journal 13th Jan.y 1820. — the reason why I have not fined this Man is that I have no further proof than what I learned from the Canadian Master. —

Taylor William — Steersman — A sober steady Man had charge of a Post at Rawbone Lake and made a very good trade. — his Contract expired this year but has engaged again for three years at the annual Sum of £34. —

Wood Thomas — Labourer — An ordinary hand and of not much use at any of the Duties required in this Country

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Of the Indians

Annawaby — A Canadian Indian he hunts from 60 to 80 Beaver in the course of the year but seldom gives any of his furs to us.—

Ajeshijee — This Indian is a good hunter and gives us the principal part of his skins, he has been ill nearly the whole of the winter, yet I got from him 70 MB^{rs}.—

Assiamaquessqua — Is a good hunter, he only paid 46 MB^{rs} and is now indebted 55 which he promised to pay at Flint Lake but never went near there.—

Awahsee — An excellent hunter and a good Indian he gives us the whole of his skins.— I got from him about 90 MB^{rs} which paid his Debt.—

Cappaponnekee — Is a pretty good hunter but rather lazy he paid [illegible] 80 B

Cinjawonnekee — This Indian hunted near to an Outpost of the Canadians & with the exception of 20 MB^{rs} gave them the whole of his hunt.— he now owes 39 B^{rs}.—

Eitawisquayass — Is only a middling hunter and very lazy.— he has done better this year than usual having paid his Debt of 60 Beaver.—

Homewaccaqua — Is a very good hunter but does not hunt in this quarter, he gives the principal part of his Furs to the Canadians at Black River.—

Kesonneshquaccaqua — This Indian is very attentive to us and gives us the whole he hunts, I got from him near 80 B^{rs}.

Keesaby — I have only got from this Indian 10 MB^{rs} he is a good hunter but gives a good many Skins to the Canadians who have a Post not far from his hunting ground.— he now owes us 75 B^{rs}.—

Kiswaquenessqua — Is a very indifferent hunter, I only got from him 3½ MB^{rs} principally in Martens and Wagees his Debt is now 2 Beaver.—

Meamipetchiaqua — An excellent hunter and gives us the whole of his Furs.— I got from him 95 MB^{rs}.—

Peschemayan — A Canadian Indian, he has been ill the whole of the winter and not hunted a single skin.—

Pemabishekzunk — This Indian was formerly an excellent hunter but is now getting old, he is still able to hunt from 60 to 70 Beaver principally in Martens.— I got from him 70 MB^{rs}, he gives us all he hunts.—

Quahkum tanawee — This Indian hunts from 50 to 60 MB^{rs} in the course of the year.— he paid his Debt of 60 B^{rs}.—

Quequetchiaqua — Is a middling hunter and one of the most wicked Indians in this Quarter.— he gives nearly the whole of his hunt to the Canadians.—

Shongonay — A middling hunter.— 89 MB^{rs} were the whole I got from him.— he sent part of his hunt to the Canadians.—

Spring Captain — This Indian is the best hunter in this quarter he hunts from 2 to 300 Beaver in the course of the year the principal part Beaver skins.— I got 20 MB^{rs} from him last fall and he took 132 in debt.— he promised to go in to Flint Lake in the Spring but I have not yet seen him.

Tabasanse — This is a Canadian Indian, they get nearly the whole he hunts,— I only got from him 10 MB^{rs}

Wajeitabah — He gives the whole of his hunt to the Canadians he does not procure many furs as he is very sickly.

Waywave — An indifferent hunter and lazy.— he gives us all he gets but the whole of last years hunt only amounted to 39 MB^{rs} principally Musquash and Martens.—

Wegueue — Is a Canadian Indian and gives them all he kills.

Weesyaung — This Indian generally gives the whole of his hunt to the Canadians, but this year I got from him 70 MB^{rs}.—

Wetitappenan — Is a Canadian Indian and does not give us [illegible]
[illegible] in a year. —

Of the Canadians

The Amount of Trade obtained by the Canadians I learned from Indian report, was not quite 11 packs, but as they have so many Indians who give them the whole of their furs — I am inclined to believe they must have had rather more. —

Mr Mittleberger the Master was the only Officer who came into Long Lake accompanied by 10 experienced Men all capable of doing business at Indians' tents, — they established a post at Winter Lake and another at Big Lake the former in the vicinity of Keenogainceshesh and the latter in the vicinity of Rawbone Lake. — No disputes of any importance concerning the Trade took place during the year, but having lost 4 Nets [illegible] of the Lake freezing over Mr Mittleberger accused our Men of having taken them and it was not until the Ice opened in the Spring that he was convinced to the contrary, when one of the servants of the North West Co. found the remains of them in the same situation they had placed them in the Fall — the loss of these Nets and their being obliged to use the Indian Corn in the Fall caused them to be very short of provisions the whole Winter. —

Of the Trade —

The Trade of this year is on an average with the last three or four years and had the Spring Captain and his Indians paid their Debts it would have been rather more, — The Indians complain that the Beaver are decreasing very much. —

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SECTION B

CLASS 117

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 5

DESCRIPTION LONG LAKE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1832-1833

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LONG LAKE.

REPORT 1832-33.

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Long Lake Report 1832

The limits of this Post extends to the southwest as far as the head of this Lake, said to be 130 miles long. To the westward as far as Lac a hivernment distance 60 miles, or about it. To the northeast to Lac a Epinet. To the south by Lac Wubiskiokaque distance about 40 miles.

Navigable Rivers for large Craft are the white, and English Rivers. The former of which takes its source out of McKay's Lake about 20 miles distance from this Establishment, and discharges itself in Lake Superior at the Pic Establishment. By the latter stream the Outfit of this Post is taken in in north Canoes. The other stream &ca denominated the English River, takes its source out of the northeast end, or head of this Lake, about one mile's distance from this House. Its source is north untill it juncture with the martins falls River. both of which forms the body of water denominated the Albany River. By the former stream (say the English River) the Hudsons Bay servants used to take in the Outfits of this Post in Boats before the coalition of the two Companies, and if Indian report be true, the navigation is not much obstructed by carrying places.

Nature of the Country. The country within the limits or dependencies of this Post, is not hilly, in short there is none deserving of note. It is generally speaking a tract of marches, or Maskeg, and eminences not describable as hills, intersected with Lakes, and streams of no note, excepting the two above mentioned. The different species of wood most common in this Region are the white, and red Pine, Poplar, and white Birch. The soil in this vicinity is a black, and rich earth about four inches depth on a bed of Clay, or Marle; undoubtedly favourable for the cultivation of vegitables, which to the great disadvantage of people wintering here has not been tried since the coalition of the two Companies, their having been no person allowed to summer at the Post.

Animals Fur bearing, are, the Beaver, Otter, Musquash, martin, mink, Lynx, a chance Fox, and Black Bear, all of which are getting scarcer. Lynx in particular, were scarcer by one half this year than they have been for many years back. Generally speaking the Country is much impoverished of Furs, to what it was six years ago.

The climate. In the fall of the year, is attended with cloudy weather, and heavy fogs. In the contrary in winter. The weather is generally clear, and the atmosphere the purest, or perhaps, as pure, as in any part of the Indian Country.

The advantages attending this Post are its fishing stations, and Rabbit country, which with the dint of labour, fishing, and snaring Rabbits, from September untill June, yield a spared competency of the latter kind of Provisions to the Company's servants. This Post being beyond the height of land within the hon'ble Company's Territories serves as a Barrier to all intruders.

The disadvantages attending this Post, are its being left desolate in the summer season, without any person to take care of the Place, nor to cultivate vegitables of any kind for which the soil appears well adapted.

The means of subsistance. This partly depends on the autumn Fisheries, which generally produce from 800 to a thousand pieces of small white fish, and some years less. Indians are likewise employed at a distance of two days march to fish for the company,

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who generally give 2000 Pts. of fish (say small white fish) The said quantities together with 10 Bags of Corn taken in, in the fall for voyaging Provisions consists of the stock of Provisions for the winter, adding to which the Company's servants have to attend to nets and snares, with but little exception throughout the winter.

The expenditure of Provisions at this Establishment is as stated below.

	Butter Pts.	Pork Pts.	Corn Bulls Bus.	Salt Pts.	Fish No.	Flour Pts.	Rabbits No.	Sugar Maple Pts.	Tobacco Pts.				
Clerks mess	54	75	"	"	930	196	318	75	4[illegible]	£	10	19	5
Engages do.	"	"	2	"	3652	"	292	"	2 7/8	"	9	9	6
Do. families do.	"	"	14/32		1096	"	143	"	1 7/8	"	3	1	11
Engages from other Posts	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Indians	"	"	131/32	"	518	"	"	"	1/2	"	1	4	8
Voyaging Expences	"	"	10 9/32	"	"	"	"	"	21 3/4	"	4	10	2
	54	75	13 3/32	"	6196	196	753	75	71 3/4	£	29	5	8

The above is the total of Provisions expended at this Post for the maintenance of one Clerk, four Engages, two women, and one child. &c &c.

The number of Indians belonging to this this Establishment are 38 men thirty two women, 8 youths, eight boys from ten to twelve years of age, fifteen girls, and thirty eight children, making a total Population, of one hundred and Thirty nine souls. They are a mixed race of Solteaux and Masquegongue Tribes. Their language is a mixture of both the latter tongues, but in many instances varies much, for a pure soulteaux speaker requires to be for some time with the Indians of this Post before he can understand them perfectly. They are, like the most of Indians passionately fond of strong or spirituous Liquors and Tobacco. They obtain on an average, men, and youths, a debt of 40 Skins which in the present impoverished state of their Lands they have much misery in collecting Not that the Country is so much exausted of fur bearing animals as it is of Rabbits which animals are their principal means of subsistance throughout the winter. The scarcity of the latter Animals for the last three years in succession, is the principal cause to which we can ascribe the falling off in the Returns of this Post. We must do them the justice to say that they are good Indians, and well inclined towards the white People.

The state of the Trade. The summer and Autumn hunts were pretty good, say 650 Skins or made Beaver, The winter and spring hunts 550 od made Beaver. which is much less than might have been expected, did starvation not prevail among the natives in winter, Lynx were scarcer by two thirds than they have been for some years back, which makes a great blank in the bulk of Returns amounting only to 15 Packs of 84 [illegible] weight, of a pretty good assortment of Furs.

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No 60. IV. 1833

Long Lake Report
June 1st 1833

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Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2nd MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 119

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 1

DESCRIPTION McLEOD LAKE

REPORT on DISTRICT

1824

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McLEOD LAKE.

REPORT. 1824.

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1824

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Western Caledonia Report 1824

B-119/e/1
1824

1st Limits of the Department.

Western Caledonia in last years report is said to commence at "Finlays Branch" but it may more properly be said to commence at the Peace River Rocky Mountain Portage being the boundary line between the Beaver Indians and the various tribes who inhabit the Rocky Mountains comprising that track of Country known by the name of Rocky Mountains extending eastwards to the waters of the Columbia, westward to the waters Ocean, and northward I believe without bounds comprising altogether a vast extent of Country.

2nd Navigable Rivers, Lakes, means of Transport &c

The Rivers and Lakes of western Caledonia, are on a great measure unknown to any white man living and too numerous to be described even from Indian report, but the chief of them and those best known on the east side of the Mountains are the Peace River which losses its name at Finlays Branch, The Parsnip River whose principal source commences in the Lake at the height of land of Sir Alexander McKenzie and the land carriage between it and the Bad River, one source of Peaces River is but eight hundred yards, over a fine level country, and from that to Finlays Branch, where the Parsnip River loses itself in that of Peace River, it is navigable in common seasons for either Boats or Canoes from the beginning of May to the latter end of October. This River is a small but navigable stream issuing from McLeods Lake and unites its waters with the Parsnip River about half way between Finlays Branch and the source of the Parsnip River; and about half way between the junction of Thorn River and Finlays Branch is River any Natives a considerable stream which takes its rise near Black Lake, but is navigable only in flood water. Finlays Branch (the main Peace River) is but little known, but as far as I could learn it has no very near communication with any of the waters that discharge to the Pacific Ocean, nor is it probable that any part of it could afford subsistence for a trading Establishment, some of the branches of McKenzies River also, have their sources in western Caledonia, and it is by them that in my opinion the trade is more likely to be extended across the Mountains northward to the

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and if even the trade is extended much northwards of the present Establishment it is in my opinion most likely by some of these branches and not Finlay's Branch the track pointed out for Black that it will be effected These are all the Rivers of any extent known to me on the east side of the Mountains bordering on Western Caledonia, and the most considerable of those on the west side is Tacunche of Sir Alex: McKenzie - Fraser's River and its various tributary waters in size it fully equals the Columbia and disembergs itself into the Pacific Ocean in nearly Lat: 49 N. and Long: 125 W. one of its sources in the bad river already mentioned. another more considerable takes its rise more to the south East near the source of Smoky River a branch of Peace River - another considerable source takes its rise in a Lake within a few miles of Canoe River a branch of the Columbia near the Athª River Portage - another to the N. West of Okenagan Lake and is known by the name of Thompsons River, and the Forks of which end another branch called the north river at whose source also is not far from the Athabasca River Portage is the Post of Kamloops, a trading Establishment dependent on the Columbia - its most north westerly branch takes its rise in a considerable Lake known to the natives by the name of Fatlah and by me Blacks Lake, the land carriage between it and browns River. a branch of another considerable River altogether different from Frasers River, and from report running a North westerly course is not above one hundred and fifty yards and though I have not seen it myself I understand it is navigable - This N. westerly branch of Frasers River is united with the main streams at the present Establishment of Fort George and is navigable all the way to its source; and the Establishment of Saint James is about half way from its source to its union with the main stream; another branch of the same River extends in a south west direction to Frasers Lake and from thence to near the sources of the Salmon river of Sir Alex: McKenzie this comprises the branches of Frasers River in the Established parts of Western Caledonia but lower down there are many and some of them of magnitude such as Ouwagan's River

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Shaws River, and McGillivrays River, so called by me in 1818 all issuing from the N. W. that unites their waters with the main stream as for the Caledonia River mentioned by Thompson and notice by Arrowsmith's Maps it is altogether immaginary and exists no where else - the next River of Magnitude is the main Babine River in 1812 by me called called McDougalls River with its various branches Websters, Simpsons and Browns Rivers so named by me 1821 but of them I know very little further than by report, and that Webster's River takes its rise in Bears Lake, Browns River is another Lake near Blacks Lake and Simpsons River in Lac des Francois a distance of three days from Frasers Lake and unites its waters with the main stream about one hundred and twenty miles below the Establishment of Kilmaurs on McDougalls Lake the others Websters and Browns Rivers unite with the main farther down, while the main River itself unites the Pacific Ocean perhaps seen when in Norfolk sound or in my opinion more likely in that Archipelago of Islands between Norfolk sound and Queen Charlotte Islands about Lat 54 N. it is not so far as I know, known to any of the navigators that coasted along the N. W. Coast of America and Juan de Fucco appears to me to have but the only one that ever decended the entrance of Frasers River and is situated exactly in the place assigned in old Maps to the entrance of the Straights of Juan de Fucco and will one day become the communication by which the interior parts of Western Caledonia will receive its supplies, indeed an Establishment might be formed there to advantage on the event of the Columbia being ceded to the Americans, nor have I the smallest doubt, that even during the two first years its native returns would equal that of Fort George it being from the natives of the Westward that more than two thirds of the returns of that are procured - The Lakes are numerous and they all more or less abound in fish but none of them that I know could afford subsistence for an Establishment throughout the twelve months and the means of Transport are as usual to Athabasca from thence up Peace River to Finlay's Branch, then up the Parsnip nearly half way to its source at the height of land of Sir Alex: McKenzie, we then enter a small River issuing from the

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right leading) to Mr Ross Lake where the navigation terminates. the property being from thence conveyed in winter across land to the other Establishments; in the middle of Summer when the waters run high Canoes with moderate loads might pass up the Parsnips River to its source and from thence down the Bad River to Fraser River but the navigation at best is but bad, and the route so very circuitous that it can never effectually answer the purpose of conveying supplies, perhaps a better route might be by a chain of Lakes communicating by small Rivers from Mr Ross to within less than three miles of Fraser River, about eighty miles above Fort George but in a low state of the Country which is generally the case in Autumn it is next to impractable - I will for the present pass over and the present means of Transport is the usual route to Athabasca, then up Peace River to Finlays Branch, from thence up the Parsnips river nearly one half of its course, we then enter a small River issuing from the right leading [illegible] navigation terminates the property being from thence conveyed in winter across land to the different establishments -

3rd Nature of the Country, Soil, and Vegetable Productions

The whole of new Caledonia throughout may be considered as a mountainous Country and the Soil varies in various parts but in no where much calculated for cultivation and the whole of it is either barren rocks or woody Country there being no plains and very few swamps in any part of it The evergreen are chiefly the Epinette, Cypress, a species of fir called by the Canadians Pruche, Canadian Balsom fir Pine and Cedar both white and Red but neither very numerous or of a large size and some few trees of the Oak kind - the other Trees commonly met with are the aspen, Poplars and Birch, a small species of the Plane Tree, Alder of a good size and various species of willow such as are common in most part of the Indian Country - The Berries most commonly met with are the Poire (that Berry) three Kinds of wortle berries, Raspberries, Strawberries, Haws Mountain ash Berry and a redberry of a very acid taste - also some Roots, particularly a species of fern used by the natives as food are common -

4th Animals of all Kinds, Fur Bearing &c -

There are

There are but few animals of the Large kinds to be met with in N. Cal: nor are those of the fur kinds either very numerous but they are to be met with in every part of the Country - that is Beaver, Otters, Musk, Rats, Minkes, Fishers, Martins, Lynx, Wolverenes, two species of wolves, Bears, Black, Brown and Grey & Ermine

5th Climate - The Climate is various but in no part of N. Cal: known to me is it very warm nor very cold, but the cold I believe is fast increasing in 1806 when the Fur trade was first extended to N. Cal: and down to 1812 the winters were so very mild that seldom two days followed without a perceptable thaw and in very few instances and the Spirits of Wine in Farn: Thermom: seemed below Zero but in both 1820 and 21 it got as low as 25 in 1822 it was several times as low as 25 and once last winter the 11th Jan 7. 53 - the greatest severity I ever witnessed in any part of the Country but it continued only a few hours and after were never observed much below Zero and seldom as much -

6th Advantages of the Department - The only advantage known to me that N. Cal: has under is that the baneful effect of opposition never extended that far 7th Disadvantages of the Department The greatest disadvantage of many that N. Cal: labours under is the difficulty of access where time and labour being required to convey the goods required from Fort Chipewyan to the first Establishment Mc Leods Lake to St James the next Establishment the distance across land is not less than 150 miles and the other Establishments must receive their supplies from these across land in winter, an immense labour that when added to the bad living, scarcely any thing but dried Salmon of the worst quality, seldom any even the most robust without destroying his constitution can remain in N. Cal: more than two or three years, another disadvantage to the Depot is that even were the labour less, the great number of the natives frequently collected together and their propensity to thieving and taking advantage of any favourable opportunity renders it unsafe to remain among them with but few people and they are in general so much smitten that any difference arising in any one part would

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to the whole so that the number of men required will be always more than in proportions to the Returns and what greatly increases the disadvantages the Department labours under is the want of Dogs fit for the train among the natives there are the tails with which in western Cal: we labour and the natives cannot supply them, nor until last autumn when I brought forty six could any thing like an efficient supply be got from the east side of the Mountains and one man well provided with those useful animals can render more service to the Company than the best that have but indifferent Dogs while others that have no Dogs at all are a real burden and cannot earn their victuals. — 5th Posts Occupied — The number of posts occupied in N. Cal at present are six dependent on Factory and one Kamloops on that Branch of Frasers River called Thompsons River dependent on the Columbia; of those dependent on the Factory the first is [illegible] of N. Cal formed on the east side of the Mountains - the next is Saint James Established in 1806 it is situated on the Lake of Nakazlah about 160 miles above Fort George and nearly twice as great a distance from Black Lake the extremities of that Branch of Frasers River unto the navigation of the whole of it safe and easy - The Third Establishment is Frasers Lake also temporarily established in 1806 but it became permanent early 1814 the water communication from it to Fort George is perfectly safe and about an equal distance as St James - the fourth Establishment is Fort George temporarily established in 1807 for the convenience of building Crafts to explore Frasers River down to the Pacific Ocean, it was afterwards in 1808 abandoned but permanently established for the purpose of trade in 18[illegible]

6th The charge was then given to Mr Geo: McDougall and while he continued there it flourished but in the summer following he was removed to establish Alexandria and on the fall Mr A. McLeod the Coalition having then taken place was appointed and from him to now it was getting from bad to worse and in last summer two men whom Mr Yelle had left there during a visit he, with his Interpreter had made to the upper Establishment were murdered by two of the natives which when added to the little prospects of profitable Returns induced me to abandond the place

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since it was abandoned in the Spring. I however consider it a favourable situation and have no doubt that if properly managed it would yield profitable returns but experience had taught me that Mr Yelle was inadequate to the task, and on abandoning Fort George I sent him to pass the summer with Mr Geo. McDougall and as he is not deficient in natural parts of he circumstances before him I have no doubt of his soon becoming able to do justice to a charge himself - The fifth Post interdicted was established in 1821 on my return from the Columbia at this place from which Sir Alex: McKenzie returned back to prosecute his Voyage across land and under the management of Mr George McDougall continues to yield increased returns and was this year the most profitable on the Department - and the sixth is the Post of Alexandria on McDougalls Lake in the Baben Country established in 1822 - Mr Brown has the management but it has hitherto fallen short of the number of Beaver we used to collect in trading excursions when there was no Post but the situation being good it cannot be doubted that when once the natives who are numerous become aware of their advantage of having an Establishment on their own lands it will yield handsome returns and the Post of Alexandria established in 1813 when I first opened the communication between western Cal: and the Columbia are all the Establishments hitherto formed in westerm Caledonia - but in the 63 resolution of the minutes of Council of 1823 it was determined "That a new Establishment the ensuing summer be made among the Chilkatan Tribe, say about 50 miles above Frasers River and that two Clerks an Interpreter and five men constitute such summer establishment, and the necessary measures were adopted to have it effected but various causes prevented the execution, and the recent murder committed at Fort George added to the more disasterous one committed on Peace River and to the information obtained from them intimating the perpetrators of the latter were likely to cross the mountains and likely to join the Perpetrators of the other murder committed at Fort George rendered me more anxious to concentrate the other Establishments, and thereby render them more respectable than to form others and besides want of an adequate Person to assume the charge would of itself be a sufficient cause for though an

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Western Caledonia) there are many Gentlemen gaining high wages & there are few real Indian Traders, and experience has too clearly taught the consequences to be apprehended from trusting to those not altogether competent -

9th *Means of Subsistence* - New Caledonia being nearly altogether destitute of large animals both the natives and Traders live entirely upon fish which are of various kinds but the principal food and the only one on which dependence can be placed is what Vancouver calls Kamschatka Salmon which in September shoal up the different Rivers in such numbers that in plentiful years the natives may in the space of a month catch and cure a sufficient quantity to last them until the time in the year following, in their natural state they are very palatable and may average ten pounds in weight but when dry they have little more substance than a piece of rotten wood and do not exceed a pound in weight. The annual consumption for a man is four but as all hands are constantly employed throughout the winter either in quest of Furs in collecting provisions and carrying the goods to the different Establishments and the Returns to the Place of Embarkation a circumstance that renders Dogs absolutely necessary the average allowance for a man and his dogs may be reckoned at eight, and as purchased from the natives may cost the Company about the twelfth of a penny; but in order to cover all charges and the annual attending the collecting of them we average the price at a farthing; Sturgeon, Pike, Perch, Trout & Carp in some places are caught in winter but in spring and summer a considerable number of small fish some of them not above an ounce in weight Carp in some places a few Sturgeon of a large size averaging about 100lb and various kinds of Trout none of them large are procured and in the fall during the Spawning season in some places a tolerable subsistence may be made but no dependence can be placed on a regular supply; and whenever Salmon fail, and they are never abundant two years following, are fail, and both the natives and Traders may be said (rather to exist than to live for no service are animals, that occasionally at the public feasts given in honor of the dead, nine tenths of the natives do not taste meat perhaps not once in ten years, and such miserable stuff as

dried Salmon in that part of the Country that of course the constitution of the most robust and the very best of our men are every spring so reduced that two of them cannot perform the ordinary labour of an ordinary man, nor is it better with the Officers, and no one that can avoid it will be disposed to remain in that quarter - it may be worthy of remark that neither Pike, nor Pickerel, though abundant throughout the whole Country on the east side of the Mountains is not to be found on the West sides -

10th *Officers and Men their Character &c.* - The number of Officers and men employed in western Caledonia during the last season were fifty nine and a Cooper and Canoe maker in the fall returned to Peace River comprising one Chief Factor one Chief Trader eight Clerks, three half Breeds acting as Interpreters two native Indians acting as Interpreters, six Boatsmen, six Steersmen and thirty two middlemen including Summer men. Of the first and Second class it is not necessary to remark as being from their situations presumed that they are old East Indian Traders - Of the third viz that of Clerks, three of them namely, James McDougall, John McDonell, and George McDougall are not as real Indian Traders, second to any I ever met. - Mr J. M. Yorke Fraser thought wanted only experience which might be easily acquired, but while he continues to consider himself a first rate (and he is not singular in that opinion) and believes that nothing remains for him to learn he may on last be considered as no great acquisition - Mr Wm Scott McBean as an Indian Trader will never be of much credit to himself or benefit to the Company but as a well meaning lad Mr John Todd is said to be an able Trader but I know so little of him that I will not presume to define his Capacity all three are to summer inland - Mr Thomas Fleming an Apprentice Clerk was in 1822 placed on the retired list and though he understands the native language and is not deficient in those characteristicks that constitute the Indian Trader, I would have brought him out in 1823 had there been any other Clerk whether adequate or not to assume the charge of the place

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where I wintered myself he will now leave the Department
Mr Ronald McKenzie Junr gone in last fall also, leaves the
Department on account of bad health of mine I think well - he
being perfectly honourable and if not extraordinarily bright mans-
elle - so attentive in the performance of his duty and does not think
himself of more consequence or more knowing than he really is, I
regretted him and in perotom Col: considered him a greater acqui-
sition than either of the three last mentioned Gentlemen pres-
-ming there - Clerk of the Interpretes J. Baptiste Bouche has been
in western Caledonia since its first Establishment and is the best
of the Nasp I ever met with, invariably performing the duty of
an Interpreter, Canoe Trains, and Snowshoe maker, and as a
common labourer does more than any other Man in Western
Col: The next Duncan Livingston is useful also both as an
Interpreter and as a man of the Indians Lake, a native
of Kamloops acting as an Interpreter is employed but occasion-
-ally and not hired as dismissed - the other Jos: Porter is a native
Carrier has been in the service since 1808 and is most useful -
the other Interpreter is a half Breed (Baptiste La Pierre) native
of Cumberland House, hired at Montreal and temporarily used
as an Interpreter, he is a most excellent man - The common
Class are chiefly ordinary men nor is there any very inferior
nor very bad among them -

18th - Number of women & Children maintained at the Companys
Establishments - . The number of women maintained at the
Company's establishments in W. Col: were never great but rather too
few for the labour necessarily required from them, and last winter
amounted to four half breeds, and two native women with six
children, of those Mr Brown has a half breed woman, and
a native woman and Child that in 1821 lived with him,
still remains at the Fort under his protection; Mr J. McDougall
has a half breed woman - Mr McDonell a native woman
and one Child - Bouche a half Breed and three Children and
myself J. S. a half Breed woman and one Child, with a
Boy of Mr Jos: McGillivray by me brought from the
Columbia

12th The number of Indians &c .... The number of Indians in
W. Col: is very uncertain and their habits vary in various places being
all fishmongers, living chiefly on the produce of waters, which is procured
with little labour, they may be said to be all of a lazy indolent
disposition they are of a very hospitable nature, and subject to flash
of passion, in which they will commit the greatest violence but are readily
appeased and upon the whole considering their numbers, and that they reside
together in villages, may be reckoned good Indians, but they are
all without exception addicted to thieving), and their hunting grounds
in general do not extend to a great distance beyond their respective
Villages - Those dependent on Mc Leods Lake are what are called
Nawaka and live more upon the fruit of the chase than by fishing con-
-sequently they are more industrious than the others but suffer great
privations and are in number about thirty five men able to carry
arms, about twenty of whom have families but the number of women
and Children I am unacquainted with, there is but one Chief
and five other men of note amongst them, but they are all good hun-
-ters - The Indians dependent on St James' are all Carriers of various
denomination according to the Villages where they reside, and the
generality of them are the most lazy and worthless of all the Carrier
Tribes I am acquainted with dependent on the Village Nakatlah
when the Establishment of St James' is formed there are two
Chiefs, four others men of note - 15 other married men, 21 grown up
unmarried men and ten Boys, the women are thirty five married
nine grown up unmarried women, and above twelve female
Children - At the next village that of Pinchod is a Chief one
other man of note, seven other married men and eleven married
women about no Children - The next Village is Tachy and there
is a chief 1 man of note, eighteen other married men, 1 widower, ten mar-
-ried and four Boys, the women are 22 married and eight marriage
-able Girls, number of Children unknown but not many - The next
Village is Eyeki where reside a Chief, 1 other man of note, six
other married men, 2 widowers, 8 married women 3 grown up young
men & Boys, and six Girls - and the fifth and last Village is that
of

Clin , where remain two Chiefs 4 other men of note, 12 other married men, 1 Widower and twenty married Women making a to=tal dependent on St. James of as nearly as I can recollect seven Chiefs 11 other men of note, 58 other married men, 34 grown up un=married men, 4 Widowers, 96 married and 17 unmarried men ex=clusive of Children, and as far as I could learn from the different Indians there are an equal number remaining at McDougalls Lake, in the Babin Country where the Establishment of Kilmaws is formed and twice as many in Simpsons River, all dependent on Kilmaws - at the different Villages of Nuttch, Syeurs - Stecter, upper Forks and between Stecter and upper Forks, all dependent on Frasers Lake, nine Chiefs and about 150 men capable of bearing arms, but of the number of Women and Children though much attention was paid to it) I never could get any possible correct statement, the one given at one time being quite different to that given at another - at the [illegible] Little Lake Chata ov-chek and Chintack, all dependent on Fort George - There are 27 married men, 12 men unmarried, 31 married women, 8 unmarr.d women and about 36 Children - they all Carriers, but nearly one half of them are so similar to R. M. Indians dependent on McL. L. that they may be considered the same and according to various statements - I procured myself and got from others, there are in the various Villages dependent on Alexandrie of the Mascoutin Tribe all Carriers 15 Chiefs, 65 other mar.d men, 49 unmarried men, 93 married Women and Widows [illegible] unmarried Women and 52 Child=dren - The Chilkootin is another Tribe of Carriers stationed N. of Alexandrie and on a distinct branch of Frasers River said to amount to 400 families of them I have seen about 120 men but very little is known of the Tribe in general further than they are the best cloathed of all the Carrier Tribes - Independent of the Carrier Tribes there is another altogether different from them dependent on Alexandrie they are said not to be short of 2000 in number and I myself have seen upwards of 500 of them that occasionally visit Alexandrie, but they are less hospitable and much more miserable than the generality of Carriers nor though their

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their Country abounds more in large animals than that of the Carriers does, it abounds much in animals of the Fur kind

13th Effects of the change of System in regard to Trade arising from the Coalition . . . . Opposition having never extended as far as Western Cal: no perceptable change has arisen in the mode of carrying on the Trade . . . .

14th — State of the Trade The Trade of Western Cal: has been of late years rather improving and the Balance of Account as this year settled at York Factory appeared to be £5700 apparent gain the returns however did not exceed that of the preceeding year I believe, owing in a great measure to the unfortunate murder committed and other casualties during summer, there being on the summer returns a decrease of about thirty Packs chiefly Beaver on that of the preceeding and it was with difficulty the defficiency could be made up in winter and those who will expect much of a speedy increase will I fear be disappointed my own opinion being that the of the ensuing spring will exceed that of the following, and if the trade appears more flourishing than in former years it is in my opinion in a great measure owing to the facility of getting the Country supplied from the Columbia, which mode was adopted in 1820 from that quarter even the most distant Establishments received their supplies by water, not later than the middle of October, leaving a sufficient time for collecting the necessary provisions required for the winter previous to the navigation being closed and affording the means of afterwards having the People employed in exploring the Country and in trading excursions to the distant Villages thereby getting acquainted with the different Indians and preparing them for having Establishments in their own Country —

15th Suggestions in regard to alterations, Improvements &c In my opinion the alteration that could prove most beneficial to W. Cal: in the way of collecting returns and extending the Trade would be to resort to the old channel of having the Country supplied from the Columbia; it is said to be attended with great expenses, but I cannot perceive it, the Parties going to the Columbia for the goods would be fed chiefly upon Salmon, the natural production of W. Cal: and it would cost the Dis=trict 500 per Cent less then their maintenance will cost on the East of the

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the Mountains, and it has been proved in 1821 and /22 that the West Caldonians of themselves without any assistance from the Columbian could go to and bring their own Outfit from Fort George, but that Channel as I conceive definitively abandoned it will be unnecessary to advert to it, and I see no other alteration in the mode from which much benefit can result, further than, that no charges out to be given but to able and experienced Traders, no matter whether Chief Factors, Chief Traders or Clerks, it being Indian Traders alone, that in that quarter can either extend the Trade or carry it on to advantage, and no Gentleman in the District ought to be above laying his Shoulder to the Wheel and sharing in the most labourious part, such as Winter Voyages &c and it will also in my opinion be necessary to have Interpreters who understand the language, they being in W. Cal: the most useful Class in it, and having never in that quarter been considered in the Class of Gentlemen are allowed to eat the bread of Idleness they not only act as Interpreters but are always found the most able and ready to perform every other duty that is required of them, and they are in general the most handy about the Establishments, making Canoes, Trains, Snowshoes and many other things that no other can and always considered exclusively as their duty [it might also be of importance not only to discourage all intercourse between the Company's Servants and native women often attended with evil consequences, but like the North West Company altogether prohibited the taking them into keeping or harbouring them at the Company's Establishments. at the Coalition the laws formerly Established were said to be no longer in force and though I never sanctioned it myself a relaxation had taken place, and the whole of the Gentlemen since then gone to the Department, had unknown to me, occasionally taken women and occasionally dismissed them to make place for others and to that circumstance alone I attribute the disasters that had taken place since then, it was altogether unknown to me that these women were taken to reside at the Establishment and when apprized of it I caused them to be dismissed all but one that Mr. B. had on arrival taken, but she herself, in course of the

the Summer following dismissed herself but returned again in winter and I believe still remains at the Fort] it may also be worthy of being remarked that in the event of the Columbia being altogether ceded to the Americans at least the lower part of it, that the upper parts of that River could be supplied from an Establishment formed at the mouth of Frasers River and that establishment could yield Returns superior to what Fort George does at present. while the advantage that part of W. Cal. would derive from such an establishment, are such, that tripple the present Returns might be expected, This is not a vague Idea but grounded on much reflection and no small knowledge of the Country, and if the Company do not adopt it others may Mr. Geo: McDougall one of our best Traders is to be dismissed the service, and when he is dismissed is it likely that his Brother with such prospects as lies before him will remain and if both go away Bouche, Son in law to Mr. McDougall and Chief Interpreter of West Cal: will follow as I apprehend with Mr. McDonell unless some provision suitable to his merit is made for him and if all three leave the service I know not three others among all the Chief Factors, Chief Traders or the Clerks that are now retained that in West: Cal: can replace them

16th Any remarkable circumstance that may have occurred during ye Year

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The most unusual and only Circumstance of Importance that occured in West Cal: during the last twelve Month was the murder of two of our men which was perpetrated at Fort George during the absence of Mr. Yele the Gentleman to whom the charge was committed but who unauthorised had with his Interpreter gone on a visit to the upper Establishment. The murder was committed about the twelfth day after his departure and only a few days previous to his return, the deed was perpetrated by two young men one of whom was left by Mr. Yele at the Fort, and the principal agressor was known to have been a good Indian (he having saved the life of Mr. Thomas Fleming in 1821 when some other Indians wished to kill him). This was an event altogether unexpected by me for I always considered the Indians of that place

and

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still consider the major part of them as such) as the most peaceable and best disposed in the Department nor have I been able to obtain any satisfactory account of the cause assigned for committing the murder Mr. Yele thinks it was a premiditated plan in which the whole of the Tribe was concerned, but I myself am of a different opinion and believe that it proceeded from fear and arose from the impulse of the moment, it is believed at least reported by the most creditable of the natives whom I have seen that the evening preceeding the murder one of the men Beignoit had discovered the principal perpetrator in criminal convers with a woman Mr. Yeles had in keeping and cautioned both to be more circumspect in future as in the event of his perceiving any thing more of the kind he would inform Mr. Yele, it appears that both got alarmed and in the evening removed from the Fort to the Indian Village but in course of the night the young man returned accompanied by another and perpetrated the horred deed - This circumstance regarding the woman Mr. Yele denies and it was only late in January that I became acquainted that he had then a women - had the plan been premiditated and general Mr. Yele himself on his return must have suffered the fate of his unfortunate men but so far from being hostile to him consternation and contrition were painted in every face, the Indians had themselves buried the deceased and some of them encampt at the Fort taking care of the property nor did they leave it until the arrival of Mr. Geo. McDougall in the fall who still found them there and the whole of them (murderers excepted who absconded on perpetrating the deed) obeyed the first summons issued by him on arrival and appeared without arms not five pounds worth of property was taken by the whole of the natives including murderers and all, but the Guns and Ammunition they had secreted under the flooring under an apprehension as they say it might be turned against themselves and that a general massacre would be committed on the arrival of our people in the fall - In the measures adopted by me either for the punishment or apprehension of the murderers and future

safety of the Company's servants I will refer to the Journal and letter Book where the instructions issued are inserted and if the Perpetrators of the Deed were not actually apprehended by the Natives themselves it was for want of an opportunity and I have cause to suppose it will be done in summer it peace and quitness and the trade was continued as usual - we still stand high in the Eyes of the natives and I feel no great anxiety of a rupture in summer among some of them even parties who are said to live in the Mountains do not fall upon and destroy some of those natives who are not only innocent but the best disposed towards the whites -.

Norway House Augt. 18th 1824

Jamison Hall

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END of SECTION B

CLASS 119

SUBDIVISION e

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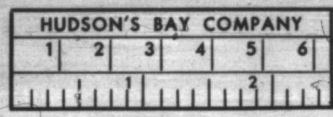

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INCORPORATED 2nd MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 120

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 1

DESCRIPTION McLOUGHLIN. FORT
REPORT on DISTRICT

1834

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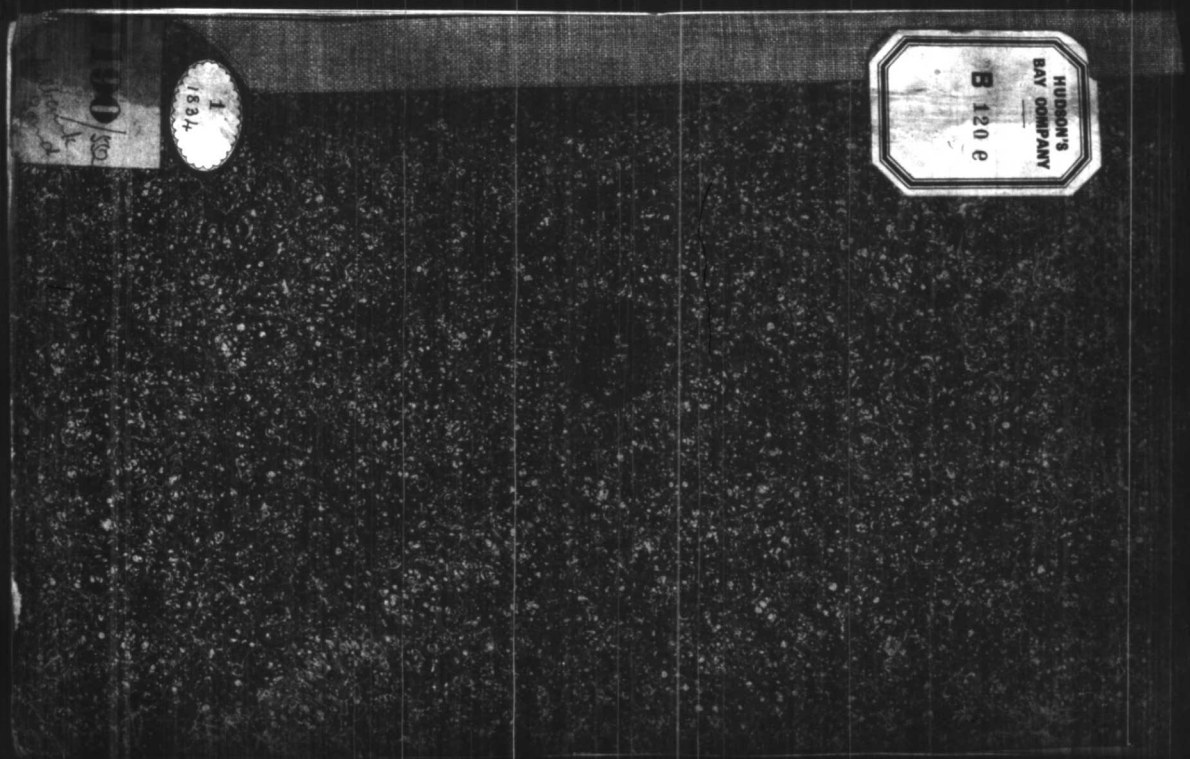

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B. 120/e/1
1834

1834 — 1

Report on Milbank Sound on the North West Coast of America

Limits of the Department — Milbank Sound is an Arm of the Sea, the entrance of which is bounded on the left hand by Point Day, & on the right by Cape Swaine, which is in Latitude 52.19 N. Longitude 128.20 West, and distant from Point Day about 15 Miles. From Cape Swaine to a Harbour called Active Cove by the Americans, is a distance of about 11 Miles; this last is in Lat. 52. 6 Lon. 128. 6.

The Establishment recently built, Fort McLoughlin, is four or five miles distant from Active Cove, in a Southerly direction, & is in Lat. 52. 6. Lon. 128. 6.

It is very easy of access, and the Anchorage for Shipping opposite the Fort is of the best description, the Soundings good, & the Harbour defended completely from the winds, however violently they may blow. The passage from Cape Swaine is on the West side of the Harbour, & opposite thereto is another one which leads to the Northern extremity of Johnson's Straits, where it joins the Sea about 21 miles to the Southward of Cape Swaine. Both these Channels are navigable with safety by Ships, so that the Fort possesses great advantages in regard to situation as unexceptable when the wind is blowing from opposite points, by one or the other of these approaches. Not far from Active Cove (another Harbour called Hyacht Cove; and it is at these two Harbours that the Americans generally remain for the purpose of trading with the natives of Milbank Sound when they go there for that purpose; and it is there the Company's Vessels

Vessels

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likewise women, previous to the establishment of Fort McLoughlin.

The Indians of Millbank appear to be divided into three distinct parties, strongly attached, however, by the ties of consanguinity. Each of these parties follows a separate Chief. The most powerful division appears to be that following Wacash; the next that of Quilliak, and lastly that of Boston (al. Little Object). From the people of the latter we obtain the principal part of our fresh supplies; their village being much nearer to the Fort than the others. Previous to our building here, these indians were much oppressed by Tohoya, a powerful Chief of the Canal de Principe, indeed the most powerful in the East. This Tyrant was in the habit of coming here for the purpose of trading Slaves and Skins, but generally, on his departure, taking a number of the latter with him by stealth. The natives not being then able to cope with them, were under the necessity of submitting passively to his tyranny: but since our building here, in consequence of the countenance of the Fort, they have become more independent of their ci devant oppressor, who is not now quite so ready to distrust them. This tribe numbers amount, pickaxes, to nearly 1000 souls. The murder of Captain Porter (an American) together with part of his Crew, which took place last about twenty years ago, was perpetrated by old Object (the father of Little Object & Quilliak) and some other. The brother of Captain Porter, it is said, afterwards came and revenged his brother's death by killing about five & twenty of the natives.

With the exception of their conduct in the affair which took place here in October last, little can be said to the prejudice of these indians, as far as our own experience goes. Their conduct since that disturbance has been pacificatory, and, if there be any difference, they appear more willing & obliging since than before it. The trade suffered nothing in consequence of our enmity; and for weeks after it our huts were as frequented as usual. A strict look out being always kept, and the guns cleaned ready for a large share so as to admit of our seeing the approach of an enemy, should any be lurking about.

Boston has always shewn himself the most obliging chief of the three; Quilliak would not enter the Fort after the affair, until Christmas, and Wacash up to the date of my departure. Neither party has ever made their appearance. This circumstance, fear of punishment causes them to stop away, as he bore a conspicuous part in the attack upon our people. These people have not yet contracted that mania for intoxicating liquors, which is the general characteristic of Europeans, after a few years intercourse with whites.

They have the custom of flattening the heads, similarly to the Chinooks, but not in so great a degree; and of the women only. They have another habit which must shock the feelings of every civilized being, and which I have never seen or heard related of any other tribe of savages. In the Fall of the year the people repair to their respective Chiefs who bite a mouthful of flesh from the arms & backs of those followers, which they accidentally chew & swallow. I could not learn their real sentiments in regard to this extraordinary custom, but from the best information I could collect I am led to believe it is one of their religious ceremonies, in performing the rites of which they grant them

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selves hideously, and dance, singing at the same time one of the common indian ditties. Some of the bites alluded to are 4 or 5 inches long, and from what, in the eyes of an European practitioner of the healing art, would be a dangerous & troublesome wound. The only remedy they apply is a piece of Cedar Bark & some Gum of the White Pine!

The nature of the Country is Mountainous & rocky in general, with here & there a patch of low Ground capable of being cultivated. From Fort McLoughlin are seen no mountains covered with perpetual Snow, but by going a little further into the interior of the Sound several are seen whose summits are always white. Like most of the other canals which so numerously intersect the north west coast, the sound is divided into a number of branches, leading in various directions; the principal part of which have already been explored by the enterprising Vancouver. The breadth of these arms of the Canal is in general from two to five miles; the depth is generally great, and steep shores on each side render it safe for a ship to venture close to the land without danger of grounding.

The Climate is pretty good, and as far as our experience goes, healthy. The following Table will give an idea of it.

In May 1833	31 fine days		No observations of the Thermometer
June	17	Rt. 13	
July	17	14	
August	16	15	
September	20	10	Average heats for the months of 11.32 Reaumur = 57.47 Fahr.
October	11	20	7.42 " = 48.695 "
November	15	15	5.807 " = 45.06575 "
December	15	16	2.5902 " = 37.8279 "
fine	142	103 Rainy	

These

These Thermometrical observations may be depended upon, as they were carefully taken from an instrument which has been proved correct; and being the mean of 3 observations ⅌ diem. The range of the Thermometer was seldom more than six degrees Fahr. during the day; very different from some other parts of the coast, where the range is much greater — in the Columbia, at Vancouver, it sometimes amounts to twenty or thirty degrees Fahr. When the wind blows from any point between West & South East the weather is almost invariably rainy, but from any other point generally fine. The South Easterly winds are usually accompanied by dense mists, and blow with great violence.

Soil and vegetable productions About Fort McLoughlin the soil found is a light black vegetable mould, extending in depth about three feet, when the solid rock makes its appearance, and this is the case in most parts of the Sound where I have had opportunities of examining. Probably Potatoes and other culinary vegetables might be raised for a few years, when the soil would require manuring — Contiguous to the Fort is a large Plain (if I may be allowed the expression) with Clumps of wood scattered about it, on which, during the Summer, a sufficiency of Pasture might be found to feed a few head of Cattle: but probably during the winter the herbage would be too scanty to afford them subsistence. In this plain patches of black & yellow Loam of a light nature are found; and on these I think might be raised many vegetables.

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The Timber about the fort is principally large, of good quality, and the following

following kinds
Red Cedar
Yellow do (called Cypress by the Americans)
Spruce
White Pine
Scotch Fir (called Cyprés by the Canadians)
Yew
Hemlock
Arbor Vitæ (supposed)
Alder

Of the Red Cedar there are many trees of great size, from which Shingles for Roofs might be made in any numbers with little trouble. It is the custom with some of the Americans, while wintering on the Coast, to procure as many of them as possible, for which, I am informed, they get a high price at Woahoo.

Here are found many kinds of Berries; among which may be mentioned the following:
Raspberries (of an inferior kind)
Goose berries
Black Currants
Poires, or Service Berry
Sallal, like that of Chinook.
Crane berries
Blue berries like those of Scotland.
A Berry similar to the Heather Berry
Crab apples
Bilois, or Huckleberry - four or five varieties.

A few bulbs of the Root called Camass at Chinook, have been brought by the indians, as well as a small kind of onion, resembling the eschalot of England

Fur Bearing Animals

The Beaver is seldom traded, whole at the Fort, only, perhaps, about six or seven times since my residence among them; nor are fresh Skins often seen among the indians. This circumstance might lead one to suppose that those animals were scarce in the adjacent Country; but taking every view of the case I am inclined to ascribe the scarcity of green Skins to other causes than the poverty of the Country in the animals bearing those Skins. This remark applies not only to Beaver but to other valuable furbearing animals; and I shall endeavour to account for it when I touch on the head of Trade.

The Otters are traded fresh no oftener than the Beaver; and I therefore shall account for it in the same way. The Beavers are fine, principally large & beautifully dressed; the Otters are as good as most of those procured on the Coast & in the Columbia, but fall far short in quality to those I have seen East of the Rocky Mountains, and at Montreal. They were at first brought for trade stretched like Beaver; but we discouraged it, as well as in Martens & Minks, and gave a trifle more for cased Skins; they now generally case those Skins they themselves kill. The Martens & Minks hitherto traded have not been of the first quality. There appears to be no scarcity of these last, and those killed during the winter will be better than the Skins already traded, as we have desired them to be careful in dressing them, and they seem disposed to attend to it. The Bears traded are pretty good. They sometimes bring the Bear whole to the Fort. the flesh we trade as

provisions

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provisions. There are apparently no Foxes of any sort in the vicinity of Milbank, nor indeed have any Skins of that animal been traded by us. Fishers, Muskrats & Minxes are rarely brought. Indeed them to allied Castorum - hitherto my Guard.

The Indians say that Beaver abound in the interior of the country, and from the appearance of those parts I have seen I am inclined to credit their report. The numerous swamps, lakes, about which the willow and alder flourish, and where the tracks of Beaver are observable, lead me to form the opinion that they are not scarce. It must be observed that those places which I have seen suitable for the residence of Beaver, have been near the villages, and the Beaver had evidently left the adjacent ponds those spots, as no fresh cuttings were visible. This may be easily accounted for by the vicinity of the Indians huts: but I am sure they are too lazy, and get their skins so much more easily by other means, that they would not go far to hunt for them.

Posts occupied. - Fort McLoughlin only, the situation of which could not be bettered in regard to Trade.

Means of Subsistence. - Deer of the black tailed species abound, but the Indians are too lazy to hunt them much. About one hundred & thirty had perhaps been obtained during the eight months I resided there, which of course would not go far towards the support of so large a compliment of men as our establishments consist of; but that desirable object was much advanced by the quantities of Salmon procured

during

during the Season, as well as many Halibut. The latter are caught outside of the Sound, off Point Say, so that during the hot weather they are often spoilt before reaching the Establishment, on account of the distance of the Fishery.

Salmon as well as various other sorts of Fish are very abundant in the Bay opposite the Fort; within 150 paces of the Factory there is a spot excellently adapted for hauling the Seine, and presuming that fish would come equally numerously in future years as during my stay there, little doubt is entertained that a sufficiency of Salmon might be caught and cured during the Summer to form the principal subsistence of the people of the Establishment, with the proviso always, that a Schooner annually made a trip to Skidegate or other place for Provisions. Near to the Fort is a small rivulet up which the Salmon proceed in the Autumn; in this nearly a hundred Salmon have been hooked in a few hours by the Gentlemen of Fort McLoughlin; this therefore will give an idea of the numbers with which they fish up it. The Salmon are similar to those caught at Fort Langley, being of a much smaller Species than those caught in the Columbia River.

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State of the trade. - The trade of Milbank for the months preceding my departure was as follows:

Captain McNeill in March 1839 traded in Otter Cove 300 Skins
and in the following May 700 do
1,500

Captain Aspinall traded after the departure of the Alma. 5 June & 19th August. 1,000 do
2,500 Say Two Thousand

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Thousand five hundred Skins (Beaver & Land Otter) besides Sea Otter & Small Furs.

The above number of Skins were traded previous to the completion of the Establishment, since which we have procured 100 more, making a total of three Thousand three hundred Beavers & Land Otter the trade of ten months; without noting the Sea Otter & Small Furs traded.

The following is a list of the Furs procured between August & December, say four months trade.

647 Beaver
125 Land Otter
92 Martens
59 Minks
3 Fishers
4 Musquash
5 Black Bears
3 Sea Otter

These were procured at a tariff rather more advantageous than those traded farther north, for those Skins traded for dry goods; but the total cost will, I imagine, be rather greater on account of the millions of Milbank trading for skins for Rum, Rice & Molasses, which are in great demand among these indians who have had more communication with the Americans; and which tend greatly to diminish the total cost of the trade of Skins, as the cost of Skins traded for these articles seldom exceeds 2/6 or 3/, whereas if traded for prime Goods, it would amount to 14/ or 16/ at the ordinary Tariff for large Beaver, and fifteen & three per cent on prime cost of the Goods in both cases.

In consequence of these being no opposition on the Coast the Company have procured Furs this year at a more moderate rate than for the last two or three. How long the Americans may keep away it is difficult to say, but the Russians being apparently bent upon establishing Posts & trade on the Coast, and having already advanced as far as Stikine, where it is reported they have built an Establishment, I do not think the Tariff can be brought much lower.

The Tariff at which we traded latterly was for a large Beaver 2 Blankets, three yards red bay, 3 Knives, one fathom of Ribbon, 12 in lieu of the latter 1 Gallon mixed Rum, 1 Bottle 1 Gallon, 6 spans Ribbon, 1 common striped Cotton Shirt or 1 yard common Strouds. For small Beaver 1 common Shirt or 1 fathom common Strouds. For Land Otter the same as small Beaver. Sea Otter, when large prime Skins, cost 6 or 8 Blankets together with sundry small articles of little value; which last is much cheaper than the northern Tariff.

For martens, minks, Bears &c prime Goods were never given.

Suggestions in regard to improvement &c. The trade of Milbank, & of consequence is principally drawn from the interior part of the Canal, from the different tribes who inhabit there; and from whom there can be no doubt, they procure the Furs at a Tariff which admits of their disposing of them to the whites at a good profit. And to this facility of procuring Skins I am inclined to ascribe their apparent neglect of hunting their own lands, which I am of opinion will remain in statu quo as long as the interior Indians continue to trade to the natives of Milbank Sound on which they gain much by re-selling them to the whites. I am therefore led to consider, that the best policy of the Company will be to encourage those tribes who inhabit the interior of the Sound to come out to the Establishment and trade there.

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there, which will, I think, by depriving the natives of the principal source of their revenue, cause them to turn their attention to their own Lands, which in my opinion are by no means deficient in Fur-bearing animals. I am well aware that the Millbank Indians would use every endeavor to prevent those of the interior coming to the establishment when it would interfere so much with their own interest. Another advantage would I think attend the above system of policy; which is that at present as the Skins fall into the hands of the Millbank Indians it is in their power to retain them until the arrival of Opposition, of which they are always in expectation, and in the event of its making its appearance the Company would only secure part of those Skins at a high Tariff, or the whole only by withdrawing the opposition, whereas the interior Indians, would either be ignorant of the approach of opposition, when they might expect a better price for their Furs, or knowing it, would not have it in their power to wait on the spot for their coming; so that unless they happened to arrive at the time the opposing vessels were in the Sound, the first would secure their Skins at a moderate Tariff.

I do not think that this would affect the Trade for more than from the lower parts of Fur Countries, than at present. It is at present our endeavor to enhance the value of Arms & Ammunition, articles which by the want of Policy of the American Adventurers, the Indians of the North West Coast have been led to value lightly, although extremely necessary to them. We ask for a Beaver Mountain Gun, for which the Indians have been accustomed to give three Skins, eight Beaver - Powder & Shot in proportion. For the trade of this place I would recommend the inferior Red Bar Blankets of

of three points, and nothing larger, or of better quality. The Indians, it is true, prefer the large Blankets, but they expect it at the same price as the smaller one, or at least nearly so. The reason they prefer the large Blankets, even of inferior quality, is that from each they tear a Strip about nine inches wide, and by sewing eight or nine of these Strips together they form another Blanket, which they trade to the interior Indians. This is common all over the coast. The Trade would be greatly benefitted by the sale of Slum to the Indians. At least the cost of it would be greatly lessened. The Indians are becoming daily more fond of it, and will no doubt ere long trade many Skins for it.

Advantages & disadvantages to which the trade is liable. Of

the latter may be mentioned the taste of the Indians which does not lead them to purchase those cheap articles which tend so much to diminish the expenses of the trade at other places on the Coast. Those articles of Slum, Rice & Molasses, we use our endeavors to get rid of at these, and have in some measure succeeded. Some other disadvantages, together with proposed remedy, may be seen under the preceding heads. In regard to obstruction by opposition, this place is less in the way of it than many others, and it is to be hoped that the Company having a Stationary Establishment there, will deter others, in some measure, from going there, as even when there was no Establishment there the Americans only went occasionally. The facility of ingress and egress to and from the Sound at all Seasons of the year renders the Supplies of Goods more certain, & less liable to detention; an advantage which no other Establishment on the Coast possesses.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

General

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there; which will, I think, by depriving the Natives of the principal source of their revenue, cause them to turn their attention to their own Lands, which in my opinion are by no means deficient in Fur-bearing animals. I am well aware that the Millbank indians would use every endeavor to prevent those of the interior coming to the establishment when it would interfere so much with their own interest. Another advantage would I think attend the above system of policy; which is that at present as the Skins fall into the hands of the Millbank indians it is in their power to retain them until the arrival of opposition (of which they are always in expectation) and in the event of its making its appearance the Company would only secure part of those Skins at a high Tariff, or the whole only by outbidding the opposers, whereas the interior indians would either be ignorant of the approach of opposition, when they might expect a better price for their furs; or knowing it, would not have it in their power to wait on the spot for their coming; so that unless they happened to arrive at the time the opposing vessels were in the Sound, the Fort would secure their Skins at a moderate Tariff. I do not think that this would affect the Trade of or draw more Skins from the lower posts of New Caledonia, than at present. It is at present our endeavor to enhance the value of Arms & Ammunition, articles which by the want of Policy of the American Adventurers, the indians of the North West Coast have been led to value lightly, although extremely necessary to them. We ask for a Brass mounted Gun (for which the indians have been accustomed to give three skins) eight Beaver - Powder & Shot in proportion. For the trade of this place I would recommend the inferior Red Bar Blanket of

of Three points, and nothing larger, or of better quality. The indians, it is true, prefer the large Blanket, but they expect it at the same price as the smaller one, or at least nearly so. The reason they prefer the large Blankets, even of inferior quality, is that from each they tear a strip about nine inches wide, and by sewing eight or nine of these strips together they form another Blanket, which they trade to the interior indians. This is common all over the coast. The Trade would be greatly benefitted by the sale of Rum to the indians - at least the cost of it would be greatly lessened. The indians are becoming daily more fond of it, and will no doubt ere long trade many skins for it.

Advantages & disadvantages to which the trade is liable. Of the latter may be mentioned the taste of the indians which does not lead them to purchase those cheap articles which tend so much to diminish the expenses of the trade at other places on the Coast. These articles (Rum, Rice & Molasses) we use our endeavors to get rid of to them, and have in some measure succeeded. Some other disadvantages, together with proposed remedy, may be seen under the preceding heads. In regard to obstruction by opposition, this place is less in the way of it than many others, and it is to be hoped that the Company having a Stationary Establishment there will deter others, in some measure, from going there; as even when there was no Establishment there the Americans only went occasionally. The facility of ingress and egress to and from the Sound at all Seasons of the year renders the supplies of Goods more certain, & less liable to detention; an advantage which no other establishment on the Coast possesses.

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General

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General Remarks. Language. Their Language

is rather guttural, and in some instances there appear to be several variations of the same words. The following brief Vocabulary may serve to give some idea of it.

1	Mana-cuck	(Ch & gh Guttural)
2	Mat-cuck	
3	Cuck-cuck	
4	Mau-cuck	
5	Stee-cuck	
6	Cat-to-cuck	
7	Mah-tows or Mah-simow	
8	Cuck-tows-simow	
9	Mamis-cummy	
10	Stick-tus-cum	
Stages	(the Mistassini Sea-trout)	Chuckemuck
Bones	Cragnitsa	
Beaver	Coubown	
Dog	Noonorth	
Man	Iscomuss	
Cedar Bark	Tacaina	
Iron	Attick or Atigh	
Stone axe	Attick-cought	
Blanket	Atghsum	
Sixpence	Catgh-houghten	
Silk Handkf.	Satagh-houghten	
Swine	Staigh	
Brandy	Nanwass	
Mat	Ah-wagh	
Sea	Cah-me-tagh	
Sea skin	Cwat-tagh	
Come	Nighatush or Cuiown	
To drink	Necagh	
To Eat	Namsagh	
Trade	Cleah	

Stret

Shot	Chatsahaghe
Dry	Catse or Watse
Flour	Cuckqua
Salt	Catgh-pish
Snow	Duis-pish
Thunder	Shoo-wagh
Mountain Goat	Chuee
Presently or Stop	Choomi
Plenty	Cuinum
Grass	Sok

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On comparing Sir Alex.r Mc Kenzie's Vocabulary with the Mistassini words corresponding in meaning, I find the words Poutoun Beaver, & Watta water, alike in both. This vocabulary of Sir Alex.r Mc Kenzies was made at the place where he turned back.

The Language in which accounts in the Bank is a corrupt Saxon, the base of which is the Suquarme dialect. The Indians know it very imperfectly, so that our means of making them understood, or of getting information from them, are very limited.

The Chimoo.x Jargon is shortly understood as far as Burrby, a little Southward of Mistassini.

The following Indians have visited us since our arrival at Mistassini.

The Sekepen & Nascaupees people, who inhabit the East of Hamilton's island. Their principal Trading place is Fort Simpson.

The Nawty & Naughquick from Hudson's Straits, whose trade here together has been about 300 Skins; Capt.n Cuthbert visited them last Summer & purchased upwards of 400 Skins there.

The Bilcknorda Indians. These people have visited us several times, but have never brought much

much Beaver. By the accounts of the Milbank people, these indians inhabit the Banks of a navigable River, two days march in the interior of the Sound. These indians, I think had never seen whites before they saw our party.

Ilghimmy, Kelamats & Isstate People, who come from the inner parts of the Sound, have brought very little trade.

The Fort Simpson indians paid us one visit, owing I believe, to the Stock of Goods being low there.

The Bilwhoola, The Ilghimmy, Kelamats & Isstate People, are often visited by the Milbank indians; who trade from them. There are many other tribes who inhabit the adjacent Country, out of reach of Opposition, who have not yet been at the Establishment, but who probably will do so this Summer.

The usual dress of the Milbank indians is a Blanket made of Cedar Bark, which is prepared by the process of maceration &c (similar to that used for preparing Flax in England). The Cross Threads are formed of the Hair of the Mountain Goat, into which the prepared Cedar Bark is interwoven. The edges are ornamented with dyes of yellow & Black - they form a covering both warm & neat. The women wear a Cedar Bark Petticoat, similar to the ones used at Chinook, in addition to their Blanket.

Sir Alex^r. McKenzie informs us that the spot at which he marked a rock with his name, previous to retracing his steps for the interior, was in Latitude 52. 21.5 Longitude 128° 2' - consequently it must be within 30 miles of Fort McLoughlin.

From repeated observations of the variation of the Compass, I got a result of about 21°.45 Easterly. As the instrument employed was not

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not of the first class, I am not too confident of the correctness of this result - moreover as I am given to understand it is generally considered to be rather more than two Points &c.

Alex^r. C. Anderson.

Fort Vancouver
15th March 1824

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BLANK

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Report on
Milbank Sound
No. W. Coast Amer.a
15th March 1824

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THE END.

END of SECTION B

CLASS 120

SUBDIVISION e

TO 1870 INCLUSIVE

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Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 122

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 1

DESCRIPTION MANITOBA LAKE
(Big Point)

1818-1819

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HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
B 122 e

A.10
Ex 496/528

No 109 F. 1820

Report of the Manitoba District 1818 & 19.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

1
1818-19

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B. 122/e/1
1818/19
1 of 52

Report

OF the HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Manitoba District

By

William Brown

For

1818 & 19.

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Report of the Manitoba District 1815

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

1st. A Narative of the principal occurrences which Took place at the Posts, or within the District during the Season

On the 15th of October arrived at Halkets House in Company with two Indians — and took the Charge of the Manitoba District, in compliance with the orders of the Governor in Chief — Having left the men at the entrance of the Little Sascatchiwin River, and proceeded inshead of them on purpose to procure ——— provisions, to send to meet them, as also to supply the people who were upon their Route to Swan River, and those who were to remain in the District In this I was disappointed there being no provisions at the place, save about 6 Mlbs. of beat Meat — Which rendered our situations extremely hazardous and distressing — On the Morning of the 16th the people arrived, gave the Swan River Men half of the beat Meat, and dispatched them off immediately for that place — A short time afterwards embarked for the Narrows of Manitoba Lake, accompanied by Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Nab. and Swain, with seven Men, to build in opposition to the N.W.Co. — having bad weather we did not reach our Destination till the 19th — When we commenced building almost under every disadvantage the Men being mostly all green hands that came out by the ships — The weather cold & snowing — No tools except two Hatchets — and all our stock of provisions only a few pounds of the beat meat which still remained — The Indians were all off but I sent after them, when several returned, and promised to procure a few animals for our subsistence — On the 20th I embarked for the Big Point, accompanied by three men, when we arrived the following day — The people there had done nothing from the time of their arrival in Sept. except cut a few cords of wood — I set them immediately to repair the Houses, which

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were in most wretched order, and to build a new store — Remained seven days arranging with the Indians, and Superintending the buildings and repairs, and in the daily expectation of a packet from Mr Sutherland with orders how to proceed with the business — None arriving was obliged to return to the Manitoba again — Where I was happy to find they were getting well on with their buildings — Had procured some provisions from the Indians twelve of whom they had Equipped — and were taking a good number of fish, considering the bad nets and inexperienced fisherman they had — There being two men there from Fort Dauphin I the next day embarked with them for that place — On purpose to see how affairs stood, and what our prospects were in that Quarter — Mr McDermont had Equipped 24 Indians, and had the appearance of doing well, with plenty of provisions in his store, but no Furs — Stoped there three days, making some arrangements, and Collecting as much information concerning that part of the Country as the shortness of the time would permit — Had a few tools, and a few articles of trading goods that they were deficient of at the other Posts, packed up and embarked for the Manitoba, but owing to bad weather we did not reach there till the 9th of Novr — arranged the business as well as circumstances would admit, and gave the charge of this Post } which we called William's House { to Mr Donald McKenzie, and Gave Mr McNab orders to proceed on the first Ice to Halkets House, and take the charge of that place On the 11th Embarked for the Big Point, but the day being very calm & cold, the Lake all of a sudden set fast around us, while we were in the Middle of a large opening — So that it was with great danger and difficulty that we reached the Land — The Canoe being broke in several places and the water pouring in on all sides — It was sunset before we got the property ashore and arranged — When left Thomas Swainey in charge of it and proceeded to the House accompanied by Thomas Fiddler — Walked all night, and arrived there, at ten o'clock next morning, when I sent off three Men to bring the property to the House

They had Equipped several more Indians, and got the houses in better order, with the store nearly built —

Nothing occurred further than the general Routine of business till the 5th of December — when I received a packet from Mr Sutherland, and another from Fort Dauphin and the other Posts — From the Contents of the last I judged it necessary to pay them a visit, and on the 7th went to the Manitoba — Their fishery there had entirely failed — and what fish they had been able to put in stock in the fall were all done — Made the following agreement with Mr Cummins of the NWC "That neither party will give the Indians Liquor to drink at the "House, nor send to their Encampments without giving the "Other notice a day previous" The motive for entering into this arrangement with our opponents, was two fold — 1st To save expences — 2nd To prevent them from sending to the Indians till the season was further advanced — As at that time we neither had dogs nor provisions for that purpose — On the 12th went off to Halkets House; where we arrived the following day, they had still but few Furs, a great number of the Indians had been driven to the House by starvation, and were remaining there doing nothing — Gave them some fish & sent them off to procure Furs — Arranged matters, so that the people at Manitoba were to be supplied from there with what fish they required — There being a sufficiency to serve both places — Made some other necessary arrangements and returned to the Manitoba on the 18th — On the 21st proceeded from there to the Big Point, where I found the people in a very bad state for the want of provisions, being upon one scanty Meal of poze pike a day, sent off John Kiplin in search of Buffloe, and a party of men in quest of Indians — But still with all our exertions we were unable to procure a sufficient subsistence, and were therefore under the necessity of sending to Brandan House for a supply

About the middle of January I plainly perceived that if

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we remained where we were, we would both sacrifice the trade and run very hazard of starving — As the late falls of snow and sift in the plains, had so filled up the Indians tracks, that it was impossible for us to find their Encampments, and the most part of them were afraid to come to the House — on account of the large debts they were run from the preceeding year — Circumstances being such I determined to abandon the place, and go White Mud River and pitch tents opposite the N.W.C.o there. Which would give us an opportunity of dogging all the Indians that visited them — Being destitute of tents and some other articles I sent to Fort Dauphin for them — and in the interval while the party was off — went to Red River and made some arrangements with Mr. Sutherland, concerning the business of the District —

On the 17th of February abandoned the Big Point, and Encamped at the White Mud River opposite Belcour of the N.W.C.o — This fellow had stolen a small Keg of the Company's rum from an Indian to whom I had lent it in the fall — The day after my arrival I sent to demand it, when he returned for answer that he would not deliver it up unless I gave him a fathom of Tobacco — Having no wish to pay a man for pilfering the Companys property, under my charge, I went into his house and after some altercation took the Keg from him —

We had pretty hard duty at this place, in watching the N.W. and running after the Indians, but were much more successful than what we would have been had we remained at Big Point — Procured about 3 Packs of Furs, 15 cwt Meat, & 7 st to make 35 Bags of Pemican, besides 2000 lbs of dried sirloin Meat N.C. N.C. —

On the 20th of April left the White Mud River, and went to the Manitoba with two Men on purpose to build Houses near to the Partridge Crope River, but the N.W. refused to shift, and I considered it best for our people to remain there till such time, as they would move also — Finding my plans quashed there I proceeded on to Fort Dauphin, to get Houses built and Grains made done to the N.W.C.o — Remained there eight days arranging the business for the summer — Getting wood cut and squared for building — and Ground taken into Cultivation for a Garden —

Then started with the intention of going over land to Big Point, but after narrowly escaping drowning, I was obliged to return, the Rivers being so rapid, and swollen so much above their usual dimensions, by the dissolving of the snow on the North side of the Riding Mountains, where the sun has not as yet the same influence over it, on account of their shadow, and of course causing the season to be much further advanced before it thaws —

A few days afterwards embarked for the Manitoba by water — got across the Dauphin River, but was detained two days by ice, in the Winipigoos Lake, about four Miles from where the above River discharges itself into it — Made the men commence cutting wood & in company with a man I had hired right with me for that purpose to build a small house and store, at the Mouth of the Dauphin River, in opposition to a Post the N.W.C.o have at that place — The wood being all poplar, with few branches, the three men during the two days, cut and carried to the edge of the Lake, ready to make into a Raft — as much as would be required for the building — We again embarked for the Manitoba where on arriving — I found the people and property that I had left at White Mud River, they having abandoned that Place for the summer, according to the orders I gave them previous to my leaving there — Proceeded to Halkett's House where we were two days arranging the Furs, Boats N.C. N.C. — and on the 19th of May embarked for the Bay side

2nd Of the State of the Posts — There were four Posts in the District during the Winter — 1st Halkett's House situated on the St. Martins Lake, this is a small Lake lying between the Manitoba, and Winipeg, connected to the Lake by the River called the little Saskatchewin & in some Maps of the Country it is called the Dauphin River & which is shallow, and stony with a number of Rapids — It is joined to the first

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by the Partridge Scrope River, which is also shallow and stony, but not so many Rapids — Thus is the only Navigable Route to the District — The buildings of this place consisted of a number of small Houses, built in the form of an oblong square, but they were so uncommonly low that it was necessary to have about two feet to enter them — During the disturbances of Red River, a number of the settlers and company's servants took refuge here, which just by increased the number of Houses, but the most part of them were either gone or part going to ruin — Some of them had been pulled down, in order to convert the Wood they were composed of into firewood — A Mattes Room and Cook Room, with a small Mens house and warehouse were still entire, but in very bad repair —

There was a small Garden or Patch of ground, about square planted with Potatoes, which in the fall produced about 2 Bags of 10 Gallons each of excellent Potatoes, besides what was used in the summer, which may be reckoned at 10 Kegs more, providing they has been allowed to arrive at maturity — This was the only ground ever in cultivation in the whole District —

The Indians belonging to this Post, consist of two parties, one of which generally make their hunts on the borders of the Lake Winipeg — and the other about the Partridge Scrope River, and borders of the Manitoba Lake —

This is a most excellent fishing place — In the fall two men will a few nets, in the course of three weeks past 7000 White fish in stock, besides maintaining the people and dogs at the House — In the fall of the year the fish come up in such large shoals from the Winipeg, that some nights a couple of Nets will give two men sufficient employment, to take the fish out of them, and carry them ashore —

But in my opinion this is the only thing that can be said in favour of it, as it appears to me to be very badly situated for a trading Post, being surrounded on all sides by the Posts of the H.B.C. which are much nearer and more conveniently situ[ated] it was — I [illegible] the [illegible] House be again [illegible] to build it will [illegible] exchange stuff [illegible] close to the H.B.C. settlement there — [illegible] perly managed they will be able to [illegible] number of the Indians, who hunt on the [illegible] pay, than usually visited Halfkit House — Next to those who hunting grounds are adjacent to the Manitoba Lake and Partridge Scrope River — They can be arranged with as after mentioned

2nd Williams House — Situated at the Narrows of the [illegible] House was built in one line, and was 60 ft. by 18 ft. Divided into three apartments — viz. an Officers Room 16 feet — A Men's House 16 ft. — and a Warehouse 10 ft. — It was intended to build a store of 18 ft. by 16 feet on the one Wing, and a Mens House of the same size on the other — But the season was too far advanced, and we laboured under too many inconveniences to accomplish that object in the fall — and it was intended to have abandoned that Post in the spring — in order to build at another place on the East side of the Lake — and about 12 Miles nearer to the Mouth of the Partridge Scrope River — Which appears to me to be a situation every way preferable to the present one — 1st It being in the Vicinity of Dauphin & Swan River Roads — 2nd To a good fishing place which from the best information I could collect the Narrows are not, particularly in the summer with ground well adapted for cultivation — 3rd Besides answering equally well for the Manitoba Indians, it will serve for those of Halfkit House, whose hunting grounds are contiguous to the Partridge Scrope River, and Manitoba Lake — As also a number of Indians who hunt about the Big Point — Water Hen River — and the South Branch of the Winipigeos Lake —

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A number of whom, applied to me for the spring to have a house at the place allowed to— 1st The present situation is too near to the Big Point and White Mud River, at one of which places it is requisite to have a Post — In the Winter the N.W. appeared anxious to shift to the place above mentioned, but in the spring they objected to it, and would not consent to remove till the fall — This being the case upon consideration I deemed it most prudent to make our people pass the summer there also — and incase any thing might occur to prevent them from shifting in the fall as intended — I had a small piece of ground taken into Cultivation, part of which was planted with Potatoes, and the rest sown with garden seeds — This was the only House in the District that was clear to the N.W. Co.

3d Big Point House — Situated about 9 Miles from the South end of the Lake — This house was built on a plan, being in one line, with an Officer's Room on the one end, and the Men's House on the other, with the Warehouse which was small and built between them, exposed to eminent danger by the fires on both sides of it — On My arrival there in the fall, the Buildings were in a most wretched state, having neither doors nor Windows, and the most part of the flooring had been pulled up and destroyed — Had the men employed till the Lake set fast repaired them, and building a new store established from the other Houses altogether, of 18ft. By 16 ft. —

On the 17th of February we abandoned this place & for the reasons already mentioned & and pitched Tents in opposition to the N.W. Co. at White Mud River — Here we built a small store of 15ft. By 13ft. but could not get any other buildings made, on account of the season, and constant running after the Indians However I had logs cut, squared, and carried to the spot for building upon, sufficient to build a house of 24ft. By 18ft. —

I consider this place better calculated for a Winter Post, than the Big Point — The situation being more centrical in regard of the Indians, and it is much nearer & more convenient to haul provisions from the plains — The soil at both Big Point and White Mud River is excellent — and well calculated for grains, particularly at the last place — But there are none on account of no people passing the summer in that Quarter —

4th Fort Dauphin House — Situated upon the Banks of the Dauphin River about half a Mile below where that River falls out of the Lake of that name — This River is not Navigable by loaded boats — Being full of Rapids and very shallow, particularly when the wind blows from the North — as it drives all the Water of the Lake from the Rivers Mouth — This House was in one line 60ft. By 20ft. divided into an Officer's Room, Men's House, and Store House — It was the best built and in the best order of any in the District — Only it would have required some additions — and the situation was badly chosen in regard of the Indians Hunting grounds the manner the N.W. had their houses placed — Their principal house was about 15 Miles from ours situated upon the North West side of the Lake, and in the direct road to the Country where the Indians made their winter hunts — So that they had every opportunity to intercept them coming into us, and could send to our Indians without our knowing they did so, whereas it was hardly possible for us to send off without their Knowledge — They had another House about 30 Miles below ours where the Dauphin River discharges itself into the Winnipigos Lake, which in a great measure combines the same advantages as the former — By which means our people were surrounded on both sides, in such a manner as to render it almost impractible for them to send to Indians in any direction, without one party of our opponents knowing & discovering it.

It was so late before I arrived in the District, that it was impossible to remove the above evils by shifting the Houses that fall, particularly as there were no wood within a considerable distance of where it was necessary to build — We were therefore obliged to submit to the numerous disadvantages we laboured under, but I resolved to remedy them in the spring — For this purpose I sent there in the latter end of April and had wood cut,

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and squared where the houses then were, sufficient to build a line of Houses 40 ft. By 19 ft. with a store of 18 ft. By 16 ft. on the one wing, and a Men's House of the same size on the other — This Wood was to be rafted as soon as the Lake was clear of Ice } for which purpose I left a Boat when I came out in the spring { that being considered the best way to take wood there fit for building, as there were none adapted for that purpose within at least three Miles of the place, and that would have to be taken over land, which was next to an impossibility, as there were only to be a few Men and one Horse at the place during the summer —

Went to the spot and laid out the ground } within 100 yards of the N.W. Fort { where the houses were to be built, according to a plan I gave to Mr. McDermont — Had also about half a rood of gro[illegible] tak[illegible] cultivation, part of which was planted with Potatoes, and the rest [illegible] and Garden seeds — [illegible] soil here is from six to ten inches of fine Black Earth upon a bed of dunish coloured clay — The N.W.Co. raise excellent crops of Barley, Potatoes, Turnips, &c. &c. —

The N.W. at their Port situated where the Dauphin River falls into the Winipigoos Lake, generally make tolerable good returns particularly in the summer, of Moose skins & cured provisions — The Indians who hunt in the vicinity of the Lake, being averse to going up the River, to the other Forts, on account of the shallowness of the Water, and troublesomeness of the Navigation — Therefore with a view of either sharing the trade, or forcing them to abandon the place — I had Wood cut, as mentioned before, and left positive instructions with Mr. McDermont, that Mr. Thomas McNab, and two men, should go there in the Month of July, and build opposite to them — That being about the time the Indians would begin to bring in Leather and provisions — This is the place where the N.W.Co. arrange their outfits for the Manitoba and Swan River Districts Here they have a fine Garden of about an acre in extent — which produces very fine Crops —

3rd The Conduct of the Officers and Men During the year —

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1 Brown William
2 Duncan William. Slow, but obedient, rather timid with Indians
3 Flett John. An Honest, Sober, and Steady Man —
4 Flett Thomas. Slow, but Obedient, and a good careful fisherman —
5 Fiddler Thomas. Not fit for his situation as an Interpreter, being disobedient, careless of the property put under his charge — and afraid of the Indians — But handy, and very ingenious —
6 Harper John. Honest, Bold with an opposition, & active going after Indians
7 Haywood Joseph. A steady, Honest man, and can manage the Indians of that Quarter well — Gave him charge of Mr. House for the summer
8 Kiplin John. Not so active as he has been, but still of a great service for hunting or fishing — Steered a Boat in the summer —
[illegible] Thomas. A very active and Obedient Lad —
10 McDermont Mr. Andw. A Good Trader — Can speak the language well — and is very active and alert in finding out the Indians, but he has deceived them so often that they put no faith in his word — Had charge of Fort Dauphin during the winter —
11 McKenzie Mr. Donald. Active, an Intelligent and will make a good Trader, if he had a little more experience — Had charge of Williams House —
12 McNab Mr. Thomas. A steady man, and can speak the language well — But is rather Dilatory in looking after Indians. Had charge of Halkits House
13 McLeod John. Slow — But Obedient, Honest, and Sober —
14 McLeod William. Not altogether honest, and does not stand to the truth
15 McLeod Angus. Resolute with either the Indians or Opposition, Honest
16 McLea John. A very obedient, Active, and handy Man —
17 McLennan John. Rather slow, and Negligent —
18 McKinnon Angus. Slow, and Timid with an opposition. Obedient
19 McKiver Angus. Active, Honest, and a good Voyageur —
20 McLean Andrew. Lazy, Insolent, negligent, and com Disobedient.
21 Ross Alexander. Slow, But Obedient —
22 Swain Mr. James. Extravagant, & Rather Repastory & Disobedient
23 Sinclair William. A very Sober, Honest Man —

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24 Spence Peter. Sober, Honest, and Active for going after Indians
25. Swainey Thomas. Very active, and bold, with and Opposition - or going after Indians — But Indolent at a House —
26 Topeskc. Active in tripping, and can be entrusted with goods to Trade with Indians — Behaved very well During the Winter —

4th Of the Natives — All the Indians of this quarter are of the Sauteau Tribe, except a few Cr Ills who sometimes visited Halkett's House — The number of Males capable of hunting I suppose will amount to about two hundred, but a considerable number of these live in the plains where the Buffloe are numerous, and seldom or never procure any peltries — Of those who reside more in the tracks of country inhabited by the Fur bearing animals, I suppose about one third of them may be reckoned as adherents to us, and the other two thirds to the N.W.Co. — But in fac[illegible] [illegible]gnify what party they pretend to adhere to, for whoever arrives first at their Lodges will very easily purchase either their Furs or Provisions, providing they have Liquor —

None of those who traded with us made returns deserving of particular Notice —

The most of the Indians of this District particularly those of Big Point, and White Mud River, have been spoiled By too much indulgence — To Large Debts — And by being situated so near to the Colony — So that their principles are very much perverted — The first has made them Insolent — The second Indolent — And the last avaricious with any thing they have to trade — They are very eager to receive Debts, but extremely negligent in paying them — And when they are not discharged } as is very often the case { the same season they are Contracted, they consider themselves under no obligation to pay them Afterwards. —

They have been accustomed to receive such large quantities of Ammunition, Rum, and Tobacco, grattis, that they now look upon these articles as of little value } altho' they are what they

cannot do without { and consider they ought to give nothing in Barter for them save provisions —

They have a very bad custom which every Method ought to be put in force to break them from — Viz. when men go to their Lodges in the winter, if they have no Furs, nor Provisions to trade, they will use every means to deprive the men, either by stratagem or force, of the property they have for that purpose, particularly the spirits, which they robbed the N.W.Co. servants of, two or three times in the course of the winter, and once they served my men in the same manner — Our opponents were again sending to the same band, at a time when I had only the men at home, whom they had formerly plundered, being of opinion they would likely try the same experiment upon them I went myself with the determination to put a stop if possible, too [illegible] which if persisted in, would be productive of the most pernicious effects — On arriving at the Lodges, the fellow who had first laid hold of the Keg, requested I would accompany him to his tent — This I did — When he made a long speech to exculpate himself, ascribing the cause of his acting in the improper manner he had done, to his being in a state of ebriety at the time — But if he was pardoned he would never be guilty of the like in future — To reinforce what he said, and insure forgiveness — He gave me 4 Olbs of Fat — and about the same quantity of dried Meat — To which another added two Dressed Moose Skins and some more cured provisions — So that the Rum } there being only about a pint in the Keg, when they seized it { cost them three times more than if they had traded it — But the loss of the Liquor in this manner is mere trifling in comparison of the bad precedent it introduces amongst them — Therefore they ought never to be allowed to pass with impunity, for an action of this nature, as it only encourages them to a repetition — From which the step is almost imperceptible to that of breaking open the stores —

A considerable number of the Indians particularly those

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of Fort Dauphin, and the Manitoba, have ground under Cultivation, and raise a great many Potatoes, but that is their only crop — If they were supplied, with a small quantity of wheat, barley, and garden seeds, and received a little encouragement, they might be brought to bestow a great deal more care & attention upon culti=vation — So that in a short time, they might in a great measure maintain their families by the produce of the soil, which might in course of time prove advantageous to the trade, pro=viding they could be prevailed upon, to form permanent esta=blishments, and allow part of their families, with the aged and infirm to remain at them, while the younger and more ac=tive went in the winter on their hunting excursions —

Those of the Manitoba have adopted a method similar to this in the summer — On an Island towards the North end of the wide, they have [illegible] all assemble in the spring, hold Councils and go thro' their Religi=ous Ceremonies — The soil here is excellent and each family has a portion of it under Cultivation, which the women and old Men remain, and take care of during the summer — while the young men go a hunting — In the fall of the year when they are going to abandon the place, they secure that part of the pro=duce, under ground till spring, which they cannot carry along with them — During favourable years, they generally make a considerable quantity of Mapple sugar, part of which they also put in Cache — The Big Tent is constructed in the form of an arch, and consists of a slight frame of Wood covered on the outside with the bark of the pine tree, and lined in the inside with bulrush mats, It is 60 ft. long — 15 ft. wide — and 10 ft. high

5th Of the Canadians — They had five Posts within the District, besides their Settlement at the Jack Head in the Lake Winipeg, at which Post they generally have an opportunity of trading with a number of the Indians belonging to the District. From the best information I was able to collect they would

have nearly double the Furs we had — Their principal Of=ficers were Mr Cuthbert Cumins at the Manitoba, and Mr Angus McGiles at Fort Dauphin — who have both been for a long time in the Fur trade, and are what the N.W.Co. distinguish by the name of first Clerks — Besides the above there were Lapointe, who had the charge of the Post at the Mouth of the Dauphin River — Delorm who had charge at the White Mud River — And a half breed, whose name I have forgot, who had charge at the Patridge Scrope River with a number of Interpreters or runners — And from thirty five, to forty Men — besides an in=finite number of Boes Brulés —

Their Conduct during the winter, could not be complain=ed of, being nothing further than a fair competition of Trade — And save that trifling dispute I had with Delorm, there was no contest in the District during the season —

6th Of the Trade — The trade of the District this year in the gross produce is considerably short of last year, altho' I am inclined to think, that the loss upon the District is not so much owing to the great saving in the expenditure of property — But of this I cannot speak with certainty, as I had not an Oppor=tunity of seeing the Books after they were balanced —

The origin of this deminution, may be ascribed to the following causes —

1st In the Summer of 1817. they had plenty of spirits, which attracted the Indians to them — And by that means they procured more Furs from the time the Boats left the District in the Spring, till their return in the latter end of August, or beginning of Sept. than the trade was above the product of the succeeding year —

2nd In the Summer of 1818. they had only one gallon of spirits which was soon expended for provisions, an article they were very much

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in need of { after which the Indians in place of visiting them as in the preceeding year, did all in their power to avoid them, and carried all the peltries they procured to the N.W.Co. — So that on My arrival in October all the Furs Received from the Embarkation of the Boats till then; only amounted to 30 Musquashes and 3 Small Common Otters ——

3rd The enormous Debts the Indians were due from the foregoing years — Which induced them to use every stratagem, to keep out of our way when they had Furs — Incase we would take them from them in payment of their debts, and prevent them from Bartering them with the N.W.Co. where they had little or no Credits —

4th The injudicious manner our Posts were situated, not one of which were close to the N.W.Co's } save William's House { This oversight gave them the most decided advantage over us — For at the whole of their Posts they had a number of Boys Brules who were either reared upon the spot or contiguous to it — So that they were well acquainted with every place adjacent to the establishment, where the Indians generally resorted to hunt, and could find them in a very short space of time — On the other hand the most part of our men were unacquainted with the Local situation of the Country — Besides } as has been already observed { the N.W.Co's Posts were settled with much more Judgement than ours, in regard to the Indians hunting grounds ——

Were the Musquashes to become as numerous as they were some years by past, and the swanskins to sell as high as they did at a former period, a very lucrative trade might be procured in this District — Even with its present resources, I am fully convinced that with care and attention, returns might be made so as the Company would derive considerable profits — Only this is a thing not to be expected untile such time as some Gentleman of abilities receives the permanent management and superintendency of the District for a series of years — Because when a stranger is placed at the head of the business in the fall

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and removed in the spring — He has numerous obstacles to encounter, and labours under every inconvenience that can arise from his being unacquainted with the plans of his predecessor — The Characters of the Indians — The situation of their hunting grounds and in fact almost every thing that tends to produce a prosperous commerce — It is therefore obvious that the same success will not attend his exertions, as what would ultimately follow those of an Officer conversant in the resources of the Country

From the observations Made, and as far as I am able to judge from my short experience in that Quarter, I consider the following as but calculated to increase the trade ——

1st To settle a Post in place of William's House } at the place already described { and to occupy that Post, and Fort Dauphin both summer and winter ——

2nd The soil being good at both places, to take a considerable extent of ground into cultivation, which would prevent any danger from a scarcity of provisions — And render them Independent of the Indians in regard of animal food — So that they would be obliged to procure Furs to pay for the necessaries they required —

3rd Wherever the N.W.Co. settle an out Post, be sure to oppose them — and if possible have our house placed in such a manner, as they cannot go from theirs without being observed and followed, By which means a great advantage will be derived from our Opponents Superior Knowledge of the Country — It would also be advisable to settle a Post at the Jacke Head, or the vicinity —

4th Have the District always well supplied with Liquor, that being an article which will always tend to promote a good Trade, in that Quarter ——

5th If there were a few large Kettles in the District, part of the men might be employed in the spring making Mapple sugar, by which means in good years five or six hundred weight might be procured. ——

6th Give the Indians up the whole of their old Debts, as little good will ever accrue from them — And they make them afraid

to come in the way of any of our party when they have Furs.

7th Give no Credits in future but turn the trade into a fair Barter — And dog the Indians in the winter whenever there was a probability of them having any skins —

8th Be very sparing in giving the Indians Ammunition, either in exchange for provisions or grattis — As this is the most effectual method to make them exert themselves to procure Furs to purchase it —

It would be detrimental to follow regidly up to the two last articles, unless the opposition would adopt a similar line of Conduct — Which I believe they would redi-ily do —

I consider it would be advantageous to both parties — By very much increasing their returns and at the same time lessening their expenditure — If they were to enter into an agreement similar to the one Mr Cumins and I made at William's House, with the addition "To give no Debts" — An arrangement of this Nature, if honestly adhered to, would be productive of the most beneficial effects — As the number of Men and Posts might be reduced, and the Indians would unavoidably be obliged to hunt Furs, or want their Supplies —

Mr Cumins made proposals to me last spring to make an arrangement of this Kind — But as I had no instructions on that head I declined interfering in the business —

Wm Brown

Fort Resolution.
April 19th 1820.

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SECTION B

CLASS 123

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 1

DESCRIPTION MARTIN FALL
REPORT on DISTRICT

1818 - 1819

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MARTIN FALL.

REPORT 1818-1819.

1
1818-1819

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Observations on Red Lake District Reports 1818/19.

MARTIN FALL
B.123/e/1
1818/19

They appear correct, as to facts, but may appear in rather unintelligible and uncouth to those unacquainted with the writer. —

A larger stock of Goods are sent to this district this summer.

The general conduct of Mr James Slatter I much approve of; his want of education it is to be hoped will be counterpoised by his good management, his judgment experiance, and activity, he is certainly an Officer of much merit which he has made to appear in his returns particularly when it is considered the whole of it is got from the teeth of our opponents.

Mr Slatter feels himself much injured in not having the emoluments of a District Master allowed him, — As Mr Slatter seems to understand it.

I always understood Mr S. was ranked as district Master (in 1816/17 inclusive) when Red Lake was made a District and independent of Ornaburgh.

Mr Mowad feels disappointment in not having his wages advanced to 45£ Pr An. as he says was held out to him by the late Mr William Thomas, Mr Mowads wages (to the amount of which I cannot speak positively) I understood was advanced.

Mr Mowad is ingaged as a trader this year at 50£ Pr An. as a trader he is of the first rate abilities in this station and particularly adapted for the country he has again returned to. has a deal of experiance, is keen and very active.

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in procuring the trade. but is deficient in point of education though not for his present station.

I perfectly coincide with Mr Slatter in regard to the advantages that may attend the having a post at Lake Sal which may be placed under the Lake and I strongly recommend one or two intelligent young men capable of making up the accounts and other papers to be sent into this quarter where much knowledge of the trade and active habits may be acquired.

Observations on Osnaburgh District

Reports 1818/19.

Nothing very material appears to be omitted in these Reports.

I do not approve of the whole of Mr M'Kay's conduct the very great expenditure of Pimican, Fat and Rice with three hundred pounds weight of Flour above the full rations allowed for the Officers and Men at Osnaburgh shewed a most extravagant and thoughtless conduct particularly when it is considered that 400 Bushels of potatoes were grown there and more fish was procured than could be consumed. The provisions that would keep should have been reserved for another year and not be unnecessarily expended. perhaps the pimican would not keep and should have been expended for Red Lake, Lake La Pluie and other journeys and the Rice Fat and Flour reserved in case of need.

Very little or nearly nothing was done to the Fishery at Osnaburgh which retarded the business of the summer, and might have been avoided. there was three

Clerks at the district exclusive of Mr M'Kay and as Mr David Christie is not capable of making up accounts Mr Wm Christie appears fully competent.

In other respects Mr M'Kays management is satisfactory, the returns are considerably short of last year and short of an average of the few years back yet this will happen to the best of traders. The Indians made very poor hunts particularly the Cranes who had not all come in with their spring hunts when Mr M'Kay left Osnaburgh.

On the whole (for Mr M'Kays errors of this year may not again occur) I recommend Mr M'Kay when compared to many others as an Officer of merit.

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Observations on Henley District

Reports 1818/19.

Mr Yates statement of the expenditure of this year being less than last may be correct for the most part though all the documents are not left to prove it for instance a list of remains at long lake signed by Mr Finlayson and himself. which is the usual and necessary way of proceeding. Mr Yate neglected to get a list being this with him and I have reason to suppose the remains stated in Mr Yates accounts are not all correct. for instance it has come to my knowledge there are Hundreds on remains at 17/6 each some of which are worn out and unfit to hold Rum and yet none is expended. The same with respect to Flour bags fell under my observation, some of the goods Mr

brought to the Factory and had on remains was untradable being damaged.

Mr Tate is in the frequent habit of getting intoxicated at which times he has behaved neither to the interests of his employers or credit to himself, his Men in a body on their arrival at the Factory made a formal complaint of Mr Tates conduct and they were each seperately examined a coppy of this examination I gave to Mr Tate for his perusal requesting to know if he had any thing to say in justification of himself he observed he was unfortunately given to take a "drop too much" but was allways capable of doing his duty &c &c. — In consequence of this mischievious habit he has been suspended in the command of Henley District, was it not for this fault which is the bane to all abilities and exertions. I have no doubt Mr Tate would make a good trader.

Mr John Train has gone to command in the Henley District.

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8th August 1819
Old Albany

John Davis

1
1818-19

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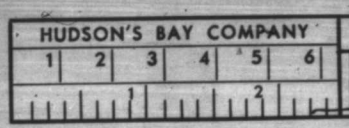

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SECTION B

CLASS 123

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 2

DESCRIPTION MARTIN FALL

REPORT ON DISTRICT

1818-1819

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MARTIN FALL

REPORT 1818-1819

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1818/19

Martins Fall District.

Reports.

1818/19.

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1818-19

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1818/19

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Martins-Fall District Reports

1818/19

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

1st Narrative.

17th July 1818. Mr William M'Kay paped Martins Fall house on his post from Albany to Osnaburgh, this his 20th days journey, with the supplies for the latter place, in one Boat and Canoe with nine Men.

18th July. Mr Fidler and twelve Men arrived from Red River in two large Batteaux for supplies of Merchandize sent here this spring from Albany for the service of the Northern Department; and took his departure on the 21st following with 70 Pieces of Goods. — Mr Fidler permitted two of his Men half breeds who were in a great state of insubordination to intice an Indian belonging to Martins Fall (Sackeyicappe) to accompany them to Red River. The acquaintance of two days these Men formed with the Indians Wife was I am given to understand their motive. — This is a very material, and annoying loss to the Company as Sackeyicappe was one of the best hunters at Martins-fall & last year brought 120 Mrs in Furs and in the country he has gone to is of no benefit, the loss of such an Indians is much felt as in the valuable country about Martins fall the Natives have of late years greatly decreased and is one cause of the decline of the trade from this district within these few years past.

24th July. An Henley Boat arrived with supplys for Martins fall and Osnaburgh Districts.

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Narrative and three Cattle, the day following Mess.r James Slatter and Robert Jones and party arrived here their twentieth day from Albany on their rout to Red Lake and Lake La-Pluie districts.

25th August a large Boat with seven Men arrived with a farther supply of Goods &c and returned for Albany the following day

1st October Two Men were sent off for Moosewarke Lake to procure fish.

15 Oct.r Mess.r John Davis, William Nourse and David Christie arrived from Albany in an Henly Boat with 7 Men this the twenty second days journey.

7 December Mr David Christie and five Men went off for Osnaburgh house, on the 11 following the Rum sit fast

February 11th 1819. Three Men arrived from Osnaburgh with the usual annual packet for the Governor of the Southern department.

18 Feb.y Two Men went off for Henley Old House with dispatches for the Governor they are to meet people from New Brunswick and Long Lake and are each party to exchange packets and return to their respective posts.

24th Feb Two of the Osnaburgh Men returned to that district.

March 1st Mr William Nourse an Indian (as guide) and two Men were sent of to the Southward with directions to cross the woods to Frenchmans River go up it to Moss Lake and seek as much about through these parts as they can as it is apprehended the Canadians would be about these parts of the Country and might fall in with the Martins fall Indians, we might likewise have a chance

Narrative of a few skins from any St Anns Indians that there was reason to suppose was on that quarter Mr John Smith an Indian (as guide) and two Men likewise went off for Attowapiscat with Rum &c, there to seek out those Indians that were not in as formerly from that quarter to take debt

17th March Two Men arrived from Henley with dispatches from the Governor and Mr James Tate

These two Men inform me they met an Indian (E'ninnee') about two days journey below Henley house on their way to there, the Indian informed them he was starving and his Wife and Children had died and another Wife of his had ran away from him before the ice took, he got a little assistance from my Men in provisions and they parted. On their arrival at the spot were Henley house formerly stood they found it burned down and in the cellar the head of a woman severed from the body and several human bones that seemed recently to have been striped of their flesh with every appearance of these hapless creatures having been sacrificed to preserve the life of others of their fellow creatures under the agony of a dreadful starvation. The Martins fall Men found two Men from Long Lake waiting their arrival and learnt people had come from New Brunswick and returned after having secured their dispatches.—

19 March Mr Nourse and party returned without meeting Canadians or their adherants but met in with two Martins fall Indians from whom they got 45 Mrs. These two Indians complain the Canadian Indians had come down on their grounds in the fall of the year and had since left them and

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Narrative carried off all the Beaver in these parts consequently our Indians made very poor hunts. This day two Men were dispatched with the packets of letter for the Govern of the Northern Department, and Lake La Pluie for Osnaburgh to proceed from thence to their destination

3d April One Man and an Indian brought a note (see correspondence N 20) in two days from John Smith he has been most shamefully neglegent of his duty.

on the 5th the Bearer of John Smiths note returned to him with repeated instructions (see correspondence N 21).

17 May (three days after the river opened) Mr William Howse three Men and an Indian took their departure in an Henley Boat for Albany to forward supplies in time to Martins-fall, to meet the people from Red Lake and Osnaburgh Districts and by that means avoid a journey to the coast.

25 May John Smith and Magnus Pakie arrived from Athowapiscat River with a pack of furs they were accompanied by three of Wegemans Sons with their Lents. Smith had not with the Indians he was particularly sent to seek.

31st May Two Men and two Indians arrived with a large Canoe for the service of Martins fall distrct and some potatoe seed &c.

17th June An Henley Boat and large Batteau arrived from Albany in 22 days with 150 pieces of goods of 100lb each worked by ten Men and three Indians on the 19th the Henley Boat returned for Albany with 20 Packages of Martins fall trade, with seven Men and two Indians.— The following day Messrs Slatter, William M'Kay, Edward Mowad and Robert Jones and William Chrisdie and twenty Men arrived in two Boats and two Canoes

Narrative from Red Lake, Osnaburgh and Lake La Pluie Districts with the returns from the two former places

28 Messrs M'Kay, Mowad and Jones and eight Men proceeded to Albany in two Canoes. on the 22d eleven Men were dispatched to Osnaburgh in two Batteaux with 80 Pieces of cargo and a young Bull

24th Messrs J. Davis and J. Slatter took their departure for Albany in a Batteau with 5 Men having Mr William Chrystie to transact the business of the post.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

2d State of the Posts.

Gloucester-house situated thirty miles up the River and just above the first string of falls and carrying places on this route, was given up. and Martins-fall house, which was abandened for Gloucester nine years back was this year again established as the principal port in the district and as a depot for the upper districts supplies, the facility with which the districts above M. may be supplied is now much greater as by employing large craft below cargo to the rate of 10 or 12 pieces a Man may be worked to M. (which is half way from Albany to Osnaburgh) whereas when the people of the upper distncts had to go to Albany for their supplies craft was obliged to be used adapted for the whole rout to Osnaburgh which took at the rate of only from 6 to 8 pieces a Man. add to this provisions was obliged to be taken for the whole journey which was a considerable part of the cargo and only one trip could be made in the Summer whereas two or now made from M. to SR.— The great distance to Albany would

have prevented a sufficient supply of Goods being thrown in at Red Lake and Osnaburgh Lake to extend the trade or even meet the demands of the present establishment. The interests of the trades likewise suffered from our opponents being inabled to be in before us. These inconveniences it is expected will now be done away by the reestablishment of Martins fall.

The outpost at Attowapiscat has not been kept up for want of Men these two years back which has greatly decreased the trade of the district as a very considerable portion comes from that quarter some of this lost trade has gone to the Canadians who settle on the W or NW borders of this country and go in by the way of Osnaburgh Lake. another and the greatest portion goes to a settlement from Severn, whose Master (by what I learn from Indians) is extremely and what appears to me unnecessarily lavish to induce the Martins fall District Indians to bring their furs to him. and preventing them paying their debts at M. A small house was erected as a store and logs sawed into boards preparatory for repairing the old house. A Cow house was built for 4 little.

Little has hitherto formerly been done in cultivation so that little is known what may be done this way, but there is no doubt potatoes would thrive to some extent as the soil is light dry and well adapted for them. — Nearly two acres was cleared last spring in different spots for trial planted principally with potatoes, some wheat and potatoe oats was likewise sown by way of experiment

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3d Conduct of the Officers and Men.

✓ William Nourse. has given satisfaction has assisted in the store and made up accounts. is anxious to take an active part in the trade. is a promising Officer.

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✓ John Smith. This young Man conducted himself very badly when in charge of Martins fall last summer and shewed himself incapable of such a charge and is consequently superseded. — he was very remiss in the business of the place, kept no regular accounts, many articles were expended and unaccounted for and a great unnecessary expenditure of provisions and Rum appeared in particular. his conduct to the Indians was harsh and injurious to the trade. In the month of March he was sent off to seek those Indians at Attowapiscat that had not been in as usual last summer and instead of proceeding according to orders, he went only two good days journey (though he was eleven in performing it) to a fishing place where he set the nets &c and consumed the european provisions he had to pursue his journey with and then sent an Indian and one Man back for a farther supply of provisions and rum. vide journal April and Correspondence Nos 21, 22, 23. Necessity for want of a better obliged my predecessor to place this Man in the station he was but as he has proved himself unworthy and is a disgrace to an Officer I have removed him from my table and should have sent him home but on account of his promises of amendment I am induced to try him another year in a lower station

he has a competent knowledge of the Indian tongue and by no means deficient in spirit or activity when he chooses to exert it. and shewed a very proper spirit when Mr Fidlers Men threatened to plunder and ill treat him see journal 18 July 1818.

Magnus Bakie has done his duty is a good labourer is a fisherman and given satisfaction in these capacities.

Daniel Griffiths has done his duty and made himself very useful.

Thomas Heddle has done what he was able, is but a very indifferent labourer. was servant to the Chief most of the year.

Robertson John. is nearly superannuated and unfit for inland service.

Scarth William has given satisfaction. was serviceable in fishing and packeting.

Thompson Andrew has given satisfaction is an attentive hard working Man

4th Indians

Anouch hunted more than last year and paid his debt

Armo & Sons have gone intirely to the Canadians and the port from Severn since Attowapiscat has been abandoned.

Awashish An Attowapiscat Indian sent in only 25 Mrs by J Smith which did not pay his debt

Caucaukess Made an indifferent hunt though he brought more than last year in June or July 1818 the Canadians from Cochanogamy got his spring hunt and he was in at their house the latter part of the Summer but being well looked after in Winter our opponents did not see him after. An Indian (Wowwaykeshick) hunted his ground up in the early part of the Winter and carried their furs to our opponents consequently Caucaukess made a poor hunt.

Keechehookemar Made a good hunt and paid his debt

Maitwinoway Brought a good hunt and paid his debt

Mooseharpie & Sons. Made very good hunts and paid all their debts.

Narpowish Made but an indifferent hunt ~~and~~ and paid only half his debt.

Narnapo & four Sons. On the whole made good hunts and paid their debts the eldest Son excepted The second Son made an excellent hunt in Beaver and brought more skins to the house than any other Indian

Naotarbarn has left this district and gone to Long Lake and not been in since spring 1818

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4 Indians

Penasewaquon (& Son.) Athwapiscat Indians and have not brought their hunts to us since the place was abandoned.

Sackajecappo. One of the best hunters at Martins fall and brother to Martwinoway. Was taken to Red River by Mr Fedler and his Men see narrative 21st July 1818.

Shenap and four Sons made tolerable good hunts and paid their debts the second Son made an excellent hunt

Sheehoopun Brought nothing This is the Indian that shot Mr Princes Wife at Scapisco goose tent and was himself shot afterwards by her relations.

Succass and three Sons Made good hunts in Martins but did not quite pay their debts, the Canadians got a trifle from them last Summer. They came upon them unawares when in Frenchmans River this is below Martins fall and lower than the Canadians were ever known to go before

Unicun Made but an indifferent hunt and paid only half his debt.

Wejack This Indian hunts about Athowapiscat and had his debt of 1817 /18 (given out at Glouster) put by it was the whole of his winters hunt, the time was near approaching of his coming into Martins Fall last summer to pay this debt as usual was the case when he fell in with an Indian going to a post settled from Severn which the

Indians name Jack fish Lake, and was persuaded to accompany him he took with him a Wolverine, an Otter skin and a very few smaller furs; as usual he got drunk with the other Indians on his arrival at the post and the Trader there by giving him a Captains coat and making large promises, such as giving him the ammunition interest &c with some difficulty persuaded him to bring the furs put by for the purpose of paying his debt at Mt to him, at the same time the Indian observed to the trader he wished to pay his debt to the late Mr Thomas, when it was told him the Master at Jack fish Lake was a greater Man than the one at Martins Fall and he need not mind paying his debt there but the Master at Jack fish Lake would throw it away if he brought his furs to him, the Indian did so. but this is not the greatest part of the evil of drawing the Indians from Athowapiscat the Canadians Winter there or very close to there, (ie Jack fish lake) consequently the hunts of these Indians run the risk of falling into their hands which would be avoided by letting them go to Martins Fall or now to Athowapiscat as the place is up again this affair is much talked of among the Indians and will have a very evil tendency if a stop is not speedily put to this opposition of our Northern Brethren.

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Wegemar and four Sons hunt on the Athowapiscat quarter. Three of these Sons were in

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Indians the spring at Martins Fall, two of these accompanied Weijack to Jack Lake last Summer very short after they had been in to Martins fall they took debt at Jack Lake but are afraid to return there again being fearful of losing their lives from the enmity of Pinistahys gang (the Indians) on account of a murder committed by the Athawapiscat Indians on one of Pinistahys gang three years back. The two Sons who took debt from the Seven people did not pay their debt taken at M[t] consequently the debt given out at Jack fish lake is unpaid. The eldest Son who had not been in at the Northward Trades paid his debt and brought a good hunt, the Father had not come in to M[t] as late as 20th July and if he has not gone to the Northward is now supposed to be waiting some of my peoples arrival at Athowapiscat which I promised his Sons and which all the Indians in that quarter much wish.

Mitchewayekishick Made a good hunt and paid his debt this was the only Indian hunting at the lower Henley house and when it was given up last summer this Indian came to Martins fall.

Some few of the M[t] Indians and who all hunt for the Canadians visit Martins fall in Summer but bring little or no furs, their Traders look so closely after them that they cannot get an opportunity of bringing furs to us unless we were on their grounds. Several murders were committed among these Indians last summer which caused some to fly their country to be out of the way of their enemy's, one of these (Cainna) with his family I met on my passage from Albany last fall a few days journey up the River. I learnt his intention was to pass the winter in this lower country, but he being I imagine unacquainted with these parts was the cause of his starving and destroying his Wife and Children and lastly perishing himself.

The Indians at Martins fall being comparatively of a mild disposition are orderly and peaceable. they have passed the year without much starvation. Nannabo and his Eldest Son and their families would have suffered much in Feb[y] but they fortunately got assistance in fish from the house [illegible] them to make better hunts in furs. None of the Indians belonging to Martins fall have given a skin to the Canadians since last October except those Indians I may not have heard of yet from the Athowapiscat quarter.

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& Canadians are settled on the boders of the district at Coganogamy from whence they travel much about but seldom get any furs from the Indians, their chief aim is to look after their own Indians whom they are sending down on our Indians lands and carrying off the beaver. The Canadians are likewise settled on the borders of this district to the N and W sides (i.e. on the Athowapiscat quarter) where they are gaining much influence as they have wives from among the Indians

but as it is intended to have a permanent post in this valuable quarter our interest it is to be hoped will predominate.

6th. The Trade of the District for this year is considerably less than than these few years back before Athowapiscat was given up and about 100 Mrs less than last year and the sorts of Furs of less value the Beaver and Otters are considerably fewer but Martins and Musquash more. the cause of this decrear is the post at Athowapiscat has not been up these two years back and this year has felt it particularly as our fellow servants from Severn are doing their utmost to draw the Indians from that quarter to them, and had not the other Indians on the whole made good hunts in the Winter the returns would have been very much short of last year.

Albany 7 August 1819

John Davis

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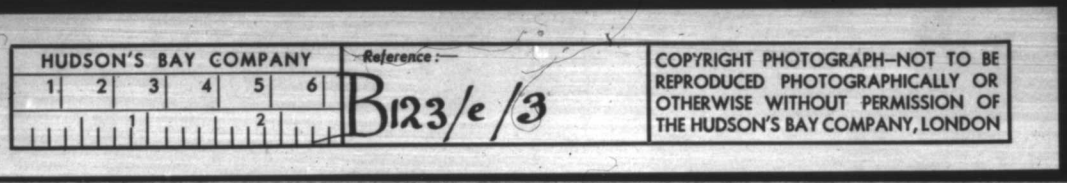

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INCORPORATED 2nd MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 123

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 3

DESCRIPTION MARTIN FALL

REPORT on DISTRICT

1819 - 1820

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HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

B 123 e

MARTIN FALL

REPORT 1819-1820.

3
1819-1820

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No 52 Dec 1820 Master Fall (A) 1

Reports &c on the Albany & Inland Districts by the Chief

Ec 515/524 B.123/e/3 1019/20.

Osnaburgh District There is an omission in the Reports of this District in the occurrences from closing the papers in June 1819 to December following which was during the time Mr Atkinson was in charge

The melancolly loss of the lives of Wm Johnston and Duncan McMillan is owing to the want of more capable hands on this account it is difficult and in some instances not possible to get the business done that is required particularly the winter packeting for by far the larger portion of the men on this District are incapable of long journeys without great danger to those sent. and in the instance of an Officer Mr D Christie it is equally as bad see Mr Flatter Journal of Red Lake of 27 March and R.L. Occurrences in Reports Mr D Christie is in every since of the word a burthen to this district being neither capable or willing to do the duty of a writer nor does he appear to have a wish to make himself useful see O.H. Journal Novem^r 26, 28, and Decem^r 4th I received a note from this Gentleman in June see correspondence for A.T. No 34 this note scarce deserves comment on account of the personal feeling ~~[illegible]~~ which appears in it particularly after so long a silence but though this foolish note does not deserve credit on its own account it is notorious to all at O.H. that Mr Atkinsons conduct last summer at O.H. was shameful he appears to me to have been extravagent in the expenditure of Rum and Provisions. he abused the rights of his fellow Men who being servants under his command aggravated his fault in the instance of St Pier it is said Mr Atkinson debauched his Wife and

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used to send the husband out of the way for his own views and this it is reported was the cause of this Man deserting to the Canadians at Lake Sal. It is likewise the case in another instance. William Tate came to Martins Fall in June last bringing down with him his Son a child with the intention of leaving the country with him and complained to me his wife at last entirely left him and cohabitted with Mr Atkinson he at the same time having a woman of his own. This transaction I should not have felt it my duty to notice (however disgusting it may be to my own feeling) but for its injurious tendency to the character and interests of the concern Mr Atkinsons misconduct extravagance carelessness and want of management as it still appears to me calls for a particular notice see correspondence No 6 and 17. I wished to inquire into Mr A accounts but am unable not having received them I wrote to Mr McKay on this head see correspondence No 36 and was answered see No 44 "it was sent" but I did not ~~per~~ receive it wether this account was detained by Mr Atkinson at Martins Fall or no (he was there when Mr McKay's packet was there) I am not prepared to say. In these various considerations I recommend that Mr Atkinsons emoluments should be stoped till they are cleared up. Mr Atkinson has more than once had his misconduct pointed out by me but it seems without effect. — It appears that eight Indian families have traded with the Canadians this year this was owing to the Canadians having a post at little sturgeon lake (where I learn they procured five packs of furs) situated a short way to the southward of the snake Falls. it was not possible for Mr McKay to oppose this post situated as he was in want of proper Officers & Men and in want of provisions. With respect to the Returns

it is 1830 Mkr in Furs (the leather not included which is more than last year) this is better than last year by 170 Mkr add to this the Snakes which formerly hunted at O'H bt 140 to Mt notwithstanding these considerations it is below an average return the causes are two principally the opposition being stronger round this district and the annual decrease of Fur annimal the Beaver in particular. The former cause for the future may be remedied by more experienced & able Outpost Masters & Men.

This district is arranged for the ensuing year as follows Mr Atkinson (who is employed for want of a better and his emoluments to depend upon his conduct being approved of by the Governor) and four Men to Winter at Moose Lake and Mr William Nourse and 4 Men to winter at Crow nest lake and the remaining two Men to winter at Osnaburgh house with Mr McKay

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R Lake District Mr Slatter had instructions from me last year to Settle Bad Lake (which the preceding winter proved advantageous) but was directed in no manner to clash with our fellow servants from the Northerd on his reaching three Rivers he found Bad Lake was to be settled by some of our people from Big fall when he gave up his views in that place and settled Big Lake this measure was highly proper for though it decreased the Returns of R L District the furs still went to the Company. I do not perceive any particular omission in Mr Slatter reports except the statement of Trade. and the form which is not according to the instructions The Returns of this year is about 1860 Mkr old standard which is less than last year by more than two hundred and the Furs of considerably less value, the place

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when the most valuable furs are procured on the District was recruited by our Natives from the Northward. the returns of leather was more than last year. —

It is to be considered so far fortunate to the interest of the Company that so few Indians trading with (compliments)
Mr S.r Sparts were carried off by sickness when it is considered the Canadian Indians suffered dreadfully and at Lake Sal were almost intirely swept away — The loss of Thomas Saunders is greatly felt; the want of no one on the district could be more so he was the only boat steerer and one of only three capable of doing business properly at an Indian tent — the repeated loss of this class of servants on the Albany Inland establishment by one way or another has greatly injured the concern in this establishment It is not now in the power of the country that can much better the trade till they have gained some years experiance and should there Men be commanded by inexperienced traders were opportunities is made it is much throwing goods away

Henley For Mr Frains statement there is an error with respect to the Trade of this year it is not so much in Mks as last year by 200 Mr Frain did not give that particular information on his repeats that might have been expected from learning the Indians had been badly used by the late Master. Mr Tate see correspondence N.o 25. I had a conversation in this house with Messrs Frain and Finlayson on this subject when I learnt Mr Tate had "badly used the Indians" during his drunken fits and as long as the liquor lasted he was seldom sober, the great quantity of liquor he drank was kept off the Indians through Mr Finlayson

says he was ordered to put it to the Indians account the consequence of such conduct must in a few years ruin the trade and the mischief be felt a year or two after the cause ceased. I am satisfied with Mr Frains general conduct. — —

Martins Fall. The trade is considerably more than last year but the increase is in small furs the expences are more in proportion to this increase on account of the opposition of the Northern people number of Indians went in to Albany a great both debt and the cheated Mr Charles by going to the Northern people.

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The aggregate Returns from Albany Inland District is better than 600 Mks more than last year

The arrangements for the ensuing year are as follows

N.L. Three places are to be settled by 10 Men and Messrs Slatter Mowat and Calder

O.W. is likewise to consist of three Sports Mr Atkinson and four Men at Moose Lake Mr Nourse and four Men at Crowsnest Lake and Mr M.c Kay at Osnaburgh with two Men. There were two Men engaged after the arrangement was made who are likewise to be placed in their districts

Messrs Frain and Finlayson and 9 Men winter at Long Lake and its Neighbourhood Henley or the Packet Post is not put up yet for want of Men.

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Mr the is at present Mr Christie and two Men unfit for service at Athowapiscat there is to be two Men and John Smith in charge

There ~~will~~ appears some errors in the charge from Martins Fall to Osnaburgh which now cannot be righted for want of time to write the book over again it is however so far corrected by placing 14/6 in addition to the charge as it appears in the O.H. Book so that the totals agree and the general accounts can be made out from them the difference is that Mr D. has expended twine that ought to have been charged to O.H. and a line has not been Recd on O.H. Books. the difference between these errors is the 14/6. — These errors occured at Martins Fall in July (during my absence) by Mr William Christie [illegible] twine sent to O.H. and a ½ coil of Whale line was likewise not charged in the waste Book on my arrival at Mr I found Mr C accounts did not balance and suspected some error in the twine the line I knew went to O.H. for the service of the Boat these errors were to have been righted on Mr C arrival from Athowapiscat to Martins Fall in the spring but in this I was disappointed by Mr C and party going down Athowapiscat River and consequently had not the opportunity of giving me an explanation, the there was likewise another unfortunate circumstance which was the failure of the arrival of the Winter packets particularly the loss of the packet going to O.H. (see correspondence No 31.) in this packet was a list or articles supplied O.H. for Mr M. pays correction if required (and though this list was not priced on account of not having at that time having received a priced list of supplies from the Store to Mr the packet not having arrived from below) it would have discovered the error before it was too late to write the Books over again. — I have again given every Officer to understand he must be answerable for the errors he may commit and that if the accounts are not correctly and timely given in any Officer failing will not again be suffered to escape for his neglect without a fine a more regulation is laid down before I left Martins Fall that will prevent such an occurrence again likely to happen and every Officer has been made acquainted with the 7th paragraph of the Honorable Directors letter of Feb 7 1819

Albany
15 August
1820

John Davis.

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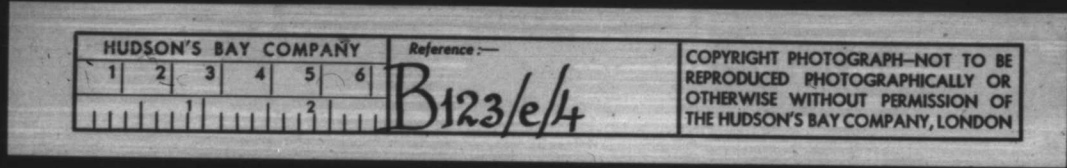
THE END.



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SECTION B

CLASS 123

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 4

DESCRIPTION MARTIN FALL

REPORT on DISTRICT

1819 - 1820

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Martins Fall District Reports, 1819/20.

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1st Narrative

On the 24 June 1819 Messrs Davis and Slatter with five Men took their departure from Martins Fall house for Albany in a Batteaux with the last of the inland trades; After sending off two Boats loaded with Cargoe for Osnaburgh. — Mr Wm Christie was left in charge of Mr port. — July 18th An Henley Boat arrived from Albany with Cargoe and set off again on her return on the 21th and on the following day the two Batteaux returned from Osnaburgh without accident. On the 24th Messrs Slatter and Mowat arrived from Albany in one Batteau and a Canoe with supplies for Red Lake & Osnaburgh Districts and after getting an additional supply from Mr they passed on for O.H. & R.L. in two Batteaux and 11 Men. —

On the 12th August Mr William McKay arrived from Albany in an Henley Boat half loaded and brought up an ox calf and on the 15th the Boat and 11 Men were returned to Albany. — On the 18th (after giving up the charge of the port to Mr McKay) Mr William Christie and four Men and a Boy went off for Athowapiscat by way of Tabbinet Lake in a large and small Canoe with trading goods &c to establish an outport in that quarter. — On the 27 Augt Robert Dudley, an Indian and his Wife came from Osnaburgh with letters, and the day following R. Dudley proceeded to Albany. On the 29 Septr Thomas Thompson and an Indian (Moose) came from Osnaburgh with letters giving information that Eustace St Pier (a renegate from the NWC service three years back) and John Taylor

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1st Narrative

(apprentice) had deserted from Osnaburg taking away with them three new nets &c. On the 3th October Messrs Ryfield & Davis arrived from Albany in two Batteaux with 11 Men and on the 10th Mr William McKay went off for Osnaburgh (the very heavy fall of snow and bad weather since the sixth prevented Mr McKays departure before this date) in a large new Canoe with Robert Dudley, Charles Stanger and David Norn, Alexander Comlequoy, James Miller and William Johnstone with six pieces of Goods and nets hooks twine &c in case of their setting fast, three weeks provisions, and a Bag of Oatmeal extra.

On the 27 November two Men and an Indian as guide arrived from Athowapiscat this their 6th days journey & on the 29th set off on their return with a supply of trading Goods for that post on the 25 January three Men came from the outport for a further supply of Goods and Rum and set off on their Return of the 27 with the addition of another Man (Robert Cock) and four sledges.

February 14th Andrew Thompson and John Johnstone were sent off to day with letters for Governor Vincent after having waited since the 1st instant (the time appointed) in expectation ~~in expectation~~ of hearing from the posts above

On the 27th March Two Indians brought a letter from Governor Vincent see correspondence No 20 which has been in their possession since last september — April 2d early this morning Thomas Thompson and Duncan McMellan went off for Osnaburgh as it was not thought adversable to detain these Men longer for the expected letters from below as the season is drawing late and these Men are so incapable of shifting for themselves in cases of difficulty. —

1st Narrative

3

On the 10 April Mr Ryfield and G Daniel were sent off for the outport with instructions &c to Mr William Christie. After noon Andrew Thompson and John Arcus came with letters from the Governor, from Albany and Henley. — On the 19th Mr Ryfield and G Daniel returned without having gone to Athowapiscat they met two Men coming for goods left on the way between here and the outport (a part of what was sent from Mr on the 27 Jany and which the Men left on the road (though they were by no means overloaded of the four sledges three contained from 70 to 75 lbs of Cargo each and 9 days provisions the fourth sledge contained a 10 Gn Bundlet of Rum and such is the incapacity of the Men and indeed a great part of them on the Albany Inland establishment that they could not perform a journey of not more than 100 Miles over a well beaten path) and after giving these Men the letters for Mr Christie returned without proceeding farther on account of the early setting in of the spring which was the most uncommonly rapid ever known by the oldest inhabitants from the 12 inst it never froze at night even, except very slightly in two instances till the Rivers entirely gave way. in consequence of this, travelling was amazingly tedious and fatiguing on account of the softness and great debth of the snow from the top of which they sunk to the bottom every step even over a path that had repeatedly been gone through in Winter, and had not Mr Ryfield and G Daniel strinuously exerted themselves in all probability something serious to them would have occured. On the 22d Apl Richard Thomas arrived from Albany with letters from Governor Vincent and a packet to be forwarded to the Governor of the Northern

Department

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but it was not possible to send this packet forward at such a season of the year; R Thomas left Albany with an Indian on the 22d March, a few days after as they were travelling in the night the Indian being foremost walked into a piece of water having no idea that open water could be there. and with difficulty escaped with his life but lost his sledge and all upon it consequently they were obliged to return to Albany for assistance and again started on the 3d of April, The Indian, R Thomas's companion gave out and could not keep up with him and stoped with Indians they fell in with about 100 Miles below Mt. when R Thomas proceeded by himself and owed his safety to his ability as a walker. — On the 23d the River gave way when the water rose higher than was known for many years past, it finally cleared of ice on the 27mt — On the 7 May eight Men and Mr Ryfield were sent off for Albany to send up the supplies for Red Lake and Osnaburgh. — On the 31st John Smith and an Indian arrived from Albany in a small Canoe with some provisions to enable me to forward the Packet to the Governor of the Northern department but it is again delayed by the non arrival of Mr Wm Christie and party it was intended to forward it by John Linklater and John Daniel as only one Man James Cragie was left at the place and he is quite incapable of such a duty. — On the 8th June a large Boat and Batteaux arrived from the store with supplies they were Maned by six Servants and eight Indian Men and two Women, in charge of Mr William Nourse this being their 18th days journey from Albany. — On this day was

likewise received information from Osnaburgh of a very distressing nature see correspondance Nos 30 & 31. early on the morning of the 10th R Thomas and G Daniel were sent off with the packet for the Northward (to meet the people expected from Osnaburgh) and with letters see correspondence Nos 32 & 33, They returned on the 18th with two additional Men in a large Canoe with Furs from O.H. The Bearers of the packet met Mr Sletter and party at Mamineseear when they were returned and the packet forwarded to O.H. in the care of James Corrigal and an Indian. —

On the following day (19th) Messrs Slatter, Mowat and Atkinson arrived with 15 Men in two Batteaux and a Canoe on the 20th Indians returned who were sent on the 10 inst to look after Mr Wm Christie and his party as I was greatly alarmed at his not arriving at Mt according to his instructions, these Indians went through that part of the road that is considered dangerous. but saw no appearances of them. On the 21st two Boats were despatched for Albany with the Trades of the several Districts and after engaging those servants whose times had expired and arranged the business for the ensuing season John Davis John Smith and four Men went off for Albany on the 25th, On which day Mr Wm Christie and party was met short below the house proceeding to Martins Fall from Albany it appears Mr C went down the Athowapescat River contrary to instructions see correspondence No 23. the consequence was the services of this party was lost at a time when they were much needed particularly in forwarding the Northward packet On the 30th June Messrs Davis and John Smith and party arrived at Albany and found

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Mr John Strain and his party had arrived five days before.

2° State of the Posts

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There are two posts on this district Martins Falls is the principal one which is likewise a depott for lodging goods in the Spring for the service of the upper districts, for this purpose there was a house built 22 feet by 20. of solid logs with an upper story it is yet unfinished though suffecently so to be of service to the business this year; Appartments have been likewise put up in the old house for the accommodation of Officers who may reside there in the summer and there has been a few necessary alterations about the house. The ground cultivated last year did not give returns as was expected at one time, owing to the Cattle breaking through the temporary hedge of fence and eating off all the tops of the potatoes and consequently destroying them at the time they were beginning to blossom and had a promising appearance, a small spot within the stockades were saved from the Cattle and came to maturity giving a very good increase Though planted in the midle of June. A small quantity of Potatoe-Oats were sowed for tryal and came to the utmost perfection producing a fine clean grain a few carrots and cabbages were likewise procured from some seeds of private property. (Those sent from the store were of no service as they did not grow the sending such seeds is not only a waste of money but a disappointment — There is no doubt great advantages might be derived from cultivating the ground at this post the soil is light and good, well adapted for potatoes, if for nothing else but there is no doubt some sorts of grain can be cultivated to advantage as

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buck wheat & Potatoe Oats. and I recommend a Man possessing some knowledge of practical agriculture to be employed exclusively on this object even granting it should not fully succeed that is in growing grain yet the labour would not be lost as it is well known potatoes and other vegitables will succeed. and in the event of buck Wheat, Barley or Oats succeeding it may prove a saving of two or three hundred £ a year independent of the advantage of our drawing our subsistance from the spot and our being furnished with a more ample supply nor do I see why we should not succeed at Martins Fall, our opperants at Pitt and St Anns are now cultivating not only abundance of Potatoes, but buck Wheat and have a breed of Cattle at those places;— this gives them great advantages in supporting their people and facilitating their business at a smaller expence it is customary when their Men at outposts are in want owing to scarce seasons they go to head quarters for support and return at the time the fish become more plentiful and though they formerly suffered very much from want it has not been the case these few years back. Four gallons of Buck-wheat was put in the ground in the middle of last May, and potatoes were planted occupying about an Acre and half of ground that has this year been railed in to keep the Cattle out.

The outport at Athowapiscat was up last Winter and was left in the spring. and people are again sent in with supplies

Three people ventured at lower Henley for the purpose of facilitating any packets that might pass them. they did not see an Indian all the time they were there but killed near 300 Martins themselves

23 Conduct of Officers and Men. 6

Bayfield Robert Elliot. A young Man who came out last year has the promise of a useful Officer is attentive and diligent. ventured at Martins Fall and is now employed at the store.

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Cook Robert. Died at Athowapiscat on 17th March

Christie William has disappointed my expectations in conducting the outport at Athowapiscat; for want of experiance and penetration he seems to have been guided by his men by letting them persuade him so as to serve their own views. his provisions were expended long before they [illegible] they were much pinched in the after part of the winter and the necessary business could not be done, Mr C was likewise faulty in leaving his house on the 15 March to seek meat with his Men and was three days absent leaving Robert Cook sick at the time and two boys during his absence the former died. he likewise should have sent (according to instructions see correspondence No 4) two of his Men fishing at a place well known to produce fish at this season but it appears his Men persuaded him from this in short he is too young and inexperianced to command an outport to advantage though I have great reason to suppose when he has acquired more experiance and knowledge of the Trade he will be a desirable Officer. I was satisfied with his conduct when in charge at Martins Fall last Summer.† Mr C stays another year in the Country at his former salary

† except that he [illegible] to visit at Down as the most Beach was [illegible] time [illegible] but was sent to the [illegible] in any manner [illegible]

days absent leaving Robert Cock sick at the time and two boys during his absence the former died. he likewise should have sent (according to instructions see correspondence No 14) two of his Men fishing at a place well known to produce fish at this season but it appears his Men persuaded him from this in short he is too young and inexperienced to command an outpost to advantage though I have great reason to suppose when he has acquired more experiance and knowledge of the Trade he will be a desirable Officer. I was satisfied with his conduct when in charge at Martins Fall last Summer.+ Mr C. stays another year in the Country at his former salary

+ except that he I imagine by mistake did not set down in his waste Book some twine & a Trucking line that was sent to O.H. and on my making the accounts out from his waste Book the error occured in the accounts O.H. charges from Mr not appearing

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Conduct of Officers and Men

+Daniel Griffiths has given satisfaction and made himself useful

Daniel John has done what he could is feeble and not capable of much labor.

Graham James died at Albany on the 29 June 1820 he was taken ill in March at Martins fall since which he got gradually worse till he died. previous to his being obliged to keep his bed in March he was subject to fits. his complaint was not known

Houston Magnus has not given satisfaction in all respects is a artfus character and led Mr Christie to go down athowapiscat River. he is a very hard working Man and would be an excellent Labourer under one who knew how to deal with him. his time was out last Summer when at Martins Fall he represented to Mr McKay he had £30 Pr Annum and wished to stay on these terms another year which Mr McKay very simply agreed to without receiving instructions to this effect. from the Books I saw at Moose it appears this Mans statement to Mr McKay was false and he had imposed upon his credulity. and I cannot in justice to my employers sanction this agreement he is not worth more than £20 Pr Annum being neither steersman or fisherman

+Cursitor William No 2 or B has given satisfaction is a hard working and faithful servant.

Hay Honeyman Wintered at Martins Fall is a very bad workman, is borthrulder has a large Family of very extravagant habits and not suited for Inland service This Man was detected in acts of theft and suspected of others on a serch being made at the moment he was about leaving Martins fall some of the stolen property was found in his box lost up

and was in the Boat ready for his going to Albany.

Linklater John steerer performed his duty and has an advance or gratuity of 5£ above his wages of 20£ for managing a Canoe.

McMellan Duncan. Died on his way to Osnabrugh some time in April last.

Thompson Andrew has given satisfaction is a good packeter and a hard working Man.

Heddle Thomas. wintered at the packet post at Henley has given satisfaction by doing what he could

Smith John (assistant) has behaved himself much better than last year and was in care of the packet post and having two incapable Men with him he was obliged to procure a part of their maintainance and [illegible] considerable quantity of Martins, in consequence of this and promises of good conduct in future he is sent in charge of the outfit for Athowapiscat where on a former occasion he conducted the business very well and made a good trade, from his knowledge and experiance he can do well if he chooses he is promised an advance of wages if his conduct is approved of

Taylor Lackland wintered at the Packet post is not only lazy and useless but a bad character having been detected in some petty thefts in one instance of stealing biscuit to carry away when employed in the store. — he is worse than useless to Albany Inland he did not cut the firewood that warmed him nearly half the winter. he is a tolerable good Taylor and at his business might be useful

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Nourse William did the store business till he went inland has been appointed outport Master at Osnaburgh District his agreement expiring this year he is advanced to 50£ from year being a promising Officer but at present of no experiance as a trader which is only to be attained by active imployment in the interior

4th The Indians

Anouch hunted 48 Mkr and left 36 unpaid in the spring consequently he did not get a Coat given him in the spring brought all his Furs to Martins fall

Arnoe and 2 Sons hunt about Athowapiscat. the 2d Son only came to Mr Christie took a large debt and went with his furs to the Northern port leaving his debt unpaid

Awashish took debt at Athowapiscat in the fall and defrauded the whole of it by going to the northern port with his furs.

Caucaukiss hunted 65 Mkr and left 30 unpaid brought all his hunt to Martins Fall

Chemainhookemar hunted 90 Mkr but left 61 unpaid brought all his hunt to Martins Fall.

Hookemarshish brought all his hunt to Martins Fall (115 Mkr) and paid his debt in the spring which is seldome the case with this Indian

Keecheehookemar took 77 Mkr to Athowapiscat and left 63 unpaid. I am informed by Mr William, Christie likewise by an Indian (Mushekeecappo) the Trader from

the Severn outport visited this indians tent in winter and in-deavoured all he could to induce him to leave Athowapiscat and trade at the Northern port giving him several articles in presents and making large promises of being better used at his port than at Athowapiscat.

Maitwinoway hunted 65 Mkr much short of his usual hunt which was owing to his starving a great part of the Winter did not pay his debt, brought all his Furs to Martins Fall

Mushekeecappo paid 110 Mkr at Athowapiscat and 7 at Martins Fall and left 17 of his debt unpaid brought all his furs to us.

Moosehappie and Sons Paid only 95 Mkr leaving 130 unpaid they hunt about Athowapiscat knowing it will not prevent their getting a fresh supply from the Northern port is no doubt the cause of these Indians not paying their debts

Narpowish hunted 100 Mkr and left 17 unpaid which I gave him it being an old debt brought all his furs to Martins Fall

Naznepo and younger Sons made but indifferent hunts and could not pay their debts they say they were starving part of the winter brought all their Furs to us either at Athowapiscat or Martins Fall

Shenap and Sons made excellent hunts and paid all their debts

Succass and young Sons made excellent hunts though principally Martins brought their furs to Martins Fall and paid their debts

Unicun brought 110 Mkr to Martins Fall but did not pay his debt in the spring by 36 Mkr which I gave him being part of an old debt.

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Weyack has Traded with the Northern settlement Wakemar and Sons these Indians hunted for Athowapiscat till half the winter they did not pay their debts as they went to the fort from Severn in the spring and consequently their debts amounting in the whole to 245 Mrs given out this year are and in all probability ever will be lost to the Company such is part of the fruits of the opposition of our fellow servants from Severn.

Kunapick and his two Sons brought 140 Mrs to Athowapiscat and Martins Fall and left 120 Mrs unpaid These Indians belonged to Ornabugh District and left it for Martins Fall on account of animosities between this family and the Cranes, his enemies murdered one of his Nephews at Wh and threatened the old Man and his Sons on which account they have left their old grounds and hunt on the Athowapiscat quarter. I hear from some Indians they were in at the Canadians to the southward of Snake Falls in the spring

Anchewayketchick a Nephew of the Snake got debt to the amount of 39 Mrs last Sept at Martins Fall and has not since been in there and is supposed to have gone to the Canadians at their new post at little Sturgeon Lake situated a little to the Southward of the Snake Falls and on this Indians grounds

Nactasbarn brought 105 Mrs to Martins Fall and left 22 unpaid in the spring brought all his Furs to Martins fall

M[r] Indians belonging to Martins Fall have taken a skin to the Canadians if I except the Snakes and Anchewayketchick no have any of the Indians who hunt for the Canadians traded at Martins Fall with only a trifling exception. The generality of the Indians have had a plentiful winter all of them at Martins Fall paying their debts except one or two. At Athowapiscat the Indians have had an abundant year the snow being deep they killed Deer and Moose which are plentiful in that quarter and notwithstanding the great plenty of Martens to be caught this season they none of them paid their debts they were either lazy or went to the Northern settlements. The opposition from the Northern has already taught the Indians to be unreasonable and overbearing in their dealings as well as careless of paying their debts and if any of their demands are refused them a threat of leaving you and trading at the Northern post is immediately thrown out and such notorious cheats and vagabonds are the greater part of the Indians in this quarter. That I make no scruple in affirming the trade to the Northward of Martins Fall will be ruined if a stop is not soon put to this new opposition on the part of our fellow servants at the Northward and in its place some wholesome regulation laid down for the guidance of the traders.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

4th Canadians have kept up three flying post at Eschanogamy, and I have heard from Indians were starving there in Winter when they most of them went to St Anns to live during that scarce season and returned in the spring as no Indians had visited Martins Fall who trade with them previous to my leaving Martins Fall I can gain no further certain information about them.

6th Trade The returns from the District are 850 Mks more than last year but not more than the average returns of years back. but though the trade is good in made Beaver it is not likely to prove of more value as the increase is in small furs the Beaver skins being fewer than last year this was owing to a splendid year of Martens and the uncommon depth of snow which prevented the Indians killing the Beaver

The expences are greater than last year for independant of the increase of expence for trade & the packet post at Henley a greater expence was sustained at Albany post than was necessary owing to the opposition of the Northern settlements. and though the expence was more than was usual the returns from there was less by a considerable deal. 140 Mks was got from Indians who formerly hunted for Osnaburgh District

Albany Store
6 August 1820

John Davis.

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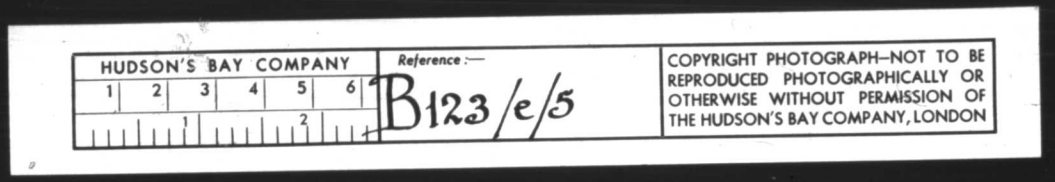

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INCORPORATED 2nd MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 123

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 5

DESCRIPTION MARTIN FALL

REPORT on DISTRICT

1820- 1821

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B 123 e

MARTIN FALL

REPORT 1820-1821

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1820-1821

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1820/21
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Remarks on Henley District

Mr John Train died on his way from Long Lake to Albany on the 17 June, this unhappy event has prevented a Report on Henley District. The business of the District from the time of Mr Trains decease devolved on Mr Neil Finlayson from whome I have received information of which part of the following are the particulars.

The returns from the District are only a trifle more than last year and fall under an average of returns for these few years back the trade from here has been declining these few years back for which there are two principle reasons the first the great decrease of the beaver formerly the principle fur procured from here, another is the murders and dispertion of the Indians, The Trade at Long Lake this year was ruined on account of quarrels among the Indians in the Fall of the year when three were murdered and another that fled to Martins fall (the principle in this mischief) was murdered in his turn near Martins Fall; The animosities and dread among each other of the Indians at Long Lake was the cause of their leaving their ground Parmaheshiskquels gang fluing to Pic and the Wassers to St Anns. — The Tobaccogang went to Rawbone Lake which with the other small post Pyachequon made nearly all the Trade from the District

The NWCo People were at long Lake before Mr Trains arrived there Mr Finlayson wintered at Pyachequon (this is not far from Wabiscuacar) and Wm Taylor at Rawbone Lake each with two or three Men. —

Wm Smith died at Rawbone Lake on the 9 May of the same decease in appearance as Mr Train and likewise a Son of Jacob Daniels of the nature of this disease no idea could be formed the principal symptoms were

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a swelling of and inability to retain any nourishment on the stomach accompanied with weakness. —

A Mr McTarvish was Master at Long Lake for the NWCo. On the 8th June he informed Mr Train of the union of the two Companies of the trouth of this Mr Train could not judge. Mr McTarvish likewise informed the late Mr Train a party from the Pic would winter again at long Lake this ensuing season after the union of the Companys were known Mr McTarvish shewed Mr Finlayson his Furs and accounts, &c by which it appears the NWCo have made but little at all their places from Pic though this ~~last~~ year is letter than lost when they lost £30 These considerations has induced me not to send supplies and Men as yet to long Lake but wait till fast information it will then be time enough to send them and give up the goods put by (near long Lake) to the Canadian Servants or in case of their not being there to resume the post ourselves; in the mean time supplies are thrown in at Henley lower house to enable us to act as circumstances may require. — and it is desirable to draw the Indians about Henley as comparatively there is a considerable quantity of beaver to be got about this country as there is now no opposition this object is easy to be obtained another consideration that induced me to this measure is that I cannot send to long Lake without advancing some of the Mens wages which the present prospects will not admit of unless in a case of necessity.

— As far as I can learn all the servants at this district have done their duty and given satisfaction

I recommend Mr Nicol Finlayson to notice; as a Trader in particular, he has acquired a knowledge of the character and language of the Indians beyond what might be expected from the few years experience he has had and is much liked by the Indians he has

been among, and is competent with respect to the accounts and other writing, and the duties of a District Master.

HUDSONS BAY COMPANY

Remarks on Red Lake District

The Trade in furs from Red Lake is 500 Mbs more than last year making 2300 exclusive of leather, one cause independent of good management of this increase was the Canadian Master at Portage de Isle was killed by an Indian when others the Indians Relations (the Badgovernors gang &c) left that place through fear and traded at Big Lake with Mr Mowat but the principle cause was the very favorable season for hunting. The Bears, Beaver, Otter Cats and Musquash are more than last year, but the Martins are a few less. The disadvantages attending Mr Slatter's exertions was the Canadians this year settled a post at Escabeskewon and were in about these parts more numerous than usual and his Men were not sufficient in numbers to oppose them at Red Lake where they made 8 Packs. Mr Slatter was likewise short of goods by which he informs me he lost a good deal of furs. — the expences are scare more than last year and could not have been got cheaper for it must be recollected the Indians have been spoiled by opposition and I am perfectly satisfied with Mr Slatter conduct as a Trader — Mr Mowat and Calders conduct was likewise approved of. —

The want of Good to trade with the Indians induced Mr Slatter to borrow goods to the amount of £11.5.10. the goods were traded for a part of the furs brought out and the amount was to be paid in goods to the Men

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on their arrival at Martins Fall but by the time they arrived there the books were closed for 1820/21 and the union of the two companies made it necessary for the Stock left at Escalichewon to be as left by Mr Slatter according to the inventory left there so that the amount could not be taken off it without causing confusion, nor was it right that the Furs should come in as after package, so that goods to the amount of £11. 6. 0. were charged from Mr to R L in 1820/21 accounts to enable Mr Slatter to pay the Men for the Guns and other articles he procured from them, and the Mr Stock in hand for June 1821 remains the same except the Indian debts from which remains the amount was taken off in the accounts for 1820/21. This was the most fair way as these debts that it was taken from were given out after the first of June though previous to the inventory being taken and were given out on account of 1821/22 as the Indians could not wait till the overhale was taken and were not coming in till next winter.—

As Mr Slatter experienced great disadvantages from being late in last year measures were taken to forward the R L supplies earlier, and though the two Companies are joined I did not see occasion to alter my plan as it was partly put in execution before I received a certain information Mr Slatter has therefore with Mr Calder returned to Escalichewon.— his hasty departure and want of a clerk to do his writings prevented his superintending them and his reports are not received but the accounts were made up from the documents. the receipts and remains 1821 are signed by Mr Slatter and are inclosed in the book

Remarks on Martins Fall District

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

I beg before closing my observations to draw attention to the port settled at Wappicobar or Badger River house the distance of this port to the N. from Athowapiscat is the same as Martins Fall to the S.E. And it appears by a letter from Mr McDonald see Albany Inland correspondence No 25 that what induced the Severn Gentlemen to settle this port was a statement of the Indians that we had abandoned them, this statement of the indians was not correct as though we for that year had not put up Athowapiscat on account of the assistance furnished Lake Laplue in 1816/17 this measure obliged my predecessor the late Mr Thomas to make some sacrifice of the Ports belonging to Albany Inland and as the object of first settling Athowapiscat (which was to drive the Canadians from there and the country about) was attained with no appearance of there coming in again, this port was sacrificed as the least inconvenient for which was thought the more important object of settling Lake Laplue agreeable to solicitations from the Northward department.— When Athowapiscat was given up for as was intended this year only the Indians were placed, in the same situation as they were before the Canadians came on their grounds which was in 1811/12 and could come to Martins Fall (which was nigher by some days journey than Trout Lake) with their Furs as they had done formerly for time immemorable but the fact was the traders from Severn

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endeavoured by lavish treatment to draw the Indians from Athowapiscat and Martins Fall to their post, this is a plain fact that any impartial person might learn among the Indians particularly when strengthened by circumstances and events. — The instances I mentioned in my reports of 1819/20 & 1820/19 I am still confirmed in. — Mr McDonald in a general way seems to deny this being opposition, but how he can reconcile this to truth I am at a loss to account for as far as I understand the character of Indians and the nature of the trade, surely inticing an Indian by liberal presents and promises to take debt, that Indian at the time ~~that indians~~ having debt at our post and afterwards visiting their tents and keeping them as far as lays in their power from the place is opposition; and is fraught with more mischiefs than this as it learns the Indians to live by cheating the opposite traders instead of their industry. — with respect to Mr McD, argument of the intentions as stated by the Indians of their going to the Canadians I must observe Mr McDonalds post was placed between the Canadians and the Indians grounds Mr McDonald observes see Albany Inland correspondence No 25 "for which I hope no person could find fault with us particularly as they pursue the same line of conduct themselves" here if Mr McDonald means to say we have pursued such a line of conduct I must directly and un-equivocally deny it indeed the contrary has been the case as not an Indian from Severn has had debt from us or have we traded a Skin from them and such I have heard and have every reason to believe was the conduct of my predecessor and one remarkable instance I remember hinting of, at the outpost from Athowapiscat in 1814/15, when several Severn Indians came to

trade with the canadians not knowing at the time we were their neighbours, when Mr Budge obliged them to go back to the place they belonged too he would not trade with them himself for the double reason because they belonged to Severn but above all his encouraging them to come there would be drawing them in the way of the Canadians and there was so good a look out on the part of Mr Budges party that they could not visit the canadians clandestinely and fear kept them from doing it openly.

Mr McDonald in his letter No 25 says he cannot determine what place the Indians belong to, if Mr McD has been any little time a Trader in these parts his ignorance on this head is surprising but in another part of the same letter he says, "Six of your Indians who came to Trout Lake &c" now then Mr McDonald seems to be perfectly aware of being Athowapiscat Indians and these are the very Indians ment when he in the same letter says "could I determine which place the Indians really belong to, for farther particulars see A I C No 13, 14, 25 & 32.

On the whole I cannot help expressing my opinion that the Gentlemen from Severn have betrayed more zeal than discretion in procuring a good trade and at the expence of the general interests and have consequently, at last fallen a prey to the knavery of the Indians some of whome have more debts than they can ever pay, — The Indians without a single exception returned to Athowapiscat round which their grounds are situated and unless the trader observes the regulation see A I C No 32 I have proposed the company will be still cheated by the Indians and consequently an unnecessary expence occasioned The post at Athowapiscat is found of great advantage on several accounts. there are a number

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of young Men growing up which makes it worth while keeping a small post there. It is a place where plenty of fish may be procured and on this account is of essential service to Martens Fall in supporting some of the people sent from the latter place in scarce seasons. —

Remarks on Osnaburgh District.

Though the returns from O.H. are better than these few years past in point of quantity of Mrs they fall short of my expectations, and what gave me these expectations was the remarkable fine year for hunting furs and the nothing too additional posts from O.H. and the Canadians ~~[illegible]~~ running out of Goods at Sturgeon and Cat Lakes, and it is my opinion had the business of the District been conducted in an able manner the returns might have been more. —

Mr Atkinson junr conduct at Moose Lake appears very blameable, and Mr McKay I likewise judge was blameable in not noticing it otherwise than he did done. Mr Atkinsons expenditure of Rum for the few Indians he saw was too great by far, and some is unaccounted for, and some has been misappropriated, and I have strong reasons to suppose he is given too much to the use of it himself. — It will be perceived Mr Atkinson came to O.H. in company with Mr McKay on 16 Decr leaving the post at Moose Lake, but I suppose (as no other Officer was there and I have no information on this head) left the place in care of the Men he stoped to 19 Decr. but for what purpose he came to O.H. at a time of the year when the Trade is coming in and having Canadians along side I cannot learn,

in the latter end of Febr and beginning of March he was likewise absent from his post and at O.H. and Crow nest lake about 28 or 30 days, Mr McKays reasons for sending Mr Atkinson to Crow nest Lake are in my opinion very weak and his statements not correct even granting the prior necessity of this journey for it will be perceived Mr McKay had sent back and fore previously without Mr Atkinsons assistance and two Men came from there (see Febr 14th) short before, this as well as other instances of great mismanagement was I apprehend the cause of Moose Lake being of no benefit, though a fine opportunity offered as the Canadians Goods run out before the spring and the Indians were generally discontented with them, and had Mr Atkinson acted with good since and applied his means particularly the [illegible] to the Trade, and applied his industry properly the returns from Moose Lake would have been considerably more than it was, the disobedience of Robert Dudley threw some difficulty in Mr Atkinson's way and would have caused him some personal trouble in going to Indian tents in his place and which was no more than his duty and does not alter my opinion that an active and zealous young Officer with Mr Atkinsons experience might have done a great deal more. — I have repeatedly tried Mr Atkinson for want of a better as Trader at a small post and he has never given satisfaction. — it is not for the above faults only I have reason to complain of his conduct he is extravagant on all occasions and for want of a proper economy in his provisions is allways short or starving it will be perceived he and his people left Moose lake and came to O.H. on the first of May and the excuse must as it appears to me be a foolish one as I do not hear the Canoe that took him to Moose Lake

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was by any accident destroyed independent of the small Canoes and why not send a part of his people and wait to be fetched from OH as some of the articles left were, and not lose so fine a time of the year for trade particularly as the Canadians in his neighbourhood were out of Goods. From the experience I have had of the character and abilities of Mr Atkinson I must pronounce him unfit to have charge where a better Officer can be got. — As Mr Atkinsons time expired last year I had agreed with him that he should get 50 £ P Ann^m only on condition that his conduct was approved of but it is with pain I must pronounce him undeserving of any advance. and leave it to the Governor to decide. the written agreement is sent Mr McKay has not conducted himself to my satisfaction and it is now my opinion has not sufficient abilities to conduct the business of Osnabrugh District. As a Trader or doing business with the Indians he is fully capable and might perhaps command a District where less general business is done as Henley and it was my intention of making some change in this respect but the union of the two Companies induces me to wait as I anticipate a great change in conducting the business. — the reasons I have for pronouncing this is ~~the~~ his want of knowledge and judgment generally and so easy is his temper and disposition that he may scarce be said to have a mind of his own in many respects

On my visit to OH in December I found no regular accounts were at that time kept notwithstanding my repeated orders to that effect see various letters correspondence No 19/20 and Mr Wm Christie was sent to OH purposely to keep the Books see correspondence for this year No 4, some extracts from the Honorable

Directors on this head were likewise forwarded to Mr McKay likewise the Form for keeping the accounts. — I likewise have fault to find with Mr McKay for deviating from his instruction without a sufficient reason on other occasions see correspondence No 4 where 4 able Men were ordered to be forwarded to Red Lake but only three Men were sent one able Man, one green hand and David Norn the latter Mr McKay the previous year pronounced worse than a green hand. — likewise on my visit to OH in Winter I directed Mr McKay to send some of his people to look after the Canadians about the Snake Falls which he did not do, nor did Mr McKay object to it at the time or point out that he could not do it but nevertheless he did not fullfill my expectations see correspondence Nos 9. 12 and 20 & 38 [illegible] Mr McKay makes particularly with respect to provisions as there was an ample stock at the place both European, and country produce when I was there had a judicious use been made of it.

With respect to the Rum Mr McKay wrote about I have only to observe his statement is not correct. — On my visit in December I inspected among other things the Rum remaining at that time I found a Rundlet of 10 G^s and another just broached and observed to Mr McKay I was surprised he had so little Rum remaining at that early time of the year, his answer was he thought it would do, as all the People had their allowance and the outports were amply supplied and perhaps he might get some if he wanted it from Crow nest Lake. I observed it was not right he should be so short in such an essential article, and told him I would send a Key up by the Men returning

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from Mr observing it was not a time now to be too close with this article and we could not now do as we did a few years ago as the Canadians were coming in stronger at the same time I observed there was plenty of Rum at the Store and he should make an Indent out for what was necessary that it might be sent up in summer. The Idea of hauling up three 10 Gn Rundlets of Rum and other articles besides a distance of 200 Miles and provisions for this distance with such Men as we have could never enter my mind it has not been without difficulty and accident of late years that the Men generally could go the journey without cargoe.

Robert Dudleys refusal to do his duty was most shameful and for this offence I have thought fit to fine him 30 £ particularly as he kept obstinate and refractory to the last. he is going to the Red River settlement

James Corrigal's conduct was likewise deserving of a fine but he had some excuse as his time was out that year and he might have had the chance of missing his passage home but even this though some palliation for his fault is not a sufficient excuse, however as the object of punishment should be to prevent an evil without causing unnecessary pain, In his expressing great contrition and a promise of better conduct for ever after. I have been induced not to enter his fine, as yet but he has been given to understand it is suspended till next year when if the Governor and Directors think proper and his conduct in the mean time is exemplary

the fine will be removed. it was the first offence of the kind. In the mean time the fine has been published for the sake of example to others.

7

I defer making any observations with respect to alterations or improvements as the union of the two Companies will cause alterations that I am not aware of. The increase in trade on last year on the whole of Albany Int. Districts is three thousand one hundred Mrs old standard

John Davis

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SECTION B

CLASS 123

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 6

DESCRIPTION MARTIN FALL

REPORT on DISTRICT

1820-1821

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MARTIN FALL

REPORT 1820-1821.

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Martins Fall District

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Reports for

1820/21.

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1820.21

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Martins Fall District Reports 1820/21

(by John Davis)

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

1st Narrative On the 26 June 1820. The Chief Factor left Martins Fall for Albany in company with John Smith and three Men in a Canoe leaving Mr James Hallet in charge of the post and a little below the house we met Mr William Christie who was on his way from Albany to Martins Fall which place he left again on the 28th and returned to Albany. On the 25th July the two Batteaux arrived from Osnaburgh and on the 27th they were sent down to meet the two Boats coming up from Albany for the purpose of assisting them as the water was remarkably shoal; and they returned back to Martins on the 30th in company with the two boats from below. The day following Mr William Christie receives the charge of the post from Mr Hallet. — On the 3rd August Mr James Hallet, Mr George Atkinson junr and Mr Wm Nourse with 18 Men took their departure for Osnaburgh and Red Lake Districts with the last of the supplies for the upper ports in two large Batteaux and a Canoe. — On the 6th following a packet arrived from below for the Northward Department and the following day was sent after Mr Hallet for him to forward to the frontier ports, On the 19 Sept. Mr Davis his Son and an Indian lad arrived at Martins Fall having left the Boats below as they were coming on but slowly on account of the River being remarkably shoal — for the purpose of taking an inventory and receiving the charge from Mr Christie before the arrival of the boats so that time may be gained in forwarding the People to Osnaburgh. — On the 24 following the Large Boat and a Batteau arrived from Albany with 90 Pieces of Goods and sixteen Men — On the 27 Mr William Christie and seven Men were sent off with only a few pieces of Provisions in a small

Batteau for the service of Osnaburgh and Red Lake Districts

On the 30th Septr. William Cursitor A and another Man were sent off for Henley there to pass the winter in case a packet should pass through that rout.

On the 11th December Mr John Davis and four Men went off for Osnaburgh house; when nearly half way on our journey one of the Men John Grey could not proceed, and we draged on to Narminiscar where I pointed out the fishing places and Rabbit ground to the Men, and angled some jack fish, the day following with one Man I proceeded for Osnaburgh being myself obliged to haul a sledge, and left two Men to take care of John Grey till such time as he may recover or assistance reach him from Osnaburgh; — we arrived at Osnaburgh on the 23, and on the 25 the Men I left at Narminiscar reached the house without accident. —

On the 29. December I left Osnaburgh house for Martins-Fall with three Men, and we reached our destination on the 9 January 1824. — On our journey to O.H. we fell in with two Canadians who were travelling with a sledge on which was a small parcel of Furs and what appeared to us a bundle of goods; and I afterwards found they were returning from some Indian tents, we traced their tracks to the Snake-falls where they took the woods to the southward, on my way back I traced their tracks to Perch Lake which is a short way to the Northd. of Tallinett where three of them passed the winter. — On the 20th January, one Man and an Indian came from Athowapiscat with a letter from John Smith (master there), requesting a supply of trading goods and on the 24th they returned with the addition of another Man. — Feby 6th I went off for Athowapiscat (to see how affairs stand there) with my Son and two Men we set up a range of Martin traps on our path and on the 18 we returned leaving one Man, who accompanied me, there on account of there being a plenty of fish at Athowapiscat

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and provisions are scarce at Martins Fall. On the 11 March three Men arrived from Osnaburgh with a request of Goods & Rum which cannot be complied with, this is a very inconsiderate measure on the part of Mr McKay and puts Martins Fall to very great inconvenience as provisions are scarce and this call for them was quite unexpected and unnecessary — On the 20 March Andrew Thompson and John Kirkness (the latter much froze in the feet) arrived with the winter despatch from the Governor and early on the 23 the three Men (from O.H. on the 20) and Thos. Thompson went off with Rum, Powder &c. — On the 2d April I again went off for Athowapiscat with Andrew Thompson to see how business is conducted there & see the Indians in that quarter, returned on the 12th with the addition of another Man who had been staying there. before my leaving the outpost John Reads was sent off to the frontier post from Severn with a letter to Mr William McDonald see Albany Inland correspondence No 14 in answer to No 14. On the 15th Apl two Men went off with an additional supply of Goods for Athowapiscat, these Men returned on the 19th having met two Men from there (by appointment) to whome they delivered the Goods &c. — On the 27 Apl. Geese were seen and on the 9th May the ice cleared sufficient to form a passage in the middle of the River. — On the 17 following Mr Bayfield five Men and an Indian went down for Albany they went in a large Boat and Batteau. On the 20th following David Norn and an Indian and his Wife arrived from Osnaburgh with letters and a packet from Governor Williams addressed to Governor Vincent, After a fruitless indeavour to get the Indian to go on for Albany (he was a perfect stranger to these parts) with the man David Norn, I fixed on the apprentice John Knot to go with David Norn, but through the Indians representations of Norns ignorance of the management of a Canoe in the rappids and his awkwardness I was induced to send my Son in the head of the

Canoe to prevent delay, The packet was two hours at Martins Fall. — On the 19th June the large Boat and a Batteau arrived from Albany with cargoe for Red Lake and Osnabugh. — when I learnt the distressing news that the Canoe conveying the Packet to Albany had upset when my poor unfortunate Son perished. — On the 23 Mess' McKay, Nourse and Atkinson, twelve Men and three Indians arrived from Osnabugh with the returns of that district and on the 26th Mess' Slatter and Calder arrived with 27 Packs of Furs in a Batteau and Canoe with 12 Men the day following the large Boat was sent to Albany with the packs from the two upper districts and part of Mr returns; some of the Red Lake people were sent down in company with this boat in a Batteau in case of accident as the water is remarkable shoal — they are to go on till they meet a Boat expected with the rest of the supplies for O.H. & R.L. when they are to receive this cargo and return to Martins fall On the 28th departure of the Boat and Canoe for Osnabugh was delayed by the refusal of Robert Dudley to do his duty he is the only boat steerer at the Place at the time and it was not till the 30 that this obstinate fellow was brought to his senses when he went off for O.H. his Wife and children were left at Martins Fall to insure his return both this Man and John Linklater have behaved so extremely unruly and insolent it is scarcely to be born they were the only two boat steerers to manage the boats above

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2 State of the Posts is the same as last year. Nothing more worth noticing has been done to the ground inclosed for cultivation for want of spare hands at the proper season of the year. — one Man was left at Mr this summer for the purpose of clearing off and burning the thick coat of Moss that covers some parts of the land the dry weather in summer is the only time for this purpose when fire may be applied, — The ground that was under cultivation gave a good increase (better than an Acre) 25 Hogs of Potatoes of 12 lb each was taken up. — most all the turnips and cabbage did not come up owing to the badness of the seeds. The Buck wheat that was sown by way of experiment ripened — some of which was put in the ground last fall and this spring again for experiment both of these spots were very flourishing when I left the place the latter end of June

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

3 Conduct of Officers and Men

Beads John; has done his duty, and conducted himself well.

Cragie James is of little use. is of an idle disposition and requires to be well looked after to be kept at such work as he can do, which is only of a domestic nature though it appears he agreed with Mr Geddes as a bowman which duty he cannot perform, expressed a wish to go home next year and as he is not worth his wages he would be a fit one to go home if the compliment of Men are to be reduced.

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Cursitor William A.A.xi deserves approbation his conduct expiring last june he got an advance of 5 £ to his wages for 3 years. He passed last winter at Henley where he expended less european provisions than his predecessor and traped 180 Martins for which he was paid goods to the amount at the rate of 1/ Pr skin this includes a gun he had and the charges on the goods, he is learning to steer a Batteau has taken one to Mt once, and is now off as steerer the second trip. is of a sober and trusty disposition.

Daniel Griffiths has given satisfaction is the most useful working hand in all Albany Inland being useful as well as the capacity of a cooper as well as steerer among other kegs he made 20 of 10 Gs for the upper districts is a good sawyer and understands a little carpentering on these accounts his wages is advanced from 30 to 35 £ Pr Ann his former wages was too little to maintain his numerous family.

Daniel John, has done what he could.

Kirkness William Labour has given satisfaction came out last year is able and more promising then the generality of the Men received these few years before the same may be observed of nearly all the Men received last year in this capacity

Scott John came out last year as Boatbuilder is a very indifferent workman and very slow, he was from the first week in March till the latter end of June building a small Batteau and had Jn Tate a great part of this time to assist him and when it was finished was found so very leaky on the first journey as to require bailing every hour, but this Man is attentive and willing

and like most of the tradesmen from Orkney though indifferent the first year or so may suit very well hereafter.

Smith John James has been in charge of the outport at Athowapiscat last winter, and though I was not entirely satisfied with his conduct, on the whole his management was far better than that of his predecessor Mr William Christy who wanted experiance as well as conduct, on the other hand John J Smith can scarce be trusted and I strongly suspect he is a drunkard when out of my observation. The Rum he had in charge (80 Gs) was all expended in February at the time I went over there however on his promises of more prudent conduct. I continued him in charge the result of his management of that port was a return of 2000 Mrs old standard which was more than double the former years trade. from his experiance and abilities in dealing with the Indians he would be a very useful servant was he deserving of confidence on the score of discretion and good conduct and needs to be closely looked after in the other branches of his duties as a trader, however on the whole he is more deserving than some other Officers of higher wages consequently I have advanced him from 35 to 40 £ for this year but this advance is to cease if he does not conduct himself satisfactorily. he is again sent in trader to Athowapiscat for want of a better.

Spence John has given satisfaction as a young hand

Redland Thomas (blacksmith) has but an imperfect knowledge of his business but is improving much and will soon make himself very useful in his business

Tate John has by his desire been assisting the Carpenter in building the Batteau he having some little knowledge

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of boatbuilding — he made a Sloop at Martins Fall in 1821 for which by way of encouragement I gave him £9, and I was generally satisfied with his conduct while he came to Albany in May last when he was employed in the store assisting Mr Ryefield in packing up boxes &c. when on one occasion he was disobedient and insolent in the extreme to Mr Ryefield and in the most violent and scurrilous language challanged him out in the yard to fight For this offence I have for the sake of subordination and good order thought fit to fine him 4£. —

Taylor Lachland is a very poor Laborer and not to be keeping as such. requests to go home

Thompson Andrew has given satisfaction as a good hard working Man

Servants belonging to the Store

Allan has been employed since May in making up accounts &c for which he appears competent has given satisfactions. wintered at Albany Old Factory

Ryefield R. C acts as storekeeper and was in charge at Martins Fall during my absence in winter. has given satisfaction in these capacities

Tate James. his conduct has been highly blameable both as it regards himself and the example he shews to others, young Man just entered the service. he has again returned to the habbit of drinking he broached and partly expended a Hundlet of Rum of the Cargo consigned to Martins Fall

that was put under his care, besides this 12£ of Rum was likewise expended on the journey a great portion of this he drank himself, and arrived at Martins Fall in so debilitated and nervous a state as to render him unfit to do his duty from this, and information received from others which I cannot doubt I deem Mr Tate unfit to be trusted with liquor, and as I have no other duties than those of a trader, wanting his assistance for him to perform. I can consequently give Mr Tate no employment.

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Indians

Anouch hunted 90 Mks paid his debt and brought all the hunt to Mr

Armoe and 3 Sons hunted about Athowapiscat and took all their skins there, but did not pay them debts taken at Athowapiscat and of course the debts given them at Badger River house is unpaid one of them the Eldest Namaskahekishpa a notorious rogue has 82 Mks unpaid at Athowapiscat and I am informed by Mr H. Mr McDonald he has 117 unpaid at Badger River house and his usual hunt is from 40 to 50 Mks in a year

Awaskish another Athowapiscat Indian hunted 87 Mks

Caucaupiss hunted 130 Mks for Mr and paid his debt

Chemaskookemas hunted 150 Mks do do

Kookemaskish brought to Mr 67 Mks and left 17 of his debt unpaid on which account he did not get a coat he is one of the worst hunters of Deers in the District but faithful to us as an instance the Canadiens at Lake Seul in with him, and took from him three green Ollers skins he had by him at the time but neither threats or promises

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could induce the Indian to give up his bundle of furs consisting of the whole of his winters hunt — and he informed me the Indian would not have got the three guns then had he not been starving at the time, when he got a supply of fish from them

Rachechokemar took to Athowapiscat 179 Mk all his hunt and paid his debt. The Indian I found at Athowapiscat on my visit there in April, I had received a list of debts from Mr W.m M.c Donald, that was said to be outstanding at Badger Bow house in this list Rachechokemar was said to be 8 Mk in debt as the Indian has some furs remaining after paying my debt I took the debt of 8 Mk, to this the Indian made much complaint affirming he had not so much debt from them and enumerated the articles he had which was under 8 Mk in this he strongly persisted affirming the N.r Master had cheated him — that the Trader at Badger Bow house is incorrect some way or other is clear and is proved by his own hand writing, as the first account stated this Indians debt 8 Mk and M.r M.c Donald was apprised that the 8 Mk was received but to my surprise the next last I received (by return of the messenger that conveyed to him the account of this debt having been paid) this Indian was said still to be 8 Mk in debt to the N.r post though the Indian was never there in the intervening time

Maitwinoway brought 85 Mk to Mk and paid his debt this Indian hunted about Talbenet and was consequently exposed to the Canadians who came in there last Fall and who met in with him both Fall and Spring but got very little from him.

Musherkecapps brought 169 Mk to Martens Fall and 32 to Athowapiscat traded intirely with us and paid his debt

Moosehappre & Sons made but middling hunts were absent part of the winter, took all their furs to Athowapiscat and did not pay their debts

Metchewayheshish brought 82 Mk to Mk all his hunt and paid his debt

Nasposwish brought 115 Mk to Mk and paid his debt

Nanepo and young Son brought 217 Mk to Mk and paid their debts

Narkishkewow (a Son of the above) brought 119 Mk & paid his debt

Shenap and Sons paid all debts and brought their furs to Mk their hunts as follows, Father 128 Mk, 1st Son 119 and 81 of last years debt this ought to have gone home last year but was put by far off and when the Indian brought it to Mk it was too late to be packed with the other furs sent home 2d Son 259 Mk the third Son hunts for Old Albany Factory, the 4th Son brought to Mk 175 Mk

Succaps and young Sons brought 247 Mk to Mk all their hunts and paid their debts except 36 Mk

Mnacon brought all his hunt to Mk 108 Mk & paid his debt

Weipack an Athowapiscat Indian went to Badger Bow house with the first of his hunt after brought his furs to Athowapiscat, the same conduct was pursued by his Brothers Penaceway gunn, Nons and their Families, these Indians belong to Athowapiscat

Weekelmar and his four Sons, Traded intirely at Athowapiscat with the exception of the 1st Son who went the first of the Winter to Badger Bow house where he paid 545 Mk of Debt given out at Athowapiscat and got debt advanced him on account of Badger Bow house by the Master there though this Indean as well as many others are known by the Traders to belong to Athowapiscat — however on my hearing a second time from M.r W.m M.c Donald at Badger Bow house or Wapiosbar we carefully

Donca

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No 25 a piece of paper was enclosed containing as follows. "Sir you will learn that we found it necessary to take the skins for our goods that Wekeemar's Oldest Son brought and which I took from him for the Athowapiscat debt after paying ourselves now there only remains 12 Mr. — with which your post will be credited in our district account Book Martins No 31". The first paper recieved was as follows "NB.— That Wekmar's oldest son paid 54 Mr on account of the Athawabtiscut Decemr the 30th 1820

Badger River house (signed) Donald Gunn

The aforesaid is due 40 Mr at this place DG"

so that the Furs Mr Gunn on the first occasion informed the Master at Athowapiscat was taken from the Indian for his debt and was placed to the credit of Athowapiscat was afterwards changed to the account of Wappicobar, or in other words the Athowapiscat debt was traded at Wappicobar or Badger River house and this debt remains now unpaid so that the company have paid twice over for 40 Mr such are a part of the mischiefs occasioned by the Northward settlement interfering with our trade but this is only one among several instances of the like nature or indeed wors but this is mentioned in prefference by me on account of my being able to prove it from the papers recieved from there.

Keenapick and Sons hunted about Perch lake.— The old Man gave his winters hunt to the Canadians; the two Sons brought all their to Martins Fall 136 Mr except a few Musquash the NW people took from them in the fall of the year. the Father I am informed was starving in the winter and hunted very few furs.—

The Canadians would have forced the Bundles of Furs belonging to the Sons from them but for the determined conduct of the Indians. the Canadians made the Indians drunk and after offering them goods and exausting

all their promises, threats &c, were obliged at last hastily to depart in fear of the Indians whome they much invaged, there were Osnaburgh Indians till this too last year

Naobarbarn brought all his furs to No 128 Mr and paid his debt

Paparmakeshick's 4th Son brought to No 47 Mr which was taken on account of Henley District he being a long Lake Indian. This Indian was murdered in Feb 7 by Naobarbarn when drunk at his tent.

The Indians have had a good and plentiful Winter and have been faithful to our interests The Athowapiscat Indians have all returned there, as might be expected that place being in the midst of their hunting grounds some of them complain of their treatment from Badger River house, but I am too well aware of the Indian character to believe them, their intention no doubt is to cheat both houses if they can and by that means instead of their industry supplying their wants. and this will be the case if the Trader at Badger River house incourages them as has been the case but as he has now experianced; and fell a dupe to their artifice, he will be wiser for the future it is to be hoped

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Canadians It was not known that three of them were passing the winter at perch lake till my return from Osnaburgh in January. they got very few furs from the Martins Fall District Indians, none of their Indians visited Martins Fall.

Trade The returns from the District this are greater I believe than any former year, last was an increas of 800 Mkr old standard on the former year, and this is an increas of 1700 Mkr of last year, and the Furs of this year of a more valuable quality the increas being great in proportion on Beaver, Otters and Martens, the former is double last years returns though they are still short of former returns of this skin owing to the decreas of this animal which is the general complaint in all quarters

This was got at a trifling additional expence in proportion to the increas of Furs — The cause in part of this increas was the exertions of the Indians were aided by a favorable season — and I imagine a different management of the Indians these two years past.

The outport at Athowapiscat greatly added to this increas without a skin being recieved from any Indians but those who have traded there or at Martens Fall for time immemorable The trade from the outport was 280 Beaver 2480 Martens 1500 Musquash and 210 Otters this would be a very valuable post if managed properly, and the opposition we experiance from Badger River house removed by not affording unnecessary assistance to the Athowapiscat Indians and giving credit to the plausable stories of the Indians by which means they get their wants supplied by cheating the Trader instead of exerting their industry — 900 Martens were traped by the servants and their wives the get at the rate of 1/ each skin in goods at a price covering all costs.

Furnished at Old Albany
2d August 1821

John Davis.

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SECTION B

CLASS 123

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 7

DESCRIPTION MARTIN FALL
REPORT ON DISTRICT

1823

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MARTIN FALL

REPORT 1823

7
1823

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B. 123/e/7

1823. Martin's Falls

Ex 653/532

1823

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Reference: B123/e/7

Report No 81 – AR – 1823

2

To Angus Bethune Esq.

(Sir)

The number of Men employed at Martins Fall in 1822/23 were five viz John Beads whose Contract expires 1823 aged 25, Willm Cursiter aged 27 his Contract expires 1823 been 8 years in the Service and a native of Orkney, Willm Hurrie deceased been 8 in the Service Michael Lawler a Native of Ireland aged 31 been 8 years in the service is under no Contract. Hugh Sutherland a native of Orkney aged 23 been 5 years in the service his Contract expired 1823 all of whom are good Hands and faithful Servants.

There are about 36 Hunting Indians belonging to this place, they are in General a peaceable well disposed set of Indians not given to that Cunning like those who have been accustomed to the Opposition System. — There are I think 1½ Acre of ground in Cultivation this Mossy Soil is very subject to blights on account of its being surrounded for the most part with low Marshy plains; — the produce of last year was 100 Bushels of Potatoes some Turnips Cabbages &c &c the former of which was blighted twice in the Course of the Summer. — The resources of this part of the Country is indeed poor, very few fish to be got at any season of the year; two or three of the above Hunting Inds may bring once in the course of the year a few pounds of dried Venison but never before they themselves have enough, which is very rare, they more Generally come starving to the place than otherwise, I encouraged them last winter to bring in meat, one Indian brought a little which was scarcely eatable.

Martins Fall
23 June 1823

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Jacob Corrigal

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Report
from Moose Fort
1822/3

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SECTION B

CLASS 123

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 8

DESCRIPTION Martin Fall

Report on District

1824

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HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
B 123 e

MARTIN FALL

REPORT 1824

8
1824

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No 102 Martins Fall Report 1824

E 676
B 123/e/8
1824

To

Angus Bethune Esquire

Chief Factor Albany

Sir

Occurrences

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

On the 28th June three Indians arrived from down the river for ammunition having met the Boats going to Albany Mr Finlayson took their Furs on board knowing that I could not have had an opportunity of sending them down had they brought them here received a note from him stating the quantity and quallity of the Skins he received from them, these Indians informed me that on their Journey up they found the body of William Hurry who was drowned here on the 13th May at or a little below the Six Islands, they said that they took great pains and buried it as well as they possibly could and set up a stick at the grave.

On the 6th July three Indians came in from up the river they informed me that they saw Numa-kakeushick (Amoes 2d Son) in the spring and that he went direct to Trout River an Inland Post from Severn with his winters Hunt had he not met with a kind reception there he would have been here before now with his Furs to pay his Debt, see more of him under the Head regarding Indians in a note under his Name in this report. On the 15th three Batteaux arrived from Albany on their route to Osnaburgh and Lake Sal and on the 16th proceeded on their Journey.

On the 13th August three Men returned from Osnaburgh and proceeded on for Albany.

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Reference B123/e/8

On the 24th three Indians came in from down the river to inform me that they had made the two fishing Baskets which I requested them to make.—

On the 4th September sent John Beads and his wife in a small canoe down the river to examine the Baskets and see if they are in good order and also to tell the Indians if he saw any to come in to assist in taking down the Boat with the Casks &c.— On the 7th Beads and the Indians arrived no fish they say to be got from one of the Baskets on account of the water being very high.—

On the 8th sent John Beads along with the Indians in a Batteau down to the Basket with 7 Barrels and 20 kegs salt and other necessaries to cure fish for winter use.— On the 23 Mr John Daves arrived from the coast and proceeded for the interior on the 25th.— On the 26th Beads with the Indians returned from the Basket with the Batteau having filled all the Barrels and rundlets with Suckers.— On the 27th sent two Men to Moosewookey Lake to make a fall fishing they returned on the 19th of October to inform me that they have caught very few fish on account of the great hight of water. Sent them of again in hopes they may have better success under the Ice when the Lake sets in, they returned again on the 19th of November having caught no fish since they went off last were obiged to use of what they had procured before, they lost four New Nets endeavouring to fish under the Ice.—

On the 23 Slaughtered the Ox being short of Provisions weight 603lb.— On the 29th December sent two Men to Albany as their services can be dispensed with, the three Men now here are sufficient for this Post, wrote to Mr Bethune to this effect a Copy of which is entered in the Journal of Occurrences on the above date.—

On the 18th January the two men who were dispatched

for Albany on the 29th Ulto returned having met with a great deal of rough Ice and one of them sprained his foot which were causes of their returning.—

On the 19th sent off the same two Men to Albany wrote a note to Mr Bethune stating the causes of their turning back the first time they were sent off.—

On the 24th two Men arrived from the coast with an express for the Northern Department received a Letter from Angus Bethune Esquire which is entered in the Journal of Occurrences 24th January.—

On the 28th dispatched two Men to Osnaburg with the Winter express.— On the 22d February sent two Men along with Indians to fetch Venison they returned on the 26th.— On the 28th the same two Men who were sent to Osnaburgh on the 28th Ulto returned with an express to the Governor and Council from the Northern Department.— On the 2d March forwarded the Northern express to the coast by two Men and answered Mr Bethunes to me of the 26th December, a Copy of which is entered in the Journal of Occurrences 2d March, On the 7th one of the above two Men returned for more Provisions it being warm weather from the time they went off untill this day which together with one of them having filled a Tree on himself retarded their Journey, on the 8th sent off the traveller to his partner with more Provisions.— On the 30th sent two men to an Indian Tent to bring Venison they returned on the 2d Aprile with as much as they and the Dogs could haul.— On the 10th five Indians came in two of whome brought little or nothing been starving they say all the winter which prevented them from Hunting Martins they informed me that all the Indians who are in the Northern quarter

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are in the same predicament. — On the 16 several families of Indians came in all of them brought very poor Hunts, some of them brought a quantity of dry and half dried Venison, scarcity this year is a general complaint among the Indians. — May the 25 the river Ice broke and cleared away this has been a remarkable cold Spring. — On the 29th sowed some Barley. — On the 4th June began to plant Potatoes. — On the 25 an Indian and two of his Sons came in with a few Beaver Skins which they have killed since the river opened, they said that they saw a long Lake Indian at Jeepy Teepee who told them that he was sent down to kill Beaver in that quarter a son they say of the big Martin. — On the 28th June John Davis Esqr. arrived from the interior with two Batteaux and a large Canoe and on the 30th proceeded for Albany. — On the 2d July a Boat arrived from Albany with Supplies for next years Trade, received a letter from Angus Bethune Esquire which is copied in the Journal of Occurrences 2d July. — On the 3 early dispatched a large Canoe to Osnaburgh with cargo and after arranging the business of this Post I delivered the charge of it to Mr. Finlayson and took my passage to Albany in the Boat of yesterday. —

Several families of Indians have not as yet been in with their winter Hunts but are daily expected, their Furs will be sent to Albany by the return of the above mentioned Canoe from the interior.

On the 16th August at Moose Factory I received a Letter from Mr. Nicol Finlayson which is copied in the Journal of Occurrences, informing me of the arrival of the long looked for Indians together with an account of the Furs received from them which he sent down to Albany by the return of the Canoe from Osnaburgh on the 24 July.

C 2

State of the Post

The building is one large House two story high was built in the Spring 1805, all the business of the Inland settlements from Albany was at that period transacted at this place but as that is not the case now the House is too large and incommodious, it should in my opinion be taken down and rebuilt into three detached Houses a Masters House, Mens House and a store which is all the buildings that are required, except a Cow Bire which was built last Summer; the first two logs in the foundation of the House are much decayed, it was new roofed in summer 1822 and is pretty tenable. —

There are better than two Acres of ground cleared and under [illegible], the produce of it last fall was 150 Bushels of Potatoes, some Turnips, Carrots and a few Cabbages, and also about 2½ Bushels of very fine Barley which was sown on the 14 May merely for an experiment, and reaped on the 8 September a sample of it is sent to you, I am of Opinion that it would be beneficial to follow up the growth of Barley, the ground here is, not I think unfavourable for the production of that grain, have sown some again this Spring, the Soil is very subject to blights on account of which Potatoes seldom or ever grow to a state of perfection, the crop last year were of a small size on account of being blighted on the 31st August, I have indeed known them to have been blighted in July. —

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Resources There are no sure resource whatever for Provisions except a fishing Basket at a small Creek a considerable distance down the river on the South side where

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plenty of small grey Suckers or Carp can be procured and salted for winter use, no other kind of fish are caught at this Basket, it never fails and can be kept up whatever may be the state of the water, there is another Creek on the North side of the river nearly opposite to this one where a Basket can be erected in a season of low water, the fish from this Creek are much preferable to those caught in the former, they consist of fine large Suckers, pearch and Jackfish or pike. There is a small Lake called Moosewockey about half a days walk up the river where a few fish may be caught in the fall when the water is in a middling low state, but when high it is in vain to attempt fishing at that place, there is also a Creek opposite to the House on the North side of the river which would be of great benefit to the place during the Summer season provided a Basket could be made and kept up in it, there was one erected in it last Summer but not of much benefit on account of the water rising just after and continued high during the Summer and fall. —

Of Men employed. Three men are a complement quite sufficient for discharging all duties of this Post except in the Haymaking season and fall fishing when an Indian or two if required can be hired to assist in those jobs and also, in taking in the crop of Potatoes should it be found necessary to employ them. John Beads, Michael Lawler and William Cursiter are the three Men now employed. They are all active and very obedient servants well adapted for the place. —

C 3 7 4

Regarding the Trade

The Trade of this Post is less than that of last year, one principle cause of it is the uncommon scarcity of Martins which was a general complaint among the Indians last winter, as for Beaver they are now very much exhausted in this quarter which will be seen by comparing the Trades of later years with those of former ones, in 1812 there was 1640 large and 900 Cub Beaver Skins in the Trade of that year all of which were procured at the place there was no outpost, in last years Trade there was only 750 large and 409 Cub Beaver Skins, this year there are only 257 large and 75 Cub Beaver in the Trade, last years Trade consisted of Summer Furs and winter Cub Beaver as usual, as the Natives were not yet told to desist from killing these Furs, last Spring was the first opportunity that offered after receiving instructions to enjoin them not to kill winter Cub Beaver and Summer Furs, they were all made acquainted with this order seperate as they came in with their winter Hunts in the Spring 30 and the benefit pointed out that would arise to them and their Children by adhering to it, as for Summer Skins I have not found out much reason to complain of their having breaken through the order, but some of them have not adheared to the injunctions that were given to them regarding the winter Cub Beaver but killed all that they found their reasons for so doing will be seen in a note under each Indians Name under the Head regarding Indians in this report.

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Regarding principle Indians

Smitchewayhuschick He hunted only 18 Beaver during the winter which consist on 3 large Beaver 2 Cub 3 Cats 1 Bear an otter and a few Martens, when asked why he did not spare the Cub Beaver alive as he was desired last Spring he said he was hungry at this time and was sure that there were no more of them, about the middle of the winter he starved very much, his life was saved by falling in with other Indians, he belongs formerly to Lake St. Anns and Traded with me three years successively 1795 and 99. he is now old and Hunts but little. —

Anouch He only 16 Beaver during the winter and Spring he also starved although he would not confess it but said when he arrived in April with his few Skins on his back that he had 60 Beaver in Martens at his Tent which he did not like to bring as it was soft weather when he came off it was found out in the Spring that he had lost a voluminous fatsheed. —

Awashusk His winters Hunt was 32 Beaver four of which are large Beaver Skins the rest consist in Martens and Otter. he brought one Cub Beaver Skin the reason he gave for killing it was that he wanted to eat it.

Cawachis Hunted 37 Beaver which consist on 7 large and 5 Cub Beaver Skins the rest in Otter and Martens. It was hunger he said that made him kill the Cub Beaver, I know he starves very much.

Kiewashoquiscaw He hunted 50 Beaver last winter and Spring 6 of which are large Beaver 3 or 4 Cub Beaver and the rest consist in Otter and Martens, he shot the Cub Beaver in the Spring the excuse he gave for doing was that he wanted to pay part of his great Debt.

Estawishiquoyaw Was not yet come in when I left Martins Fall in the 3 Lake

Hoegimaskusk Hunted only 21 Beaver during the winter he has a large family which prevents him from killing much Furs he lay at a fishing the first of the winter which is the principle time for Trapping Martens amongst his Hunt were 3 Cub Beaver Skins, he said that his Children were hungry and he could not pass victuals when he saw it were the reasons he gave for killing them. —

Jappiy His hunt in all is 39 Beaver 15 of which are large Beaver Skins the rest consist on Otter, Musquash a few Martens and 5 Cub Beaver which he shot last Spring before he was told not to kill any and came on too late to get them sent to Albany he acknowledged to the Men when at his Tent in winter for Venison that he had killed 4 Cub Beaver and singed two of them the other two he made Slaves of. —

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Jenny Hunted during the winter and Spring 77 Beaver 11 of which are large Beaver Skins 2 Cub Beaver 3 Otters and the rest in Martens, he made no answer when asked why he killed the Cub Beaver.

Kiecanoocat Paid 20 Beaver of his Debt at Albany one large Beaver Skin and 6 prime Otters the rest consist all in Martens. —

Kieckehoogimaw He is one of the best Hunters belonging to this place but his wife being very unwell all the winter prevented him from Hunting he stoped at a [illegible] brought only 15 Beaver in Martens and Otters. —

Kinepick Was not yet arrived when I left Martens Fall on the 3 Jules, but have received since then an account his having been in and paid 20 Beaver of his Debt.

Keeshenap Not arrived on the 3 Jules, but have heard since that he will not be in till late in the Summer.

Matwinoway He hunted 62½ Beaver 21 of which are large Beaver and 2 of it Cub Beaver the rest consist in Martens, prime Otters and a few Musquash, when asked why he killed the Cub Beaver he said he killed them to pay his Debt and had he left them alive they could not have lived for after breaking the lodge and killing the old ones they would for certain have been frozen to death, this is the general opinion of the Indians.

Miskekiecappow Hunted 110 Beaver during the winter and Spring, although he is one of the best Beaver Hunters at this place he brought only 9 larg Beaver Skins the rest of his Hunt consist in prime Otters, Cats Martens Bears and a few Musquash he denied having killed any Cub Beaver but I have reason to believe that he did kill some for when he arrived in winter one of his wives gave a little pounded meat to John Beads wife amongst which were found a piece of singed Beaver. —

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Miscowpeemates He killed 110 Beaver which he brought in about the first of April and said he had some more which he killed in the first of the winter but left them far off and would not be in here with them till Summer, what he brought consists in 9 large Beaver 5 Otters and 59 Martens

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Mooshappy He and his two Sons were not yet arrived when I left Martins Fall on the 3d July, have received an account since then of their arrival and paid 147 Beaver of their Debts.

Nanepow Hunted 33½ Beaver during the winter and Spring which consist in 3 large Beaver 3 Cats 1 Wolvereen a few Musquash and the rest in Martins.

Nuckishcowaw Has hunted during the fall and winter 71 Beaver 26 of which are large Beaver Skins the rest consist Chiefly in Martins and Otters, he denied having killed any Cub Beaver but I understand that he killed 4 and singed them no doubt as there were none of the Skins seen with him.

Numakakushick (Amoes 2d Son

He is one of those Indians who are (for later years) commonly called Athawapiscat Indians, he came in here in the fall 1822 for his winters Debt and owes 96½ Beaver to this place, in the Spring 1823 he went to the Post from Severn at Trout river with his winters Hunt and has not been here since.

Paneseweggquon and his Sons and Brothers, Weejack and Nono are all Martins Indians but are encouraged to Trade at Trout river for several years back a Post in the interior from Severn.

Shawinecappow was not yet arrived on the 3d July when I left Martins Fall, he arrived short after and paid 27 Skins of his Debt.

Shewayass He also was not arrived on the 3 July, I heard since that he arrived short after with 33 Beaver of his Debt.

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Shenap Brought in 38½ Beaver in Aprile 8 of which are large and Cub Beaver the rest consist Chiefly in Martins, he left some Furs far off he says in the early part of the winter which he does not intend to bring untill Summer.

Succass He Hunted during the winter and Spring 78 Beaver 9 only of which are large Beaver the rest consist in a few Otters, Musquash and Martins, he brought one Cub Beaver, no reason was asked why he killed it.

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He is one of those Indens who are (for later years) commonly called Thawapiscat Indians, he came in here in the fall 1822 for his winters Debt and owes 96½ Beaver to this place in the Spring 1823 he went to the Post from Severn at Trout river with his winters Hunt and has not been here since. —

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Thawinecappow was not yet arrived on the 3d July when I left Martins Fall, he arrived Short after and paid 27 Skins of his Debt.

Thewayass He also was not arrived on the 3 July, I heard since that he arrived Short after with 33 Beaver of his Debt.

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Thenup Brought in 30½ Beaver in Aprile 8 of which are large and Cub Beaver the rest consist Chiefly in Martins, he left some Furs far of he says in the early part of the winter which he does not intend to bring untill Summer. —

Succass He Hunted during the winter and Spring 78 Beaver 9 only of which are large Beaver the rest consist in a few Otters, Musquash and Martins, he brought one Cub Beaver, no reason was asked why he killed it.

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Unican Paid at Albany 6½ Beaver of his Debt of which are Large Beaver 2 prime Otter and the rest in Martins.

Uniockay Abonessecum Moses Ebert Son

He and his young Lads in his Care came here in the Fall 1822 for their Supplies for the winter, but neither of them have been here since, they also must have gone to Trout River.

Weekema and his five Sons were not yet arrived on the 3d July when I left Martins Fall, I heard from them towards Spring that they has been in a State of great Starvation all the winter and but procured scarce any Furs yet about the middle of March when they were last seen, I have heard since that they will not be in till the latter end of the Summer.

N.B. Several young Lads Boys and Women are not mentioned.

The total amount of the Trade this year is better than 1700 made Beaver (the Hudsons Bay Standard) the great decrease in Large Beaver Skins (that in lieu Beaver is accounted for) this year is in my Opinion occasioned partly by the Indians being unwilling to open Beaver lodges when they could possibly avoid it as they are convinced that this lodge cannot be opened for the purpose of killing the Old ones and the young Beaver to survive afterwards, I have already stated the opinion of the Indians on this head, should my opinion be correct it certainly is the most effectual method of nursing the Beaver, and I firmly believe that no better measure can

be adopted to nurse the few which now remain in this part of the Country.

It will be observed that there are Bands of the above mentioned Indians who are in the habit of Trading at Port in the interior from Severn on Trout River, their only reason for Trading at that Post is because it is in the vicinity of their Hunting ground and saves them a little trouble in visiting Martins Fall as usual, it is not a great many years since that Post on Trout River was established and as there is now no opposition at it is my humble opinion that it ought to be withdrawn and the Indians go to Severn as formerly for their Supplies, if was to take place the Indians who now absent themselves from here would return and Trade at this Post as formerly, but should it be found actually necessary for this Post to be kept up from Severn I would then in that case give it as my opinion that those Indians who have absented themselves from Martins Fall should be all together transferred to the Severn Department.

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Jacob Corrigal

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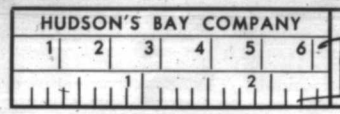

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Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 123

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 9

DESCRIPTION MARTIN FALL

REPORT on DISTRICT

1826 - 1827

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MARTIN FALL

REPORT 1826-1827.

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1826-1827

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B. 123/e/9
1826/27

No 60

Report of Martin's Tall
Edward Mowat

1826/27

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June 1 Narrative of occurrences Hapd at Martins Fort

finished planting the last of the potatoes and had on hand 1 bl of corean and
a few Tomeahs after wards constantly employed when at the neive
boulleans to get them Ready to pass the winter in before the fall came
on which was hard to do as we had scarcely Litel provisions to dress it on and no fish
to be got no sooner nie the pleas only what I employed Indians to hunt and
Sall and bring to the pleas and that was only Succarees and in deed wase
some vitels to work & hard on in the Lot of Summer on as for the sauce
Geese that was sent upe I was obliged to keep tal the hay making and
the Indians that wrought at the pleas I could give no more then on half of
Gooses pear Indian pear day and on pecind of flower or cals Mr Grits
which was as Litel as I could get them to work on but I was obliged to
make it upe in Lieke of ofen times and having only two men and the boy
at the pleas it could not be thought that we could manish much work and
as I expected a man upe in the Summer with the Inland people and then bring
more Sent w Those they had more then was Sufficent to serve the
Crafts being obliged to get a Cance from this pleas to Reavey upe two
of their Canoes having more people then a nofe to manne their Crafts
August 19 Brugen to Cut and Elect hay til the arreval of the two Indians to assist
past that is the Cows and Son which is the only Indians that I can get
" " 20 having got on boat of hay from a Lary Canoe and fower men arived from
osnaboursh for the Remains of the goods Left Hear in the Somear by Mr
Winlayson and brought the Semlay of the Chief factor Alexander Kenedy
to be Sent to Albany bay the first opertunety and Rest to send them in safety
is now then I know as I have only on man at the pleas the other having Leamed
him Self that he is not fit to Supervem his dooties Leaven Cut him Self with
the foat age Som time befor we brugen to make hay
" " 21 Sent the Canoe back to osnaboursh and the goods and the fower men
" " 23 Sent Andrew Thomson along with the Semlay of the Chief factor Mr Kenedy
to Albany in two Small Canoes it being the only man I had that was able
to doo his dooties at that time having only the man that is Leame and
the two Indians and my Self to geat hay and to manish the boat about the
falls the boy and Indean woman a lenden the hay at the pleas
Sept 1 paid the two Indians and Sent them upe the Neviar to fish and drie

dree and bring to the pleas what they could and to assist in
Taken upe the potatoes the most I had and Self imployed boulleen the hay
19 Robert Scolle and two Indians and Self and two Indian women Imployed to take upe
the finest of the potatoes being afraid to delay every longer as there no Leaves and the
nather Longum to get cold and the Indians wishing to Leave the pleas to go to their hunting ground
21 paid the two Indians for their work at the pleas and Sent them to their hunting ground
Haven got upe the most of the potatoes Let in the swing Andrew Thompson arived
from albany Leaving him detained there ten dayes at the factory
23 having finished taken upe the last of the potatoes and meaney of them frosted before we
could get the last of them upe for want of people 150 Bus heads in all Let in
the swing John Graves wyoing hand arived from osnaboursh in Compeny with an
old Indian woman Sent her by Mr Pinlayson to assiste in Fishen in the fall
but she was verey aseen Sick for fishen at this pleas a mong a pecind of Sailes
had he Sent eany other on of his men her they could doo far Later being all old
Hands and a pecind of the newear where as this being wyoing hand and only
served 2 yr in Canada from Mr Inverness in Compeny with the Semlay of
the Chief factor Mr Alexander Kennedy
27 Sent the packet away to the fall fishen only the boy remains at the pleas
with my Self Haven no provisions at the pleas except potatoes which was our
only feeude that the boy and I had as there was not on fish to be got no sooner
a bout the pleas that we could Set nets in
oct 11 a boat and five men arived from albany with a Supplie of goods and provisions
which is in chief me to finesh the Trade and Let hiss the boulleans other ways
had none been Sent I Should not then abel to finesh the trade nor to hasten on
the work as the goods Sent upe last Summer was not Sufficent to make the Trade
on at this pleas and the small Stock of provisions that was Sent upe in
the Summer and no fish to be got it could not be thought that much work
could be don
15 Returned the boat and fower of the men to albany and Robert Andrew Kirkness
to pass the winter at this pleas a cordeen to ordens received with the boat
20 The people arived from the fishen and informed me that they could
not get So meaney as they could eat being in tirley fealed that nothing
was to be got no sooner that they could Set their nets haven then got boug
of all Kindes 1400

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Oct 21 Sent two of the men upe to moosewake Lake to bring Down the nets from
Ther Sent Andrew Thompson down the river to the Long reay to the Indians
To Self they could give me eany fish and if not to return directly and
be Near to meet the men that ar bring Down the nets but if the Indians
Could give eany fish to Remain ther til the arrivel of the men and Boat
24 Sent the three men and the boat down the River to the Indians at the Eastmain
28 The four men arrived Down and brought 2000 Small Fish except Traded
from the Indians Trade for Leather and Shoes
Nov 1 Sent Andrew Thompson and the boy upe the north creek with nets to remain and
fish til he Could work Down the other men fald on and Clevelen fire wood
15 Rode The old cow being alleged as the fishen failed So much that I could
not Keep the people at the pleas without Killing her Her weight was 700 lb
The yong Calf being Killed in the fall Lay the old Quite
18 Andrew Thompson arrived Down from the fishen but had got no Loth Nets
So many as he Could Procure
21 Sent Thompson back to bring Down the nets The Rest of the people Cutting
and Clocting fire wood in the wood
Dec 9 Sent Robert Scolle and Andrew Thompson upe to glasstear to Sent Nabbit
13 Robert Scolle and andrew Thompson arrived Down with five Hundred of fish
from moosewake as they Could find no more but Expected worth Stopen for
16 Sent the Four men upe to moosewake to Make fish down
22 The men arrived Down with the Last of the fish from moosewake 1800
in all Haveing Been in plagued Makeing them Sent a Bove mean ched
Jan 26 Sent Robert Scolle and Andrew Thompson and Andrew Kirkcaple upe the river
To fald and Clevel Logs to saw in wather barden for the pleas the other man
Quilen one Quite
13 The people arrived Down Haveing got 30 Long Logs and Seven less of them in
plank for a Scheal and other conveniencies
26 Laid The foundation of a Shead 12 fot wide and 18 fot Long in the front of
The pleas Joining Close to the Corners of the Stores
Feb 6 Laid The foundation of a Shead 12 fot wide and 26 fot Long Lieing 5 fot
different Between the breast of the first an and the one now mouched in the
front of the pleas the breadth of greates right acrossitary to the door of
The dwealen Houses and 6 fot different from the Corner of the men Houses

Houses to the Corner of the last mouched Shed and from the Corner of the men Houses
To the Corner of the dwelen Houses 16 fot and from the Corner of the Stores to the other
Corner of the dwealen Houses is 6 fot which Leaves the Westeans for four
gratis which is all finished Except Sent and the four gratis
Along the Coant of the yeard from the Store to the men Houses is 80 fot and
The Breath from the dwelen Houses to the Sheades is 30 fot which forames
The yeard which is all Lead with two inches plank 15 fot Long and 200
in nosumber and 80 Plank Lay the yeard of the Store and the men Houses
which is all finished Lieing all Cast this winter and 255 wather Boarding
Andrew Thompson and John Drawer Carter upe the river Seven wather
Carter Robert Scolle and Andrew Kirkcaple Seven Plank at the
pleas The men Houses is wather boarded all round Sides and Roupe the
Sheades ar wather boarded over the roupe which is all it Requeres to be
Ther ar verey Litel wanted more about the pleas only Stocks Sheades if
it be Required to put them which Can be don the next Spring as the ar
more to get this Winter Hous to Lay Hostes cotton and Set around the
Lary garden and 300 Reailing 12 fot Long to end in the hostes that
Reailen slope as it was at Present the Small Reailen that was about it
was got for nothen that we could not Keep the Cattel out of it
May 22 Began to Plant potatoes planted 22 Rigs and 22 gallons of Barley Sean which
is all the ground that is Clear at the pleas our Crope of potatoes was 150
Buskels and four Busthels of Barley Last fall
The men Have wrought verey hard at this pleas Sence the winter and Spring
on the accounts that Had to give them as our fish was verey Scarce
and being obliged to Call the men from moosewake and to Haves the fish
The 21 Oct. it Stel med them woos and the Chief part of them was
Sick Heard which was Power Loving to work Hard work on that we Have had
and the Indians Coming to the pleas Stirring Stel med it Shorter the Sick Season
and Less Sembley Since in nosumber Had to mention a month at the pleas which Lay
verey Hard on us they Long Stirring most of the winter and as nosuch as they
Could Reck the pleas and not Chel to Leve it Let the Least of which
Robert Scolle is a verey youseful man and is wrought verey Hard to get
The pleas in ordour both Last and early and is verey Handey at most that
he is put to and Litel can answer for a fisher man at this pleas

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Andrew Thompson has wrought verey hard this winter pilltery at the hot Lake and is verey agreeable to doue what ever he is ordered to doe and answeares for a fisher man at this Pleas verey well and goes Shriveer for Fish in the fall John drawer yong Hand Sent Hear Lay Mr. finlayson Lost fall from Snakeing to assist in fishing but he Sented Hardly with that as he was never Ben yoused to going in a Small Canoe but the man is verey willing to doue what ever he is told and has don his dautey this winter verey well Lying in plenty part of the winter at the Long Fall

Andrew Kinkenaft Sent her from Albany with the fall boat to hate the winter hear has don his dautey that was hot to him and is verey willing to doue what hee is ordred to doe but he is verey Slow and long in dowing any thing that he is pot to doue

The apprentes Lay James Heller Sent her last Spring is Certenly the worst of the Boys that Ray had to Hand for he is exceeding lesey and must be attended Closely befor eany an geate eney work out of him but he is far Later then he was when he Came first to Hand

The most of the Indians Belonging to this Pleas have Starved this winter as ther was no deare in ther Lands and it is ben greately a genest ther Hunting as they Complain that the Lenear is entirly fallen and that ther only Leven is what fish they Cane gett in the fall and winter which often preverents them from Hunting Martens as they have nothing to eat to Hunt them on Succass and his Sones have Stoved all the winter which has med them Come Short of payen ther debtes and Likwas his brother the Crow and his Son have Stoved that they Could not attend to Hunt martens

Most of the Athawapiscat Indians have don pretey well this winter beter then they have don for Some years back most of them have paid ther debtes that have ben hear but Som of them ar not arrived as yeat the only Boy that has don nothing amongst them is old Wechema and ole Penaseweyppon which is ben badely all the winter they have not Hunted one marten old Mooshappy has ben badely which have med him come in debt Short of his debtes but his Sons Have don pretey well and paid ther debtes and Trade Nanepow and his Sons have don well and most of them have paide ther debtes and Trade ther Hunts Comes to a bout 170 Made Beaver but they Seem not to be Satisfied about taken of Thenade and

and his Sons from this Pleas to Albany as they ar all frendes and often went to gether and Some yeat this fall and Spring Thenade and his Sons allyt brought the best Hunts to this Pleas of eany of the Indians Belongen to this Pleas did and I mencher what Nanepow and his Sones have Hunted Because I doe not think that they ar yeanest hay taken them to Albany

The Trade of this pleas is better then last year in Beaver and Martens but not So many mesquash nor bears but on the whole it is better then last year

The Indians ar Poorely of for want of Cather at this Pleas all that they got from me did not prevent Som of them from Curen upe Som of ther yours Ther ar at preasent Remaining at well Be a Suffich to them this winter but I dont think that ther will be eaney Remaine for the enSuseen winter that it will requeer a Supplee to be Sent upe the next Spring

Ther is non of the Young Cathe Indians ben hear Since the last fall only an old man Son of the others that was ther last Summer ar ben at no pleas downe the fall and winter as Some informed hay Som of the Indians hat have Cut cathe ther Sons and Clothed them Selves with Sewing the winter

E E

Edwd. Mount

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THE END.

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INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 123

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 10

DESCRIPTION MARTIN FALL
REPORT on DISTRICT

1827 - 1828

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B 123 e

MARTIN FALL

REPORT 1827-1828

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1827-1828

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(52) Ex 864 B. 123/e/10 1827/28

Martins Falls Trading Post Report on the Trade dd 1827/28

1827. Narrative

July 21 Arrived here in company with Messrs Charles McKenzie and Nicol Finlayson it being our 16th day from Albany - nothing occurred on the journey worthy of notice -

23 Mr Edward Mowat gave me up the charge of this place agreeably to instructions received from Chief Factor Kennedy - Messrs McKenzie and Finlayson left here for their Winter Quarters in three Boats - manned by eleven hired servants two apprentices, two Indians and a youth of the name of Morrisseau -

24 Mr Mowat and myself took an Inventory of all the Trading Goods &c remaining here -

27 A party of Indians arrived this morning - received their necessaries for the Winter and went off

28 Three sons of Pennaysayway guon came in for their Winter supplies which they received and went off

August 1 Mr Edward Mowat Andrew Kirkness and the apprentice Boy James Slater took their departure in a small boat for Albany -

2 Andrew Thompson and John Drever whom I sent up to Mooseawawkee Lake on the 27th ult. returned from that place with two kegs of salt suckers -

5 The Indians called the Suckers arrived in the forenoon for their Winter necessaries which they received and went off the following morning -

7 The people began to cut grass to serve the cattle for the winter

14 The Indian Nono & his son in law arrived in the forenoon with about 60 lbs they received their Winter supplies and went off again - Governor Simpson and a party of Canadians arrived here in a large Canoe at about 7 pm. and left here the following morning at daylight for Albany -

18 We got all the grass home that we can this season

23 Sent Robert Scollie and Edward Prince up to Mooseawawkee to procure fish Mr La Ronde accompanied by Richard Crow arrived here from Osnaburgh in a small Canoe

24 John Linklater who arrived here along with Governor Simpson on the 14th and Richard Crow who arrived here yesterday along with Mr La Ronde went off for Osnaburgh in a small Canoe -

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Aug.t 27 Sollie and Edward Prince who left here on the 23rd inst returned from Mooseawawk with some fish –

29 Uheekeemaw's two oldest sons arrived in the forenoon for their Winter Supplies which they received and went off the following morning –

Sept. 4 Sent Sollie and Edward Prince off to Mooseawakie to fish and on the 8th they returned with three kegs of salt Suckers –

13 The Indian Munson arrived in the forenoon with about 70 Skins of good furs. he took his winter supply of Necessaries and left him the following Morning for his lands –

" 14 Began to dig our Potatoes and on the 18th we got all up – they 100 Bushels of a small size.

18 Nemawkaw Keeshik and one of his nephews came on for his Winter Supplies which he received and went off for his Winter quarters the following Morning

20 Robert Sollie and the two apprentices Edward & Richard Prince left here this Morning in a Small Canoe for Mooseawawkie where they are to make a Fall fishery –

21 The Indian Nayay Keeshik arrived in the evening with a few pounds of dry Meat. he took his Supplies for the Winter and went off the following Morning –

30 The Indian Annootik arrived in the Morning – took his winter debt and went off to his lands the following Morning –

Oct.r 8 Mr. LaRonde and Edward Prince left here in a small Canoe to procure fish from a Basket made by the Indians Called the Suckers – See Journal of the 3rd inst

19 Sent Robert Sollie and Richard Prince & two Indians off to the Long Ridge in a large Canoe to take home all the fish procured there by Mr. LaRonde and the boy Edward Prince –

20 a Boat manned by four Servants and two Indians arrived from Albany with one cask of Flour, two of Oatmeal and 364 Salt Geese – and the following Morning she left here. Mr. LaRonde who is at the Long Ridge is directed to take his passage on board of her for Albany – his services not being required here –

22 Robert Sollie and those who left here along with him on the 19th returned with 800 Suckers of a small size – Robert Sollie, Andrew Thompson, the two apprentices Edward & Richard Prince and myself, form the Winter Falls Winter Establishment of Servants.

October 25 The Indian called the Big Cedar and family & the Crow and his family left here for their Winter Quarters – the former has been here since the 19th Inst. and the latter and his son arrived here at the same time but have been employed in assisting to get home fish from the Long Ridge. Sent Thompson off to the North Creek Fishery where he is to remain fishing, as long as any can be caught.

Nov.r 2 Robert Sollie and Edward Prince who left here on the 27th ulto. for Mooseawawkie returned. and state that to keep nets longer in water there would be running the risk of losing them in consequence of the quantity of Ice that is driving there they barely procured as many fish since the 27th ulto as maintained them whilst off –

" 8 Andrew Thompson who left here on the 25th ulto returned. and state that he has been tolerably fortunate in procuring fish – he has about 1200 Suckers there he left here the following morning, to resume his employment. that of catching fish and hanging them –

" 11 The [illegible] from the North Creek in consequence of the fishery having failed there –

" 23 Robert Sollie, A Thompson and Edward Prince with the assistance of two dogs brought home all the fish procured in the N.t Creek this season – which amount to about 2000 – all Suckers and of a small size – They began to haul on the 19th Instant

" 28 Two Harrowy Indians the Crows son and swampy Cree came to the place for Ammunition which they received as well as some provisions – they went off to their lands soon after their arrival –

Dec.r 1 Sent Andrew Thompson and Richard Prince off to Mooseawawkie to fish and snare Rabbits –

" 6 Sent the old bull slaughtered owing to the quantity of hay that we have being insufficient to maintain all our cattle for the Winter – Two Indians Pemmaysaywaygoons 1st and 2nd sons arrived with about 80 Skins or Mr. Mc. principally in Martens. and about 12 or 14 lb. of dried venison – They received a supply of necessaries and went off the following morning –

" 15 We have all the fish procured at Mooseawakie last Fall, at the house now: about 600 in all – which are nearly rotten – on account of being caught too early in the season. and the weather then being warm – Thompson and R Prince objected to taking home the fish they have been unsuccessful since they left here on the

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Decr. 15 1st Instant both in snaring and jerking. The following is a Statement of the Number and Kinds of fur procured in the Falls, and brought to the house. viz.

From the Long Ridge which is about 50 Miles or rather more below this Place ..... 1800 Skins

From the North Creek. which is about 7 Miles N.W.t of this Place ..... 200 D.o

From Mooseawawkee. which is about 15 Miles above this place ..... 600 D.o

Total = 2600 D.o

each of which at an average. when clean would scarcely weigh 7 ounces or 8 at the most.

1828

January 7 The Indian Asmoolah. arrived this morning with about 600 Skins principally in Beaver Skins. he received some articles which he requested. and went off the following Morning to his tent

21 Robert Sollie and Andrew Thompson since the 16th Instt Cut 100 inch boards 108 Palisads each in two. of nine feet long and about 9 Inches broad and 24 Stakes each 12 feet long. in two. that are intended for Pickards for the Palisades.

March 16 Two Indians Nuuk Kiskkawwaw and Kis Kis ash arrived the former the owner the best hunter belonging to this has only brought 58 Skins he has not exerted himself in hunting in consequence of his being in mourning for his brother. who died at the Coast last Fall. and he tells me that his father and the rest of his Party from the same cause. which is a common custom amongst Indians on such occasions are not doing much good in the hunting way. The latter Kis Kis ash is a disabled poor Creature. he wants the toes of one of his feet. and only brought in Six Skins. They went off the following Morning. See Journal.

23 Two Indians Nuuk Kiskkawwaw 2nd Son and Mittaswaykoppow arrived with a few Skins and some venison. they say that where they have been all the winter, that there were but few Martins and course could not kill many. They went off the following Morning.

30 Nuuma Kay Kesshish, his son and one of his Nephews. and Pinnaysaywayquons fourth son arrived in the evening and brought about 80 Skins amongst them. the three former were in a wretched state for want of Cloathing. vide Journal of this date. They went off the following Morning.

March 31 The widow of Nuggeemuttuck, who died at the west East Fall, his eldest Son and four children of the deceased arrived here in a wretched condition. they brought in about 30 Skins amongst them. The Son is a tolerable hunter but owing to the loss of his father he has not exerted himself this Winter in hunting which is the Indians way of mourning. they went away the following Morning. Sollie and Thompson since the 5th to the 21st Inst have sawed ten logs of 12 feet long. into weather boards. besides four logs of 9 feet long into plank for gates, &c. They also squared logs for gate Posts. and Palisade King Posts for the whole of which are now home as well as all the Palisades &c. See Journal.

April 5 Three Indians. namely Mash she ke Koppow. Nuggeemuttuck's 2nd Son and the Suckers eldest son arrived in the Morning. the latter hunted very little this winter owing to sickness and starvation and the little that he did hunt he left at their Tent. the two former brought in about 70 Skins between them besides about 20 Skins belonging to old Mananpows. Mash she ke Koppow is one of the best hunters belonging to this place. but the same cause which prevented his Brother Nuuk Kiskkawwaw from hunting this Winter which is stated in the occurrences of the 16th Ult.o See Journal. prevented him also. These Indians remained at the house all night and went away to their tents the following Morning.

7 Mooseappay's two sons arrived in the afternoon with about 50 Skins. these young men are good hunters. but owing to the loss of their father. who died at Eabamet last Fall. they have only hunted what is above specified this winter. The death of Mooseappay and of Mananpows eldest son will occasion a loss to this place and of Course to the Concern of at least 500 or perhaps 600 Skins.

15 The Suckers two youngest Sons arrived in the morning and went off in the afternoon. their object in coming to the place was to get some ammunition. which they received. their father and themselves have done very little in the hunting way this winter owing to Starvation and the little that they did hunt they left at their Tents.

19 The people or Servants attached to this post have procured about 700 Skins in Course of the Winter.

24 An Indian. the Crows son arrived in the afternoon but brought no furs owing to the badness of the Route through which he came. he tells me that himself and his father have about 150 Skins at their Tent. what brought him to the house was the want of ammunition which he rec.d and went off the following Morning.

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May 5 The River partially open - but it as yet unnavigable - it cleared out on the 10th
8 The suckers have made their appearance in the Mouth of the N. Creek where they continued in such numbers until the 21st as afforded us abundance
16 Primaysayweyquons 1st and 2d sons arrived with a few skins and went off again in the afternoon -
17 Sent Andrew Thompson to Albany with a letter &c &c to Chief Factor Hanney
19 Neekkeek have woman and family and his Kis tuth arrived with about 40 Skins
23 The widow of Auggumawastick his eldest son and three youngest children arrived with a Pd
26 Six Indians arrived with about 146 Skins
28 The old Duster and his 2 youngest sons arrived in the forenoon with about 110 Skins
31 The Indian Amorlick arrived in the forenoon with about 14 Skins

June 3 Four sons of Neekkeemaw arrived in the evening with 90 Skins
5 The Crow his son and the Rose Cedar arrived in the forenoon with 230 Skins of three Years
6 The Indian Ayyayeeshick arrived in the afternoon with about 70 Skins
9 Four sons of Neekkeemaw - Missennay Keeshick and an Indian from Trout Lake called Keeshaymosh arrived late in the evening with about 154 Skins The Trout Lake Indian got 6 damaged Martens and a few Rat Skins which forms the bulk of his Winter Hunt - he told me that all the other Furs that he procured he was obliged to convert into Clothing for himself & family see journal of this date -
11 In the evening Nanepow his youngest son & two of his grandsons arrived with about 120 Skins of good Furs The Spring Hunt of this Indian (Nanepow) and of us have is much better than at one time Expected but notwithstanding their Hunts of the present year added to that of Mooseapheys sons and their friends is less than they hunted last year by 850 Skins vide journal of this date -
12 Neeman Kay Keeshick two of his sons and one of his nephews arrived with about 106 Skins of very fine Furs The former told me that his Brother and 3 of his nephews have dealt at this place these 3 years past have gone to Severn or Trout Lake this Spring with their Winter Hunts a circumstance which in my opinion will not benefit the Concern - see journal of this date -

June 23 Mr Fenlayson and Mr Taylor and a party of 19 men including two Indians and two Indians - Arrived here in three boats and a large Canoe with the Returns from Osnaburgh - Lac Seul & Sturgeon Lake - in all 58 Packs. viz - 23 from Osnaburgh, 25 from Lake Seul - and 10 from Sturgeon Lake - see Journal
24 This morning two of the boats mentioned yesterday and ten men started for Albany with the Inland Posts Returns Mr Taylor took his passage on board of one of them -
25 This morning at 8 — the Boat River arrived with 130 pieces - Say 48 for Mr. 38 for Osnaburgh - 41 for Lac Seul and 13 for Sturgeon Lake the was manned by four hired Servants and seven Indians - Mr Collie Came up in her from Albany as passenger - he is bound for Osnaburgh
26 This morning Mr Collie and a party of nine men including two Indians left here in a boat and large Canoe laden with a part of the Outfit for Osnaburgh Lake Seul and Sturgeon Lake Posts - in all 68 pieces - The 2d Boat in which Mr Fenlayson and myself took our passage - left here for Albany with the Returns of this Post - which are equal to about 22 Packs such as come from the upper Posts - we arrived at Albany on the 2d July - being one Seventh day - two of which we lay by - owing to heavy rain and strong head winds -

The establishment of Servants at this place as remarked in a preceding part of this Journal see 23rd October - is as follows viz - Two men - namely Robert Sollie & Andrew Thompson - and two Apprentices - namely Edward & Richard Renee - and Joseph Mr La Ronde, the half of whose wages are charged against Martens Falls for this Outfit - and belong to the establishment but owing to his services not being required added to the scarcity of fish then and the uncertainty of getting more afterwards caused me to send him to Albany where he passed the last winter - see journal of 21st Oct

Robert Sollie - is a tolerable Carpenter - a good Canoe man - & an excellent Fisherman - his conduct and attention to duty from the time I went to Martens Falls until I left that place have been such as to give satisfaction - his wages are £25 pr Annm which in my opinion he well merits -

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Andrew Thompson is a man that is very useful at Martins Falls. he is acquainted with all the Rapids and fisheries about it. he is very smart in a small Canoe & very necessary accomplishment at this [illegible] and a good fisherman. His wages are £18. p annum. besides £2 gratuity when his Contract expires he should be entitled to. if he gave satisfaction I have nothing to say against the man to prevent him from receiving the full benefits of it.

Edward & Richard Prince. are two smart active lads. and in a little time will be very useful. and I think good Servants.

Indians. There are about 53 hunters young and old attached to Martins Falls. about 50 women including Widows & about 46 Male Children and about the same number of female children. so that the Indian population does not exceed 200 souls. the greatest part of whom if not the whole live the three months of the year on fish. The following is an account of the principal Hunters

Amutchaway Keeshick. Commonly called the Frost Cedar is about 65 years old. he has no family nor never had. except a wife. in his younger days he was an excellent hunter. but a great cheat. His last Winter he hunted about 62 Skins but the Winter before he did nothing his hunting grounds are situated in a Westerly direction from this place.

Anyaj Keeshick or Shollys Boy. is about 35 or 40 Years old. he has one wife 3 Sons and 1 daughter. he is but an indifferent hunter and seldom pays his debt. but it has so happened this last season that he did pay all he owed. a strange thing indeed with him. his hunting grounds are situated between this place and Osnaburgh. he never comes to the house oftener than twice in the year except when Sturgeon are numerous. and then he comes in twice or three times in course of the Summer with some. for which he is generally paid with ammunition. Tobacco & Rum He hunted about 88 Skins this last Winter.

Annootsh. is a young man. he has one wife and four daughters. he is an uncertain hunter. sometimes he hunts well. which has been the case this last Winter. and sometimes he does little or nothing. his hunt of the past season was about 77 Skins.

Newaw sheesh. is about 35 or 40 years old. he has only 1 wife and one son a boy about 12 years old. he generally hunts about 90 Skins in the year his lands are in the vicinity of Abbawappiscat. and in former times he was in the habit of going to Trout Lake. at which place I believe he has incurred heavy debts and are yet unpaid. In my opinion it would be of greater advantage to the Concern if such were bestowed on him than to insist on payment. because in the latter case I am in some measure convinced that he would become so disheartened. that instead of endeavouring to pay his debts he would do the same as many others in that quarter. go to a fishery where he could live with ease for the Winter and cheat himself with the furs he might procure. See Journal 8th June. She has four brothers. namely, Pimaysaywayson. Neleh she-hoyeuman. Mone and the Fisher of whom I'll have occasion to speak hereafter. Newawsheesh seldom comes to the house oftener than once in the year. and when he does. he is moreover troublesome. The same remarks which I have made regarding his debt at Trout Lake. may be considered as applicable to all the other Indians who come to this place and that are indebted at the other.

Eppinnay Keeshick His 2 sons & Sonnlaw. These Indians belonged to Trout Lake originally but have not been there these two years past The Winter before this last they brought about 80 Skins to this place. but this past one they visited Albany except the old man who has not been to any house, and the little that they did hunt they lodged there 12 Skins of which were taken on account of the debts they owe here. They are but indifferent hunters. I took 9 Skins from one of them last Summer on account of a debt he owed at Trout Lake, which will be brought to the credit of the N. Department this Summer.

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Jacob —— is a young roaming vagabond. he has not been here, nor do I believe at any other place these two years past - he owes heavy debts at Trout Lake - and some here also -

Pitchekwogeesheesew is about 40 or 45 years old. he is brother to Awawushush whom I mentioned before and is one of the quietest and best disposed Indians that belong to this place - and a good hunter besides. This last winter owing to the loss of his Brotherinlaw Mooscappay - who died in the month last Fall he hunted very little - say 30 Skins whereas his usual hunt is from 100 to 150 Skins yearly - he has a wife but no family -

Millagiway Keppow & his Brother are two promising lads. they usually accompany the last mentioned Indian and his brother Awawushush - they generally pay their debts which do not exceed 40 Skins annually between them -

Mittickkenninnee commonly called the Crow is about 45 years old he has only one wife and one son who is now grown up to Manhood - The Crow is a most troublesome Indian - but at the same time a very useful one he requires to be greatly humoured and flattered in which if a person succeeds I dont know many better hunters - he hunted about 131 Skins this last Winter two of which were Beaver Skins - he assists people about the house in doing any thing that is necessary if required - His son possesses all the good qualities of the father and in a few years I think he will be as good a hunter as belonged to Martins Falls - he hunted about 100 Skins this last Winter

Mooscappay died at Capuse last Fall during the Goose Hunt - he was a good Character & a good hunter - he left a Widow and three Children who are unable to provide for themselves -

Mooscappays 2 sons are fine young men and good hunters - each of them has a wife and child - owing to the death of their father as above stated - they hunted very little this last winter - See Journal 7 April last their hunts of this

year are about 56 Skins whereas last year they were about 245 Skins -

Missinneypeesheesh is an Indian that is advanced in years and is seemingly quiet and well disposed - he has a young family - he belonged to this place formerly but has not been here these 5 years past until last June & during which time he dealt at Trout Lake - he only hunted 29 Skins this last Winter - but from any thing I could learn about him he is able to hunt much more -

Nanecpow though an old man is still a good hunter and one of the best Characters belonging to Martins Falls. The year before last he hunted about 150 Skins but this season owing to the death of his son he only hunted about 46 Skins - See Journal of the 11th June last - His hunting lands are between Albany and here - he has only one wife - his sons & daughters are all Married -

Huggeemawtheesh - Nanecpow's eldest son - died at Capuse last Fall during the Goose Hunting Season - he has left a widow six sons and a daughter three of the sons are now young lads and in a short time will be good hunters - the rest at present are unable to provide for themselves - being too young -

Mishishekekeppow Nanecpows 2nd son - is an excellent hunter and good Character his usual hunt yearly is about 200 Skins - but this year he only hunted 62 - he has two wives - three sons and three daughters -

Nuckkuskkawcaw Nanecpows 3rd is such another Character as his brother but rather a better hunter - he hunted about 320 Skins the year before but only 100 this present season - he has 2 wives - 1 son and 1 daughter

Eyeashpay Nanecpows 6th son is not so good a hunter - nor is he so sensible or steady as the rest of his brothers - his hunts never exceeds 120 or 130 Skins but this last Winter it came far short even of that - for he only hunted about 46 Skins - he has 1 wife - 1 son and 1 daughter — Nanecpow his four sons & Grandsons used to hunt at an average about 900 or 1000 Skins yearly but this last season owing to the death of Huggeemawtheesh - they have not hunted more than 350 or 360 Skins - These Indians never come to the House oftener than twice in the year — and are never troublesome —

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Nono—— Brother to Nuncoshesh & Kitchekongemenew- has been a good hunter but being for several years past in the habit of roaming between Martins Falls & Front Lake- he is now become lazy and in a great measure indifferent about hunting- The Furs he brought to me last August, he hunted the preceding Winter, and what he hunted this last Winter (I understand that he has about 65 or 68 Skins) remain in the Country this season owing to his not being in time with them- He has two wives and four or five Children- he owes a heavy Balance at Front Lake-

Nono's Soninlaw- is a lazy young fellow- he has one wife and a child- he hunts about Athawapiscat, along with his fatherinlaw- and formerly belonged to Front Lake-

Numaw- Kay, Keeshik or Amoo's 2nd Son- has been represented to me as a lazy, lying saucy vagabond- but to speak of him as I found him in his dealings with me- He cannot be very Lazy for he hunted about 126 Skins this last season 50 of which were Beaver Skins- he may be prone to telling lies but I have never detected him in one yet- and certainly his behaviour to me has neither been saucy- nor troublesome- on the Contrary he was as quiet every time I saw him as any other Indian that Comes to Albany- He has four wives- six Sons and three daughters one of his sons (the eldest) is able to hunt about 30 Skins in Course of a season- This Indian was obliged to make use of Furs for clothing this last Winter See journal of the 31st March last-

D°: Brother- (Amoo's eldest Son) and his three Sons have gone to Front Lake this Spring- with the Furs they procured this last Winter which amounted to more than would pay their debts at Albany- (say 150 Skins or rather more-) if the information received from his Brother and other Indians be correct- See journal 12th June last-

Pinnaysayaygwun is an old Chateux River- he has two wives- two daughters that are unprovided for and seven sons- five of whom are able to provide for themselves- he has for several years past been in the habit of going

between Front Lake and Albany and cheating the Traders of both places as much as he could- his debt at Front Lake is very considerable- but a trifle of it he will never pay- indeed he is unable for he is come to that time of life that were he ever so willing to do so- infirmity puts it out of his power- Four of his sons are tolerable hunters- they brought me about 240 or 250 Skins this last season- and had it not been that the best of them lived with his fatherinlaw- Mischekitchkoppo who has been in mourning for the loss of his Brother this last winter- their hunts would equal 300 Skins- They hunt about Athawapiscat River- The sons are well behaved quiet Indians- and seldom come to the house oftener than twice in the year- and their father has not been at the house these two or 3 years past-

Pinnaysayaygwun's Soninlaw- formerly belonged to Front Lake- but has not been there these three years past- he received his Winter debts from Mr Mitchell when I was arrived at Albany last year- and has not been at the house since- so that his hunt of this season will have to remain in the Country until next year- He owes 54 Skins here, which I understand he is well able to pay- besides what he owes at Front Lake

Sucker- is an old troublesome Indian- and very apt to take offence when none is meant or intended- he was at one time a good hunter- and is so still in a moderate degree- he has been unfortunate this last winter in the hunting line- owing to Starvation and sickness- and complaining greatly of the bad paces of strange Indians (I believe from Long Lake) on his land- Himself and his three sons began to starve early in the winter which drove them to a place where they knew that there were Beaver but when they came there they found that other Indians (from Long Lake) had been there before them and of course had killed all the Beaver- what follows in such cases may be more easily answered than explained- Of all the hardships and disappointments that an Indian is exposed to- that of going when in want to a place where he makes sure of abundance and finds nothing is I think the most distressing- and often Lead to fatal consequences- The Sucker and two of his sons have been at the house this Spring- with the Furs they procured during the

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Winter. which were far short of their debts. The eldest son is, rather lazy and frequently troubled with fits. The Furs he hunted this last Winter and Spring. (I understand that he had three tolerable bundles when he was last seen) say about the 20th July will form a part of the Trade of next year because he has not been in time. The hunter and his three sons hunt in the vicinity of Manley.

Mucoon — is Brother to the old Hunter. but very unlike him in disposition as he is a tolerably good hunter. and generally pays his debts. which never exceeds 100 Skins he usually lives alone. he seldom visits other Indians and seldom is he visited. except when chance brings it to about. His hunt of 1826/27 or the greater part of it goes home this year. and his hunt of last Winter will not go before next season. for he has not been at the house since last Fall.

Weetchewaw — is such another character as Bimaysay way quon he is not so old. but is equally as great a cheat as he. he has one wife. two daughters that are unprovided for. and eight sons. five of whom are able to provide for themselves. The same remarks which I made regarding Bimaysay way quons nativity &c may be considered as applicable to this man. Three of his sons are tolerable hunters. and generally pay their debts which annually amt to about 200 Skins the other three lads hunt very well also considering their age.

Wingeek or the Fisher — is Brother to Bimaysay way quon. Awawtchuck, Fitch. the hoogemaw & Nono. and excells Bimaysay way quon in his bad habits. This is the vagabond who a few years ago that plundered the house at Trout Lake of Rum & Tobacco and that threatened the life of Thomas Spence B. that was then in charge of that place. He has not been at Martins Falls these two years past nor at any other place from what I can learn. but he sent his Furs to town last Summer by other Indians.

The foregoing Indians and all others (young men or lads) whom I have not mentioned are rather thin in general. quiet and seemingly harmless. From the mentioned

Servants to Martins Falls to the time I left there an instance of insolence or bad behaviour on the part of either of them. Both I observe. They come to the house but seldom. owing to the scarcity of Country Provision about it. and the navigation being dangerous. particularly above it. and when they do come in it is not very difficult for the person in charge to satisfy them with what they are commonly most troublesome about. I mean Rum. and without putting the Concern to much expence. and with regard to them it might in my opinion be very well dispensed with at Mt. Albany provided it was done away with at Albany and Osnaburgh but until then I think it would not be advisable to deprive them of what they so dearly like. for this reason the Indians of Mt. Albany Osnaburgh Indians. and on that account it would not do well to treat the natives of one place different to those of the others. particularly so far as regards the Article in question. £2 Cash is the quantity that was expended for every purpose from the 1st June 1827 to the 26th June 1828 at Martins Falls.

The Trade of Martins Falls this past year. out fit 1827/28. is equal to about 2390 M Beaver. which are worth about £3796.16.11 valuing them at the above Established Prices. The expenses incurred procuring the above only Servants Wages and all other charges amount to £667.1.9 leaving a Profit of £1847.15.2 Had all the Indians been in with their Winter Hunts before I left Martins Falls. the Trade I think would not be less than that of the preceding year. notwithstanding the loss the Concern has suffered by the death of two of the best Hunters I may say that belonged to the place. See Journal 16th March. 5th 9th April and 12th June last. but as it is the falling off is very considerable say to amount of £350 at least.

As I have learned since I left the Interior that the Post at Trout Lake is positively to be abandoned this year by the Northern Department. the establishment of an Outpost from Martins Falls in that quarter or in the vicinity of Attawapiscat would in my opinion be attended with great advantage to the Concern. for this reason. Many of the natives in that quarter if any credit may be given to the reports of Indians are in the habit of elevating themselves for some years past with the furs which they procure one of the Hunters in question has been at Martins Falls in the early part of June (see Journal

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of the 9th / and tolerably well dressed in Beaver and other Skins. The person appointed to the charge of this Outpost, should I think be placed under the directions of the person in charge at Martins Falls, which would prevent the Indians of the one place from going to that of the other as has been the case when Trout Lake has been established from the Northern Department, and those Indians who are now indifferent or careless about hunting might be led to habits of industry by kind and liberal treatment. That part of the Country abounds with Otters and Martins and from what I can learn Beaver are tolerably numerous there also

Thomas Corcoran

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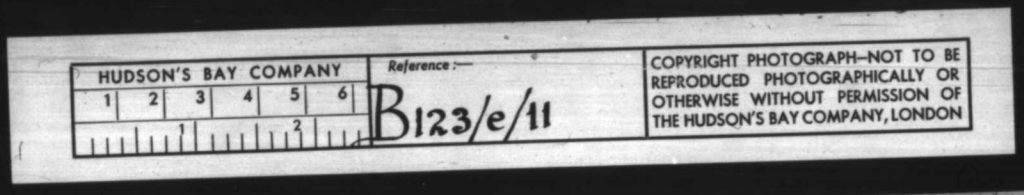

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INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 123

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 11

DESCRIPTION MARTIN FALL

REPORT on DISTRICT

UNDATED.

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Martin's Falle

Better than two acres of ground were reported by Mr Jacob Corrigal to be under cultivation in 1824. The produce in the preceding fall was a a hundred and fifty bushels of potatoes, some turnips cabbages and potatoes, and two bushels and a half of nezz fine barley which was town on the 15th of May, by way of experiment and reaped on the 8th of September. The soil be considered favourable to barley but from being very subject to blights, not fit for potatoes. At that time the establishment had no resource for provisions but the fishery, which however furnished a never failing supply.

Mr Edward Mowat reporting in June 1827 gives a less cheering view of the state of things at Martin's Falle. There had been great difficulty in procuring necessary provisions; the fishery had proved a failure, not yielding enough to feed those engaged in it. Potatoes planted on the 1st of June, were taken up on the 15th and 23d of September, and between those dates many of them had been frozen and were thus lost from want of hands to secure them in time. The quantity obtained was a hundred and fifty bushels, and four bushels of barley were raised.

The report for the following year by Mr Thomas Corcoran shews that grass was cut on the 7th of August, and oats got in on the 18th. On the 14th of September Potatoe digging commenced. It finished on the 18th one hundred bushels, of small size having been raised

On

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Reports for 1824 & 1825

(R)

On the 4th of May the river became partially open. On the 10th it was free from ice. Suckers made their appearance at the mouth of the North Creek on the 8th, and and continued in such numbers up to the 21st as to afford the people at the Post an ample supply of food

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11
1824-28

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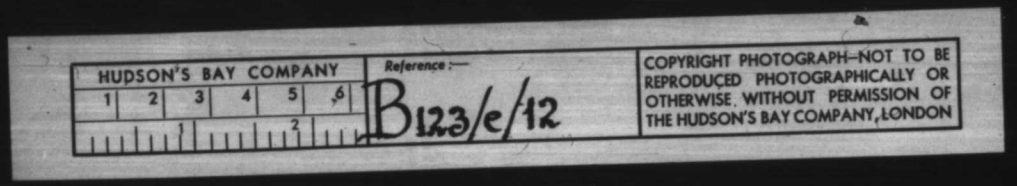

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INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 123

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 12

DESCRIPTION MARTIN FALL
REPORT on DISTRICT

1829 ~ 1830

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MARTIN FALL

REPORT. 1829-1830

12
1829-1830

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B. 123/e/12
1829/30

Martins Falls
1829/30

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Narrative of occurrences Kept at Moortons Falls 1829/30

June 8 Early this morning Mr Kennedy and his Jimboy arrived from Albany and Two boats Loded with peart of the outfale of Goods for this Pleas and Eskimo for the peasters above this Pleas having taken out the goods out of the boat and put them in the Store Finished Dinner for the day

22 Earely this morning Mr Charles Mac Kenzie arrived from inland with three boats and a Long Canoe and brought 68 packs of furrs a Leter after his arrivel the Long boat was Sent off for Albany and peart of the furrs the reast of the furrs and Craft remained at this Pleas til the Chife factor leaves it Mr Kennedy in ployed Seleten Dinnerett with the men and other a feast while he remained hear

24 on boat and a long Canoe was Sent up to Osnaburgh Loded with the goods for that Pleas and Leftovers for the posts above Osnaburg and Eskaret Mr Kennedy and Mr Mac Kenzie Left hear with three boats and the Remanes of the furrs to proceed for Albany

July 17 a boat and Eight men arrived from Osnaburg and after geten the boat repaired Sent her down the revere to met the boats Coming from Albany

20 Cast in the Evening Mr Mac Kenzie arrived from Albany with the last of the outfale for this Pleas and Post above hear after geten all things redeay and the men geting a Leter Meal at the Pleas and the Craft Repaired

22 Mr Mac Kenzie Craft hear for Osnaburgh twitth three boats and a Long Canoe and all the good belonging to the Posters above this Pleas with him

The water being in Such a Stonde that Navegation The wheat Timmer nat on Fort Could be geten about the Pleas only a few Stones upon that we goat up the revere at the big falls in the first peart of the Summer the only Shift that we had was to goe to Mountvalley Lake with Keys and Salt Cask and bring to the Pleas what Could be goat having Eight Reven pleasures to bring them over besides Repels had one of that Salt Sturgeons being the Chife of our Evening to mak hay on the Lake Salt Geese that Come from Albany I was afreed to goues befor the winter for fear of want

27 begon to Cut hay down the revere at Eight mile Creek and to Cut up befor them to an Island point along the revere on Each Side

Sept 3 finished geten the hay and build the last of it this day

26 Earely this morning Sent Robert Scallee and the Indeans Cut Lot in a Small Canoe down the revere to the Long Rege to the Basket to Chect what Fish they Come and bring them til the boat Comes to them and to geat the Indians that are ther to assit them to Mak the Basket on on Each Side of the revere

28 Sent the boat down the revere to the Basket and Sent Andrew Thombson and Robert Gill and Thomas Gray with her bring her up along with Robert Scallee and the Indians that are ther to assit them and Sent them Lellevs and Tobacco

10 Let in the Evening the boat arrived from the Basket and the two men and the two boys and fower Indians gone the Indians Leather as it is Cast to take the fish out of the boat Earely the next morning Heaved the fish up being 3000 Suckears the Scalp and Indians Remained at the Pleas all night

12 Earely this morning Sent the boat and the two men and the two boys and the fower Indians down the Rever to the Basket to make another twiste of Spanders and Sent a small Rege of Leather to give the Indians that are to Returneven back with the boat

18 Let in the Evening the boat arrived from the Basket and the two men and the two boys and three Indians and brought 3000 Suckears with them the Boat and fish Remained at the Beach all night Long Boat and the Indians Remained all night at the Pleas being Snowing and blowing all day Earely the next morning paid the Indeans for their work and Sent them off Sent Robert Scallee and Robert Gill to Moutvalley Lake with nets after them their arrived from the Basket but got nothen Sent Andrew Thompson and his wife up the north Creek they remained til the 27 of November when they arrived they had goat 2000 Sturgeon Suckears the wheat of ower fishen was 3000 and 100 Bushels of potatoes this being our Chief Stock of provisions all there not of the best quality we feared a pretty good winter along with the Leter Season and Rainey and a Sone season that we had Feared dureven the winter

Those had Robert Scallee and Robert Gill in ployed Spreng up the Senier peart of the winter they Cut 200 boordes of all Sizes peart walther boordes and Laveres for the outside of the dweleen houses the dweleen houses is all Tiled all Round in the in Side and the three fronnte Theades are all walther boarded all Round Lapeard Tiles that are not Shingles a Sheek is Cast at Sometime and troubel and the gentlemen that had all fenceen about them are all Leged in with nasse postes and rises Realen got in the winter and Spreing for the purpeat

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The Trade of this place has been greatly hurt by the early Spring not an Beaver has been Killed by any of the Indians Since the last of March and many of the Indians never went their Traps after they had them the hot weather Coming on in Such a Heat that prevented them many of them had enough to do to get out of the woods to the Rivers and Some of them to the place having no Canoes and all the Small Rivers Running open however Some of them have done pretty well Nanecapow and his Sons have done well the least that ever they did to me Since I have been here but his misfortune have not mind good hunts haveing Chestley Have after the deer and did not mind Her hunting to pay Her debts with the Crees and Son have done pretty well but not So good as Many Jon them does Some years the old Trucker and his 2 Son have med Power hunts but his old Son and the youngest Son have done verary well Nimaus Kaw Kesheck and 2 Son have done the least that Ever I knew him to do as his hunt this winter is 120 Skins and his Son has paid his debts but many of them are far short and Considering the Most present Indians most of them are So Lousey that all that I can do I cannot get them to hunt as I would with them to do as being good for Lousy a habit that all that I can do I cannot get them to Leve it off Some of them have hunted pretty well this winter but the rest or about ten or twelv of them that are not served as yet which I expected to bring between two and three hundred of Skins to pay their debts as ever I cannot tell what hunts they have med as no Indian Could in forem me however the trade at present is better than Last year and I think that the Trade this year at this place is as good as Ever I med since I have ben at Martins fall but far from what I expected it to be at an time but many of the Indians Belonging to this place hunting Down to Albany is against them makeing better hunts than they would have if they did not go So low down among the Albany Indians and I am Sure that it is Reasoning that part of the Country and a great means to prevent the factory Indians from making better hunts than they would do if that Indians did not hunt So Low down on their Lands and all that I can do I cannot prevent them and for that Nanecapow and his Sons the Reason that they give for that is they brought down long Leges and his brothers to the factory being Reale Martin falls Indians and all Concerning gather that they are determined not to leave that quarter at any as they hunt to Albany on insolvent Invoice given for what I have Read on his Indegenent I got Ten of Nanecapows Sons to go above this place Last fall to their one Canoe above Gloslear Lake and they hunted all winter and they both med the least hunts that ever they did Since I Know them their hunts were 367 Skins and a great deal of that Beaver but I am not able to get them this the next winter when I Collect them to pass the next winter Kistikald me that they were going down Below that they wanted to have part of the Beaver below as well as long Leag and to let them on Lands Above

Robert Beaker is a Cable hand and is verary fat for any Comon work that may be put to him and is verary fit hand for this place as he is well agquant with the Falls and Likewise with the fishing Places which must take on to be done Some time before he be agequanted with the Falls and Likewise with the fishing places for it is a new Lake that is got at this place and they are as bad to be Coath and work to bring him to the place

Andrew Thompson is a man Able to pass for a pether man either Bear or any place that he may be Sent he is a weakly man but willing and not Lousy at all he answears verey weale at this place for fishing or any Comon work that may be put to him being weal aquant with the fishing places Close to the place

Robert Gill is a verary good young man and have done all that was put to him this winter verey weal and verey willingly and in a few years will be a verary good hand Bear or any other place that he may be Sent but he is not perfect in fishing being there falls that he is Ben with but he Seems to be willing to Learn that or any thing Else that he is put to and will answer well for this place being Smart in a Canoe among the falls

Thomas Hay is a verary Steady young man and will give Great answers verary often but he is for weaker than he was when he was Sent up to me the Last Summer I have taken all the trouble that I could to break him from it and he is Leaven a good deal of it off this young man will not Suit will for this place being a bad hand in a Small

a small Canoe and portiatilary when he comes among the falls and that Jutes badly at this pleas but he will Jut will anafe above at eany of the pleases and is ebel anaf to work in the Revear which is the filest work that he should be pot to

E. E

Edward Mowat

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a Smaller Canoe and particularly when he Comes among the falls and that Jutes badly at this place but he will Just will anafe above at eany of the pleases and is ebel anaf to work in the Revear which is the filest work that he should be put to

E. E

Edward Mewat

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SECTION B

CLASS 123

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 13

DESCRIPTION MARTIN FALL
REPORT on DISTRICT

1834

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MARTIN FALL

REPORT 1834

13
1834

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Martins Falls Post Report 1834

Copy

Albany June 10th 1834

Jacob Corrigal Esq
Chief Trader &c &c

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
exc 1216/552
B.123/e/13
1834

Sir

Conformably to your orders, which your letter to me of the 11th March last contains, I beg leave to submit the following remarks regarding the Country, surrounding this Post, its resources, the Indians that inhabit it, the trade &c &c to your consideration.

The state of the Country that surrounds this place as respects its resources in fur bearing animals is greatly impoverished, and altho Beaver, which in your time at this Post used to be the staple article of trade, are still to be met with in these lands, and that in the trade of the current or rather past year a fair proportion of the Skins of these animals will be found, yet they are very scarce, for it rarely happens that the hunt of any Indian of these Animals exceeds twenty in the course of the year. The scarcity of Martins these three years past, has perhaps caused a greater destruction of these animals during that time than would otherwise have taken place; but what can Indians do? if they get goods in debt, it is expected that they must pay for them, and when there are no Martins, as has been the case during the three last Winters, animals on which they depend for paying their debts, they are obliged to kill all the Beaver that they fall in with to insure themselves a further supply of necessaries, besides in my opinion it would be an act of injustice, to prevent our own Indians from killing these animals on their own lands, when strange Indians are not only allowed to do so but furnished with the means of destroying them.

The Long Lake Indians are in the habit, indeed they are so long accustomed to these visits and so little opposed in their hunting excursions that I believe they think that they have as good a right to hunt on the lands in question as the real owners of coming on the Suckers-lands, the richest in Beaver belonging

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to Martins Falls, every Summer, and Winter by way of Mosley & as those Indians are well provided with steel traps, articles forbidden in their Districts, they destroy a great many of these animals every year. Two of those Indians have been here on the 8th August last, the Journal of that date, each of whom had no less than three or four steel traps, which enabled them to trade several Beaver skins to the Mense that they could not at that time of the year hill without the lake. The Cree and Sudbury well known to yourself complained of the trespasses of Lake Nipigon Indians, some of whom he saw in the early part of October last on their lands, and like the Long Lake Indians will supplied with the means of destroying Beaver. Mowatsons' Sons are also complaining of the trespasses of Osnaburgh Indians who are in the habit three or four years past of coming and hunting on their lands within sixty miles of this place. Though the above Indians (the Sudbury) have destroyed the greater part of all the Beaver in that part of the Country, yet their intention on their lands were the visitors of the Martins Fall Indians that hunt up in that quarter very much, and therefore I should beg leave to suggest that the traders at Osnaburgh be directed to prevent them from coming on their lands in future or that the Indians in question of this Post be continued, to transferred to Martins Falls.

With regard to the scarcity of Martins the accounts of Indians are at variance, some of them say that the young and old of those animals were destroyed by Rats in the Spring of 1839, others again say that they must have been carried off by Insects, and some assert that they must have emigrated; as to the two former causes assigned such may or may not have given rise to the evil, but the latter cause in my opinion is very questionable; for Martins emigrate they must have been met with by Indians of other Posts which has not been the case from all I can learn; for the scarcity appears to have prevailed very generally in the Northern Department.

Should a permanent Post in the Mosquito Country be considered necessary I still think that the one here will not be required and that case, Ah-tah-wah-pit-kat-Lake ought to be the place for the establishment, which in my opinion would suit the convenience, as

will be seen by the following list subjoined of the 45 if not 46 of the Martins Fall Indians as with at this place, and be convenient enough to the Indians that hunt about Trout Lake, on the Wenesk River and its Tributaries, and to those that hunt far up the Country inland from Severn. And if the Post at Long Lake established at present from Lake Superior be abandoned as was contemplated last Summer and that the Indians of that Post be transferred to that District I should beg leave to suggest that one be established at Mosley or in its vicinity which in most instances would suit the convenience of such of the Martins Falls Indians as would not go to Ah-tah-wah-pit-kat as well as the one here and that of the Long Lake Indians without doubt better than Mr. Falls - Severn, the trouble and expenses that would attend the transhipment of goods from Albany would be less than what the lake is attended with here & perhaps so much Outdoor provisions would not be required at Mosley as are indispensably necessary at this place.

The following is a List of all the Indians paying Gold that belong to Martins Falls with remarks annexed to them &c.

Notch
Isabel his Brother
Kaw-thaw-up-pute
Missenary Kyibuck
Miller was hunkus huggin
Nose

Nemanus hunkus huck — his 1st Son
" " " 2d "
" " " 3d " Wife
" " " Brother
Nemanus jun my goss — his 1st Son
" " " 2d "
" " " 3d "
" " " 4th "
" " " Seven Son — his Brother
Shaw pay hus huck
Nick Nemanus — 1st Son
" " " 2d "
" " " 3d "
" " " 4th "
" " " 5th "
" " " 6th "
" " " 7th "
Wunkunk

All these Indians are at present in the Mosquito Country & on the Severn that is at the Post of Osnaburgh, but intend from different causes to leave it next Spring & proceed to Albany, some with their families & others single as they cannot hope to live comfortably in the Mosquito Country for the ensuing year.

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Nh-ma-thick		
do	1st Son	
Maggumawshicks	1st Son	
do	1st 2	
do	" 3	
do	" 4	
do	" 5	
Sakhpay		
Nekik the Muggumaw		
Mishe-the-kaw-kaypo		
Mittiqueny-kaypo		
do	His Brother	
Moose-eyepays	1st Son	
do	2nd "	
Nannuskow		
Nah-kikkaw-wus		
Jo Hester		

All these Indians proceed from the Lake last Fall for the Waters now of them, with the best possessions which they & Traders may have of them — I am rather doubtful as they have commenced to move the Post is established, & will be at the Missinaibi Post, but in the result of the Hunt, I have likewise given Instructions at the Establishments not [illegible]

Annowitch		
Mittickeeuny		
do	1st Son	
Sucker		
do	His 1st Son	
do	" 2 "	
do	" 3 "	
Mishen		
Wanter		
do	His Brother	
Pahmahkushwick		
do	His Nephew	

All these Indians should visit Post the ensuing with which it is likely to Mosley should it be established, the Latter visit to the most convenient

Eggimus Keeshick		
do	His 1st Son	
do	" 2 "	
do	Some Son	

This man has not been here these two years past — but he hunts in Albany country the best Furs yearly. — Nothing plainer with him — Is there at last Trip Nothing in Albany — seems to have not hunted — Also that Eggimus is dissatisfied with his Brother & Son — & intends to live alone with his father —

This man has not been here these two years but may be known as what part of the Country he lives

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I cannot at present state what the amount of the Trade will be as several Indians Tribes in the Missinaibi Country who proposed their visit here last Autumn are not to come on until their winter and Spring hunts, which, will in all probability will consist of not exceed 300 Mᵗˢ Skins, but if to this number 300 more, that it is likely Mr Brereton will receive at the Missinaibi Post on account of Moosonee Falls, and about 1852 more in Store be added, the total 1750 Mᵗˢ Skins may be considered what the Trade will be for the first Outfit. The unusual sudden thaw that commenced in the early part of April, and the subsequent cold weather proved extremely prejudicial to Indians, so much so that they could not set a Martin trap, nor move about from their Lodges for hundreds of other fur-bearing Animals, and a failure of the Spring Hunt has unfortunately been the consequence.

I should offer some remarks regarding the Post on the Missinaibi Country and of the direction it has received on the Lands of the Moosonee Falls, but as that Post is understood to be entirely under the control of the Moosonee Factory, I consider any remarks of the kind from me unnecessary, further than to state that whatever number of Packs may collect there, the [illegible] there would be limited by Moosonee Falls Indians.

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State of Building. There here are very good and Substantial Stone in proper repair save Roof-Doors or Shutters which are much wanted. The Trading room was nearly filled up in the Spring of 1852 and is well adapted for the transaction of Trade during Indians as any other in the Southern Department. A new Store has been built here last Spring, the dimensions of which are 38 feet in length, by 20 breadth and the Side walls 8 to 9 in height. The use to which this House is appropriated is for Storing Lumber of all sorts about the Place, old Stores &c., and the garret of it is intended for Furs to preserve them from the effects of the weather.

Farm. That of this place has not attended with any additional expense to the Concern, as the same number of men will be required here whether the ground is cultivated or not — as generally very unfruitful, but that the soil is unfavorable

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for cultivation but owing to the place being situated in the immediate vicinity of falls & rapids, which it is said give rise to the frost mists, that usually prevail here in the months of July and August, that occasion the blight that do all the mischief, every year those four past a failure has been the consequence of such occurrences, the annual produce of Potatoes during the time mentioned did not exceed 60 bushels which considering there is about six roods of ground under cultivation is very trifling, the space of ground enclosed exceeds four acres, the half of which was cleared in the Autumn of 1832 and last Spring. The only benefit expected to be derived from the enclosed uncultivated ground is that in seasons when the Water is so high as was the case in 1832, that grass cannot be cut or got along the river, this space may yield in course of time as much grass as would serve one or two Cattle for the Winter.

The resources of this place regarding Country provisions are very limited and precarious, so much so that people can never depend on the produce of a farm or of that of any fishery within a days reach of Martens Falls for their support; some seasons when the river happens to be shallow as many Sturgeon might be killed between this place & Gloster Lake as would serve the number of people here for summer use, but very few if any of the Martens Falls Indians can be induced to go up that way at that season as a band of Lake Nipigon Indians of whom they are all greatly afraid occasionally frequent that quarter, when a basket can be made and kept up all the month of October, a thing that could not be done last season unfortunately for us, in the North Creek as many fish as would serve for winter use might be procured by it, when the North Creek fails in the Fall there is no other fishery that I know of to have recourse to, several places were tryed last fall but all failed.

The Men who wintered here are Robert Scollie, James Peebles (B) and Henry Hay, the latter is at Albany since March

last.

~~The Men who wintered here are Robert Scollie, James Peebles~~

Robert Scollie is a Native of Orkney, he is steady sober and obedient, and a man that can be depended on in the discharge of any duty however laborious which falls to his lot to perform, he is an excellent fisherman, a good Canoe man, a good Carpenter, and in fact very handy at any thing that he attempts and in my opinion well deserving of the wages for which he engaged.

James Peebles is a Native of the Country, he is active and obedient, and wishes to excell all others in the performance of his duty, he will in a short time be a very useful hand and is very deserving of the wages for which he engaged.

Signed Thomas Corcoran

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I cannot at present state what the amount of the trade will be at several Indians hitherto there in the Wemaish Country who pressed their debts here last Autumn are yet to come in with their winter and Spring hunts, which, will in all probability still consist of not exceed 300 Skins, but if to this number 300 more, that it is likely Mr Brazier will receive at the Wemaish Post on account of Martens Falls, and about 1852 more in store to be added, the total 1,750 Skins may be considered what the Trade will be for the first Outfit. The unusual sudden thaw that commenced in the early part of April, and the subsequent cold weather proved extremely prejudicial to Indians, so much so that they could not set a Martin trap, nor move about from their tents in pursuit of other fur-bearing Animals, and as nature of the Spring trade has unfortunately been the consequence.

I should offer some remarks regarding the Post on the Wemaish Country and of the direction it has occasioned on the trade of the Martens Falls Post, it is understood to be unnecessary to render any thing of the kind from me unnecessary, further than to state that whatever number of Packs may collect there, the profits thereon would be limited by Martens Falls Indians.

HUDSONS BAY COMPANY

State of Building. Those here are very good and by keeping them in proper repair may last twelve or fifteen years. The trading room was nearly filled up in the Spring of 1852 and is well adapted for the convenience of transacting business as any other in the Southern Department. A new store has been built here last Spring, the dimensions of which are 38 feet in length, 14 in breadth and the side walls 8 or 9 in height. The use to which this House is appropriated is for Storing Lumber of all sorts about the place old stores &c., and the garret of it is intended for Canoes to preserve them from the effects of the weather.

Farm. That of this place has not attended with any additional expense to the concern, as the same number of men will be required here whether the ground is cultivated or not—as generally very unfruitable, but that the soil is unfavorable

Ah-ma-thisk
do his Son
Naggumaushicks 1st Son
do his 2 "
do " 3 "
do " 4 "
do " 5 "

Saffany
Kitch She huggamaw
Mish-She-kaw-kozzo
Mittiseway-kozzo
do His Brother
Mose-appays 1st Son
do 2nd "

Wannapon
Nya-kish-kaw-wash
Son Mother

All these Indians reserve their full outfits here last Fall for the Post as many of whom, with the first numbers stated as their hunts & Trades may happen of whom are visited dealt as their hunts occasionally, continued to where the Post is established, as at the Wemaish Post, but on this count of the Hill, being distance from Statistics at the Establishment will not be stated in these

Annoostick
Mittickenaw
do his Son
Sucker
do his 1st Son
do " 2 "
do " 3 "

Wicken
Wanton
do his Brother
Pahmahkus-kuck
do his Nephew

All these Indians should this Post be abandoned will either go to Albany or Moose Factory at the establishment, the latter would be their most convenient

Eggineway-kuskick
do his 1st Son
do 2
do Seven Years

This man has not been here these two years past—must find be dealt to allow during the next fresh period. Natural affinity with his Father in Law Saffany to Albany, however he has not hunted as far this 3 years past—Son lives alone with his Father—
This man has not been here these two years but may be known in what part of the Country he lives

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for cultivation but owing to the place being situated in the immediate vicinity of falls & rapids, which it is said give rise to the frost-mists, that usually prevail here in the months of July and August, that occasion the blight that do all the mischief, every year those four past a failure has been the consequence of such occurrences, the annual produce of Potatoes during the time mentioned did not exceed 60 bushels which considering there is about six roods of ground under cultivation is very trifling, the space of ground enclosed exceeds four acres, the half of which was cleared in the Autumn of 1832 and last Spring. The only benefit expected to be derived from the enclosed uncultivated ground is that in seasons when the Water is so high as was the case in 1832, that grass cannot be cut or got along the river, this space may yield in course of time as much grass as would serve one or two Cattle for the Winter.

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~~The Men who wintered here are Robert Scollie. James Peebles~~

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Signed Thomas Corcoran

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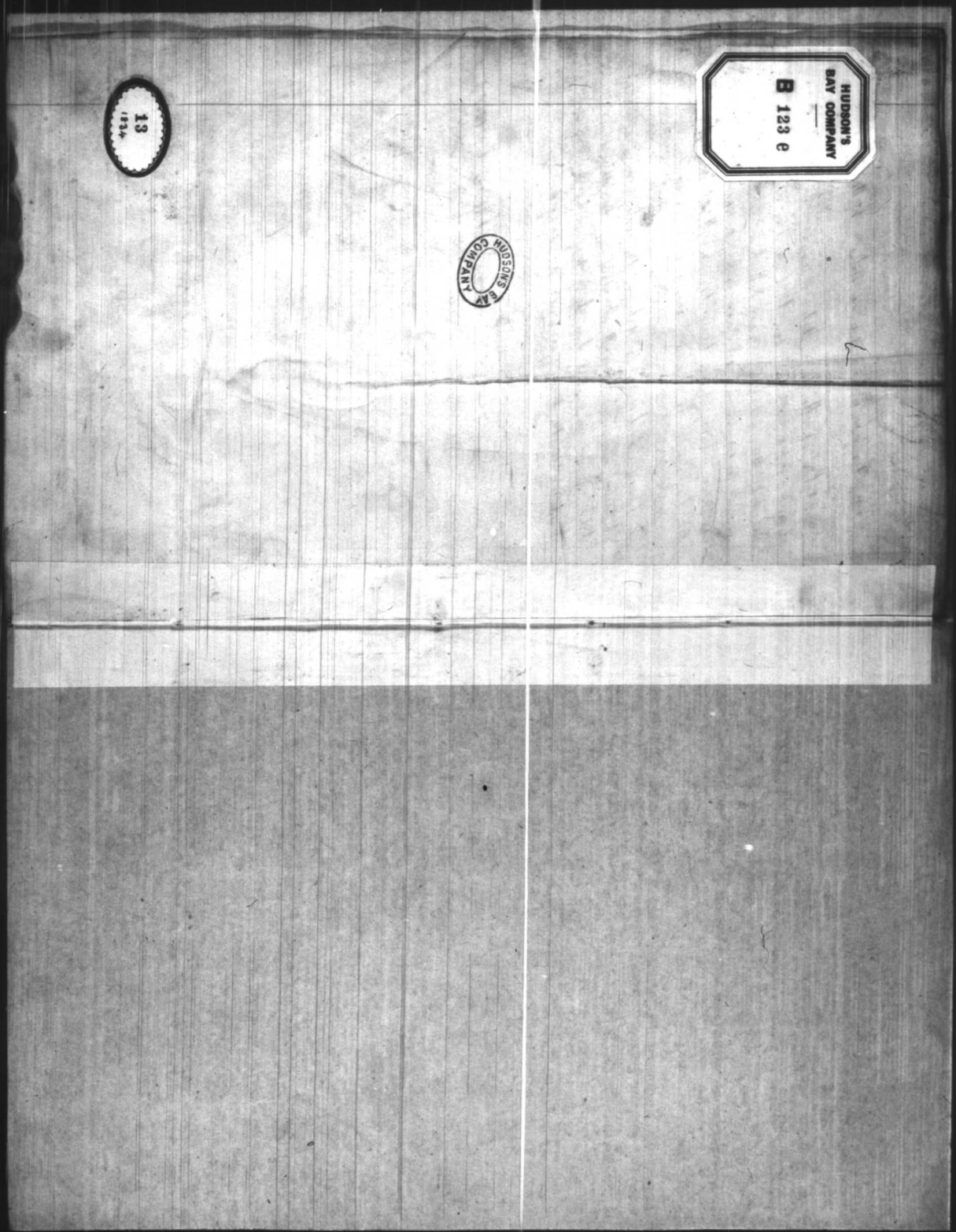

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Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 123

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 14

DESCRIPTION MARTIN FALL

REPORT on DISTRICT

1839

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HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
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MR No 63 - 1859

Martens Fall Report

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

by George Bamstow

14
1859

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Martins' Falls Trading Post Report.

Having last Year intimated my intention, of giving a fuller Report of the Trade of Martins Falls, this season, I now beg leave to offer what occurs to me of, any import on the subject.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

In the estimation of the Fur Trader, Returns are generally considered the most essential Item in the summing up of the Years Business, and I cannot therefore do better, than open with a few remarks on the quantity & quality of the Furs we have been able to collect. — The Amounts taken from the Recapitulation of our Packing Account, shew that Beaver remains stationary, being nearly the same as that obtained last Year; prime Skins however preponderating. Martens, on the Contrary, have fallen off, being scarcely two thirds of last Years returns, and that, according to my view, was far from what this post should produce. Fortunately, to make up for this deficiency Otter have increased by a fourth, and on the whole, the Returns may be supposed as equal in value to those for the preceding Outfit. — This, at one time certainly, I did not expect, the accounts from all quarters during the winter being only of the severest Starvation & distress, and I think it may be laid down as a general rule, seldom failing, that when Rabbits are very scarce on the Martins Fatty Grounds Trade will fall short. In such Years, the Indians have not a Moment to look for furs, but spend the whole of their time in procuring a livelihood for their families, when, as they say truly themselves,

many

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way) morsel they bring to their Tents is immediately snapt up, and there remains not even a foot, or a fatter for Bait. The best Hunters, in this quarter, seldome construct fishing Baskets, and when they do so, they are frequently broken down by the Fall Floods. Last Winters privations however, have induced many of them, to determine upon making Dams for fish, this Coming Fall, and I have given all such plans my Cordial approval. As soon as the Cold weather sets in, their difficulties usually begin, which will not be the case with those who may procure fish. They will there have a little leisure in the best trapping Months, November, and December, to make a good beginning to their packs.

Though the returns in Beaver are the same as last Years, I cannot but believe that the numbers of these Animals are a being gradually reduced. Every Beaver Hunter on the River, and to the Southward, talks of their Scarcity, and hopeful Complaints are entertained of our Nipigon & Long Lake Neighbours, closing the Lands with Traps. Indeed it has been remarked by Hunters, that it was particularly hard, when others should be "supplied with Traps, to ruin their Lands, while they," "themselves cannot procure one; and when they do fall" "in with a Beaver Lodge, they have the hardest of labor" "to work it, or if in Summer, the live long night sometimes" "to watch." I am appear to some blame in this resp, for it is thought I will not supply for Traps, and I cannot deny the imputation. Hoping there are efforts Commenced by the Governor, which may, though only after a great length of time, do away with the evil occasioned by throwing so many traps into the Lake Superior District, I would wish to second their efforts, both for the sake of the Natives, and the ultimate advantage that will accrue to the Concern

To

To quit the most mountainous Hunters, I have ordered a few Rat Traps, and tho' only one third of the Requisition has been answered, yet I believe there are as many as ought to have been sent. The Springs of many of these small Traps are so strong, that they will hold Beaver as well as Rats. Some of our Indians have procured a few Beaver Traps from the Nipigon & Long Lake Hunters, who are so well provided with them, by bartering Ammunition and other Articles, and this almost points out the easiest mode of reducing the number of Traps at the Lake Superior Posts. Let Indians who are in want of supply after a poor winters Hunt, be induced to part with their Traps for other necessaries, and let the strongest and newest traps be chosen. Could this plan be brought into action, the increase of the Beaver would in a short time enable the same Indians who require Traps to procure a sufficiency of Furs without, and in course of time their Lands would become replenished, affording ease to themselves and profit to the Company. This most desirable result — the increase of Beaver — would no doubt be more easily attained, were the Northern Line of Lake Superior Posts placed more immediately under the superintendance of the Moose and Albany Depots, the different Clerks Co-operating together in furtherance of the same object, without reference or regard to any slight loss in the interim. As to the facility of the means, whereby to effect such a change in the arrangement of the Posts, the Governor & Council of Moose can best judge. I might suggest however, that to employ in the Company's Craft, those Hunters who are known to Kill Summer Beaver, would assist the general plan, and it is a matter, in my opinion, well worthy of debate, whether, especially in impoverished Districts, the price of the Prime Large Beaver Skin ought not to be increased one half Skin, and the Summer Fur reduced as

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...sinuosity, making the difference of a Skin in their respective value, to induce the natives by every possible means to open the Lodges till the winter. Could such a difference of price influence Indians generally, Be should have some Bears for a time, but they would be all prime, and the number of Lodges would certainly increase — Were Bears an object of pursuit in England, none would be killed before the middle of October, nor any probably after the first of May, the Cubs of the female being lost, when the Mother is destroyed. By particular attention to all the points I have enumerated, "Bears jointly & severally", I should think Bears in this quarter might yet be restored.

Martens are at present very much reduced in numbers, perhaps nearly as much as may be inferred from the Comparative difference in the returns of their fur. Their paucity cannot be so easily accounted for as that of Bears, to the destruction of which the native devotes his attention, Summer and winter, as affording him, not only the means of paying for his supplies, but also a most favorite Meal — It appears that Martens increase & decrease alternately, without any very evident cause, for it is not uncommon after a winter very favorable for trapping, when many have been Killed, that the following season should afford a still more plentiful supply, and on the other hand, a year of scarcity, when comparatively few are taken, may be succeeded by one of still greater diminution in their returns. The quantity procured by the natives has therefore no sensible effect upon the general numbers of the Martin tribe, there being always a sufficiency left to renew the Breed. — A few Causes are alleged, on the prevalence or non prevalence of some of which, probably depend the Increase or Decrease of Martens. Disease is the cause assigned by the Indians for their scarcity, and when such

scarcity

3

scarcity is general throughout, this cause may well be admitted — An inclement Spring destroying the young Litter, is another reason given, and in the Albany District I have frequently known the Lynx blamed for thinning this animal. Allowing the possibility of the full influence of all such causes, I would confine my best Credit to the two first — Disease is known in Europe to play havoc among some species of the smaller Mammalia, and Martens, and Bears too, I believe, the most liable in this Country to imitations of that Kind. In the Spring of the Year old, both from their Young, and a rapid thaw at that season, overflowing the Barrens, and followed, as it frequently is, by a sharp frost, reducing every thing to solidity, must destroy all that are tender. A severe and continued storm of Sleet & Snow at this season, what is called on the Bay "Wavy Weather", will have a sad effect in the destruction of both Young Rabbits & Martens, perhaps even of the old, if it take place so late as the time they are casting their Coats, or winter hair, the most critical period for all Animals, predisposed by age, or otherwise, to weakness or disease — At this place, I believe the stormy weather with sleet, towards the end of May 1838, did much injury in this way. The Lynx also, if I am to rely on Indian report, were traversing the low Country during the winter, in bands of five & Six together, drawn probably from the high Grounds by the failing of their accustomed prey — They were represented to me, as hunting in company on some occasions like Wolves, even devouring each other, and clearing off all, Martens as well as Rabbits, as they went along. Notwithstanding this, the fact cannot be denied, that we have not received a corresponding quantity of their Skins, and I can only therefore bring in the Lynx as a Secondary — in the Causes of Keeping the Marten Breed[illegible] from our Stores.

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Having dwelt so long on the Furs constituting the staple Returns of the post, I shall proceed to state what little information I possess concerning those who are engaged in procuring them — In our Census of last Year forwarded to Albany, the number, comprising the Indian population attached to the post, stood at 263 — 139 of which were Males — 124 — females, and this I find to be nearly Correct. Of the 139 Males, only Sixty can be looked upon, as assisting in making up our returns, and of these, only forty, can be said to be Hunters, the rest being either very old men, Boys or worthless Weenusk Indians, who living in a very poor fur Country, and at a distance from the Establishment, content themselves with dragging out an existence, either fishing by means of Baskets, or Angling Pike, covering themselves with Rabbit Skins in winter, and visiting the post sometimes only once in the two Years, to procure a piece of cloth, an Axe, or a Blanket, whichever they may most require. Of the Forty Hunters five or Six are first Rate, that is, in favorable Seasons they kill 100 Mst. Skins, and some of them more — Twenty five Others are very fair, rising from thirty to Eighty Skins, when they do well — the remaining ten seldom achieving much, are but so so — When this small number of men is taken into account, the profits of the post may be regarded with something of a favorable eye. They will be found I think, equalling what is drawn from the same number of Hunters, in any part of the Albany District, even covering the losses we sustain on the Severn Side, for I have taken on my rest, all the Weenusk Indians, many of whose furs we sometimes never see. ——— The Greater number of the families belong to that tribe of Sauteux, denominated the Suckers — a Band of the Great Chippewa Divisions, which appears to have pushed farthest to the northward, at least in this quarter; Their habits are more peaceful in general than those of their Countrymen to the Southward, and as far as I have been able to judge, they have a greater aversion to quarrels and

Bloodshed

Bloodshed, than any natives in the Interior, approximating in this particular to the more docile Homeguards of the Old Factories at the Bay — They are known at York Factory and Severn as Bungees, a name, I imagine, given to them from their use of the Sauteux word Bungee — a little —. To the northward they keep up an intercourse with the Severn Indians, to the eastward, with those of Albany, mixing & intermarrying, which connections I may say, have already produced a Half Cree, Half Sauteux Breed, affecting the Language and Character in no slight degree. On the South side again, we have relationship with the purer Chippewas of Long Lake and Nipigon, but notwithstanding the many ties of Blood & Marriage, our Southern neighbours are regarded with a degree of fear and suspicion, which unsettles the minds of all our Hunters, the moment any of these strangers appear in view — The threat of the Kingfisher still bears sway.

Since the Receipt of the Vaccine Ichor sent out by the Honorable Company, every soul who has come to the Establishment (with the exception of our Girl, who went off without my Knowledge) has been vaccinated, and I have instructed the heads of families, how to inoculate their Children & relatives with a flint at their own Wigwams.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

The Country from which we draw our returns, is with some exceptions an entire swamp, ranking in many particulars almost on an equality, with the Hundred or Hundred & twenty miles, that belt the western side of the Bay. Scattered here & there, we have a few rising Grounds, but on the Albany River, until above Old Glocester, there is no elevation to strike the notice of the Traveller. I immediately to the Southward of Martin's Falls, we have a flat of two days'

Journey

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Journey in breadth, nor do the great ranges of Nipigon Hills commence, until fairly across, or far up the waters of Frenchman's River, beyond which scarcely any of our Hunters pass. This stream therefore may be considered, in part of its course, as bounding the Albany District. Something bearing the appearance of Hill & Dale, or as it may be properly termed in these wilds, rugged & flat, is to be observed at a short distance below the Atawapiscat Lake, where the face of the Country becomes broken, but not before we gain the head sources of the Atawapiscat River, to the westward, is there any Mountainous Land. A Range of high hills crosses the Albany River, above the Jabmit, in all probability an offset from the Nipigon or Lake Superior Girdle. On my Journey here from the Weenusk, when descending the Jabmit, our view was bounded by this ridge, which [illegible] lines of rugged eminences, topt with wood, conspicuous enough in the eyes of a Swampy Trader, unaccustomed to such heights, but not higher perhaps in reality than the Cheviots. The Distance to which these hills run to the northward, I am unable to ascertain, but at the South west sources of the Weenusk, they are much broken down, for although the country there, and as far down as Wawbickerhaw, is as craggy as disruption and scattered Blocks of Rock can render it, it nevertheless contains nothing higher than a good "Rabbit Hill". — The Jabmit as bounding the low Country, I consider, therefore, as our western Line, and it is often visited by our best Hunters, although the Osnaburg Indians now pass it.

The Weenusk, our true natural boundary to the northward, is, as I have already described it, covered with masses of broken Rocks, collected and scattered, fixed & Rolled, of so many Shapes and sizes, that the first Geologist in the Universe would have difficulty, in making either

either Head or Tail, of the heterogeneous Compound. Martens were once pretty numerous in this quarter, but since the great fire of the Year-21 traversed the Country, they have never recovered their numbers. The Land being less swampy than in the lower Country, was drier, and the Conflagration spread far and wide, leaving only Embarras of Burnt Wood, where there had been the dennest forests of Green Fus. In many of these situations, after the fire had passed, there sprung up a growth of Poplar, aspen, and Birch, mixed with a small species of Pine, none of which are suitable for the Marten, and Rabbits now only thrive in their stead. — The Weenusk Waters abound with Otters and Minks, which find safe asylum along the Rocky shores of the Lakes, and a plentiful supply of food at all seasons, the small shell fish, with which the Creeks are stored, affording them sustenance, when the funny tribes retire to the depths. Beaver are scarce —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

This brings me to our Eastern Marches an ideal Line running South East, from the Pebekyna Lake of the Weenusk River, across the Albany district, till it strike the Henley Fork. Little of course can be said of it, further than its being the line of demarcation, between our Indians and the Albany Crees. It crosses the Atawapiscat and Caperco Rivers somewhat obliquely, and runs through swamps and Forests, the former rich in Beaver, in days of Yore, the latter producing a race of Martens, only to be excelled in Beauty by those of Eastmain.

On my arrival at Martins Falls, 1834, I found the Indians much involved in debt, with a correspondence on the subject between Messrs Corrigal and

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...ance to Corcoran. The former has allowed the giving up of the balances, which were due at the time Mr. Corcoran have first taken charge, but the matter was still left open. Seeing that Indians have changed situations considerably since the period of Mr. Corcoran's arrival, with respect to their debts, I addressed Mr. Conjal, intimating in what manner I meant to act in this matter, to which he made no reply. I sustain therefore of throwing up a Mass of Balances having regard to the situations of the Indians three Years before, I began to ...ine their respective Accounts, according to their then present circumstances, and that they might view the Concession in a proper light, and be incited to exert themselves for the Comm... I promised abatement of old Debt, only in proportion to their endeavours to clear it off, themselves. This, I believe, has a good tendency, for the next Year the debt was paid off and reduced to a Considerable Amount, and although we have had now again two very unfavorable hunting Seasons, following, and I have been in consequence lee to relieve the Natives with both beyond the effect of their Hunts, yet the Debt Balances do not amount to what they were, when I first arrived. I shall still continue to act on the same principles of relief and moderation until I am forbidden by the Trade, for an Indian whose the whole of his Balance is indiscriminately given up, immediately affords fresh Credit to Nearly the same Amount, and two Years are sufficient in his mind to constitute this fresh debt an old one.

Different Complaints having of late been entered against the Albany District, of which Mr. Conjal has duly apprized me in his public letters, I may here be allowed to say, that I think, as far as this post is concerned, very little will suffice for an answer. These Complaints are in themselves vague enough, conveying no specific charge, and I have met them hitherto as prescribed by the Chief of the District—Viz, altho

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I have made enquiries Concerning them, I have received no satisfactory reply). I may declare in the meantime that in my dealings with the Indians, I consider myself as having duties to fulfil towards them, as well as towards the concern, and that having been ordered to remain at this post, by a Gentleman who was fully authorized to address me on the subject, I must believe I have given satisfaction to the Employ.

The Transport of our Supplies is carried on by our own Indians, and there is no difficulty attending this, except perhaps a little talk about the shortness of the allowance of Provisions, on which they have to work. Natives in this respect require what might be considered liberal treatment. At their own Lodges, they never restrict themselves to rations, while they have a morsel left, and accordingly when put upon duty, to which they are not accustomed, they find their appetites keen, and after a wearying winter of starvation, require a good quantity of solid food, to bring them into "Condition" for constant exertion and hard work.

The Half Breeds employed as domestics at the Establishment perform their duties well. They dislike the post, I believe, partly on account of the strict allowance of Rations necessary to be observed, for although we are never in want, it cannot be said we are ever in plenty, as at some fishing stations in the Interior. This scarcity of fish also prevents families from being attached to the post, and the consequent want of the society of the fair sex makes the winter nights pass long & dreary to the Young men.

Our Buildings having been

Constructed

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consumed out of the timber and boards of the Old Depot, are getting somewhat out of repair, but since the running over Platform, and the finishing our Boat, we have had time to collect enough of plank & Boards, to reconstruct a House for the men, and put a new Covering on the store. After this there will still remain the principal House to be covered, for which there are already a few Boards sawn, but when this last work shall have been completed, it may be reckoned the post will stand on its present form & datum for many years to Come.

Census of the Indian Population of Martin's Falls 1839.

Males		Females	
Old Men	9	Widows	4
Grown Hunters	46	Wives	65
Youths	7		
Boys	81	Girls	53
Total Males	143	Total Females	122

Number of Souls. 265.

Mr Gonzar is requested to fill up the vacant intervalles on the following Page, as I have not the necessary) to command him to do it Correctly

Martins Falls
June 1839 } Chf Factor

Principal Heads of the Martins Falls Fur Trade from the Year 1836 to the Year 1839.

Outfits	Sml. Hunters	Dear Skins	Returns	Furs Received	Debt Recovered	Beaver Supp.	Martin D.	Otter D.	Bales D.	Total Returns	Gain on the Trade	
Years	Nos	Mth.	Mth.	Mth.	Mth.	Nos	Nos	Nos	£.	£ D.	£.	£ D.
1836/37	51	756	3355	3024								
37/38	53	955	2960	2241								
38/39	57	1577	3020	2564								
39/30	53	1885	3379	3212								
30/31	60	2092	3686	3675								
31/32	59	2063	2572	1880								
32/33	60	2916	1935	1650					1357	15 8		
33/34 Sent to Moose Wemmee	60	3219	3266	2371					1549 656	15 8 13 5	1153 344	- - 4
34/35	60	3123	2513	2675	322	417	1918	571	2011	19 8	1603	8 8
35/36	63	2379	3099	2977	10	525	2301	435	3646	2 -	1569	11 3
36/37 19 of them Sent to Moose & Wemmee	58	2200	3230	3046	185	547	2499	337	2737	19 8	1969	16 -
37/38 Sent to Moose	59	2144	3371	2179	116	369	1147	303				
38/39 Returned	59	3226	3281	1939	419							

E.E. Col Barnston

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THE END.

END of SECTION B

CLASS 123

SUBDIVISION e

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Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 124

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 1

DESCRIPTION MATAWAGAMINGUE
(Mattagami)
REPORT on DISTRICT
1824-1825

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HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
B 124 e

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MATAWAGAMINGUE

REPORT 1824-1825

1
1824-1825

B 124/e/1 Hist. 135 Sl. RR. 1825 Matawigamingue 1
Ex 745

Report on the Affairs of Kennoogummisse River District 1824/25

On my arrival at Moose Factory from Europe, I was informed by the Governor and Council, that in consequence of Mr. Donald McKay having abruptly left the Service, and gone down to Canada, It was deemed advisable, to appoint me to the command of the Kennoogummisse River District, and from the uncertainty which existed of Mr. John McRae, and the Canadian servants, remaining longer than one Year, rendered it necessary that McRichard Good, and four Men should accompany me thither — We left Moose Factory on the 19th September, and being favored with a run of fine weather, and the water in the River in tolerable good condition, we arrived at the Post of Matawigamingue on the 10th October, where we found Mr. William Joseph Robins and two Men all well —

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Matawigamingue the principal Post of the District, lays by the course of the River, about 340 Miles nearly South, and by West, from Moose Factory, situated at the head of a narrow, crooked, deep Lake, into which the waters from the height of land to the E.S.E. and the waters from a continuation of small Lakes, and Rivers, from the height of Land to the Southerd and Westward, are discharged, thence into the Kennoogummisse Lake, and to the Bay at Moose Factory by the Kennoogummisse River — The boundary of the District to the Eastward, Joins the Temiscamingue and Abitibie Indians hunting lands, and extends North as far as Moose District, having New Brunswick, and the Lake Superior District to the westward, the Sault St. Mary's and Lake Huron posts to the Southerd.

The communication with Moose Factory, is generally speaking good, except in dry seasons, when the River becomes very shoal, the channel crooked and

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of course difficult to ascend with loaded craft, but by taking the opportunity of the flush of water in the Spring, goods may be transported, up this River with tolerable facility, the number of Portages are Fifteen, and the distance of land carriage about 10½ Miles, including 13 lightening places, over which latter the quantity of goods carried, are more or less, according to the state of the water at the time, the Portages are in general very short, none exceeding 14 Miles, except the first from Moose which is 4 Miles across, the walking on this Portage is comparatively level, and if properly cleared of large wind fallen trees, and sticks laid over some of the Valleys, and Swamps, the road would not appear so long as in its present rugged state — At this Portage the Canoes from the Interior meet the Boat from Moose Factory, and interchange cargo's, which precludes the necessity of transporting craft across the Portage — — the Journey up from Moose Factory with a 60 piece Boat, is performed in from 7 to 8 days, and allowing two days to transport the goods up, and Tues down, across the carrying place, the remainder of the Journey to Matawigamingue is performed with 30 piece Canoes in from 12 to 13 days according to the state of the water, consequently the whole Journey from Moose will on an average occupy, from 22 to 23 days, in which the Indians are principally employed —

In going over the occurrences of the past year, I am not aware that any thing of material consequence, happened beyond the usual routine of affairs, from the time of Mr. Donald McKays departure for Canada, until my arrival from Moose on the 10th October — a sufficient quantity of hay was procured for the few Cattle, and the produce of the Potatoe field about 200 bushels, were safely housed in due

due time — After several attempts without success, to procure fish at the usual station — I determined on sending men with kegs, and salt, to a fishing station in Kennoogue Lake; on the 27th October the men sent on this business returned, they having brought, and sent to the House, at different times 46 kegs of salted fish, the Kennoogummisse fishing station, is about 16 miles distant, and the fish are all carried over a rugged portage of nigh ¾ of a mile, but notwithstanding, it is the only sure fishing station, in the vicinity of Matawigamingue, by this most seasonable supply, we had sufficient for our own consumption through the Winter, and to render assistance to several families of Indians who were much distressed for Provisions, occasioned in the first instance, by the unusual early approach of Winter, followed by a continuance of soft weather, with much rain, which in the month of December thawed the Snow off the ground, and Rabbits, which formerly constituted the principal support of both Europeans, and Indians, were extremely scarce, so much so, that the men who were sent out to different lodges could not support themselves without regular supplies of Provisions from the House —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Agreeable to Instructions received from the Governor and Council, on the 9th February two men Thomas Richards, and Amable Bellaire, were sent down to Moose, with a corrected Order from thence, for Outfit 1825 of this District, — these two men returned safe on the 24th March being their eighteenth day from Moose Factory, and they were nineteen days going down. —

The warm weather commenced much sooner than usual, the Ice in the Lake cleared out on the 19th April — On the 11th May Angus McKay and Xavier Blay arrived

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arrived from the Flying Post with five packs of Furs, and a request from Mr. John McRae for a supply of 3 and 2½ point blankets, for immediate use, the stock of goods on hand, enabled me to forward the request, also a part of the Outfit for 1825 — Mr. William J. Robins accompanied this Canoe, to relieve Mr. John McRae in the charge of the Flying Post, — On the 30th May Mr. McRae accompanied by three men, and two Indians, arrived with the remainder of the Trade of that Post —

From the unusual earliness of the season, all the Indians who were engaged to perform the Journey to the long carrying place arrived, on the 1st and 2nd June, — the Trade of the District being nearly all collected, and as few or no fish could be procured, daily rations of Corn, and Grease, were necessarily served out to the Men, and Indian Voyagers, which induced me to dispatch two large, and one half size Canoe, manned by Six Men, and Eight Indians, with 49 Packs for the long Portage, on the 4th June, two days earlier than the time fixed for sending the Canoes from hence, Eight Packs besides 32 ℔ Castorum remained to be forwarded during the Summer — On the 23rd June the men and Indians dispatched with the packs returned from the long Portage with the whole Outfit of dry goods, consisting of 80 pieces in good condition —

As several Indians failed in their Winter hunts, owing to the extreme scarcity of the season, they were of course destitute of clothing and other necessaries, and to give them an opportunity of procuring such, I determined on employing them with the disposable men, in bringing up from Temiscamingue the supply of liquors, and Provisions, forwarded from Canada, which for this season precluded the

necessity

necessity of engaging the Montreal Voyagers in the upper country. I do not mean to infer from this, that Indians can at all times be engaged to trasport the Canada goods hither from Temiscamingue, but when such can be conveniently done, it certainly is advisable to do so, as the Indians are not only the cheapest carriers, but by employing them prevents in a great measure their killing the Beaver at an improper season, —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Of the Indians at Matawigamingue Post

The scarcity of Provisions during the Winter was most prevalent amongst the Southern Indians, and on their lands Beaver are now nearly extinct, principally occasioned by their own inadvertency in killing these animals at all seasons, and more particularly the small Cubs an instance of this occured soon after my Arrival viz — Extract from the Journal October 24th —

"Waunungo and Mother who came in yesterday "took their departure after getting their little necessaries "for the Winter, and an admonition was not forgot "to be given them, respecting the killing the Beaver "out of season, as well as the small Cubones, as out "of twenty one, Skins brought by them, no less than "twelve, were very small Cubs" — no further intelligence was heard of this family, till the 14th April when an Indian Quisence, brought the deplorable information of Waunungs father Pequitchinnie, his Wife, and Child, having after eating the Furs they had procured, perished through hunger, Waunungo his little brother and three small sisters the survivors of those at the lodge, were obliged to leave their parents to perish, and go in search of other Indians for help, and which they say was at the express desire of their Father — On this

25th May

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25th of May, three Children came to the House, their wretched appearance, too evident marks of what they must have suffered from the scarcity of the season. The sufferings of this poor unfortunate family, was in a great measure aggravated, from the Beaver being destroyed on their Lands, at improper seasons, their sad fate, ought to be an awful warning to other Indians, and deter them, from persisting in such a ruinous practice — but I regret to say, the general character of an Indian, is so improvident, that he seldom looks beyond the present moment. If he can satiate his immediate wants, he neither thinks or cares what may happen to him hereafter — Ackeweysey a Chief at this Post, and his Wife, both died in the early part of the Winter, of inflamation in the Throat, brought up to the Country (their sons say) by some Indians from the Lake Huron quarter. This Indian being aged did not Hunt much, but having Seven sons, whose Lands border on the Lake Huron Posts, was the reason of his being continued a Chief — The Posts on the borders of Lake Huron are convenient for many of the Southern Indians to visit, and I have every reason to think, from Articles of Clothing seen about three Indians, different from what we have here, that they must have gone, or sent their furs to some Post in the Lake Huron quarter, and which has been the case for some time past. The articles which they generally take at this Post, are insufficient for their annual consumption, and their Hunts this Spring, scarcely amounted to one half of what they were in the habit of bringing hither some years past — Four Indians who Hunt towards Lake Huron, have not visited here since the middle of last Summer, and long ere now they must have been destitute

of several articles and are of course gone to other Posts for a Supply —

Ruckatoosh or Flying Post —

This Post is about 70 Miles distant in a straight line North west from Matawagamingue, and from its situation, consequently forms no barrier to prevent, the the Indians who inhabit the South west side of the District, from making annual excursions to Lake Huron. The Chief of this Post, and some of his band, went last Summer to receive Government presents at Lake Huron, and the Major part of them have not returned, those of this band, who brought their Furs to the Post this Spring, industriously circulated reports among the Indians, respecting the liberal treatment which they experienced, from the Traders on Lake Huron, and its borders, and which cannot fail to contaminate the minds of those who are unacquainted with these parts —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Of the Trade of the District

The last Summer was particularly favorable from the Lowness of the Water for Hunting Musquash, consequently a more than usual number of these Animals skins were procured —

The few Indians who failed in their Hunts, attribute the cause, to the extreme scarcity of the Winter for Provisions, which employed a great proportion of their time, in looking after food for their families, added to which the mild weather setting in so soon, prevented them from keeping up their Martin Traps so long as usual, it is an invariable

custom

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custom amongst these upland Indians, never to begin hunting Martins till towards the middle or the latter end of March — If they were to commence setting up a Martin Traps in the early part of the Winter, no doubt a greater number of Martins Skins would be procured, the following are Statements of the Trades of the last two years and the present —

Outfit 1823/24	Beaver	Cubs	Foxes	Bears	Marten	Musquash	Otters	Skunks	Mink &c.
Matawiganingue	768	406	79	10	845	4200	149	160	25
Flying Post	395	236	33	7	1000	3918	124	135	8
Total	1163	642	112	17	1845	8118	273	295	33

Outfit 1823/24	Beaver	Cubs	Foxes	Bears	Marten	Musquash	Otters	Skunks	Mink &c.
Matawiganingue	766	384	152	14	877	6000	155	237	27
Flying Post	427	311	81	12	980	3500	149	150	20
Total	1183	695	233	26	1857	9500	304	387	47

Outfit 1824/25	Beaver	Cubs	Foxes	Bears	Marten	Musquash	Otters	Skunks	Mink &c.
Matawiganingue	880	254	158	20	1300	7140	238	310	32
Flying Post	364	184	75	15	1281	5373	160	140	.
Total	1244	438	233	35	2581	12513	398	350	32

The Trade of the present year exceeds those of the last two years, occasioned principally by several Indians not having arrived before the departure of the Canoes with the Furs for Moose Factory last Summer, so that about Six packs which properly belonged to the Trade of 1823/24 are included in the returns of 1824/25 — By the Account Current of the District, the clear gain on Outfit 1824 Amounts to £3166. 2. 4 which is somewhat more than could be calculated upon for a general average of Years —

Of the Servants —

Mr. Richard Good — This Gentleman passed the Winter with me at Matawiganingue, in the discharge of the duty which he had to perform, his conduct certainly merits my entire approbation — On the 4th June he went down to Moose Factory in charge of the Canoes conveying thither the returns of the District

Mr. John McRae — This Gentleman was in charge of the Flying Post, during the past year the business of which he conducted much to my satisfaction — His term of Apprenticeship expired in Summer 1823 and from the favorable reports which were made of him to the Governor and Council, it was deemed advisable to recommend his being placed on the third class of Clerks, at a Salary of £100 per annum for three years — to which the Hon.ble Committee were pleased to reply — "that no Clerk at the expiration of his apprenticeship could be placed

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"placed in a higher grade than the Fourth class
"at a Salary of £75 per Annum" — In January
last, I acquainted him with the Hmble Committees
decision, and received for answer, "that he was
"fully resolved to leave the Service, unless his
"salary was fixed at £100 pr Annum for three years
"ending 1826" — An opportunity offering in February
I forwarded his letter for the information of the
Governor, and such members of the Council as
might be at Moose Factory, with the approbation
of the Govr and Mr Beioley in which I fully
concurred, an offer was made to him namely,
that he should receive £75 per Annum for the
past and present Year, and £100 for the next
adding £25 to the £75 [illegible] for the
last of those years, to this proposal he replied
in May viz — "that nothing short of £100 per
"Annum for three years, would induce him
"to remain in the Service and at the same
"time requested that he might be furnished with
"the means of transport to Canada, there being
no alternative but permit him to leave the
Service, or comply with his demand. I
therefore rather than dispense with his services
agreed that the sum of £25 by way of gratuity
would be allowed him for each of the three
years in dispute ending 1826 to which he assented,
— he requests permission to visit his friends
in Canada, at the expiration of his Contract
1826 — but would engage to return to the Country
the same Autumn, on a Contract for three years,
provided he was allowed £120 per Annum —

Mr William Joseph Robins — This young Gentlemans
term

term of Six years Apprenticeship expires Summer
of 1826. he has hitherto been principally employed
at Matawigamingue, under the direction of another
person, consequently had not sufficient opportunity
of displaying his abilities, he was sent in May
last to relieve Mr McRae, in the charge of the
Flying Port — I should consider him as deserving
of being placed in the Fifth class of Clerks at a
Salary of £60 per Annum for three years —

Geore Moore B. — This man is a Native of the Country
about 30 years of age, is an expert hand in the
Canoes, and in other respects a careful indus-
trious servant, his wages is £25 per Annum
for this Contract, which expires in the Summer
of 1826 —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Thomas Richards — This man is a Native of the country,
about 40 years of age, an experienced Canoe man
and an attentive persevering servant, at the
time of the Union, he was indebted therefore
has hitherto been allowed a gratuity of £8.6.8 —
in addition to his wages of £25 per Annum
until the debt is paid, his contract expires 1826 —

George Rivers — This lad is a Native of the Country
about 20 years of age, a promising youth, he
unfortunately got hurt in the Autumn of
1823 from overexertion, and during the past
Winter was often ailing, and unfit to perform
any laborious duty, I much fear he is not likely
ever to recover — therefore with the view
of his benifiting from the advice and
assistance of the Doctor he has been sent
down

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down to Moose Factory —

Amable Bellaire — This man is a native of Canada about 27 years of age has now been five years in the Service, he is a good willing obedient hand, and tolerably expert in Canoes — But from profligate habits, in forming an intercourse with Indian women, contrary to established rules, he has been discharged, and is gone down to Canada. his wages for the last year was 600 livers without Equipment —

Augustine Berchand. — This man is a native of Canada about 23 years of age, has now been two years in the Service, he came up under a Contract for three years at 400 livers pr. Annum without Equipment, he is very industrious and active, his Contract expires 1826 — and requests to be allowed to return to Canada —

Xavier Blay — A native of Canada about 27 years of age, he has now been five years in the Country, an active good hand and particularly so in Canoes, his wages is 600 livers without Equipment, and he requests permission to return to Canada at the Expiration of his Contract 1826 —

Pierre Duplante — A native of Canada about 27 years of age has been five years in the Service an industrious good hand, But from his persisting in keeping an Indian Woman contrary to established rules, he has also been discharged the Service, and returned to Canada — his

Wages

Wages for the past year was 600 livers without Equipment —

Angus McKay — This man is a Native of Canada about 28 years of age, has now been six years in the Service, he is very active obedient and trustworthy, his wages is 600 livers without Equipment. he also requests to be permitted to return to Canada at the expiration of his Contract 1826 —

John McKay — This man is a Native of Orkney about 19 years of age, came to the Country last year under a Contract for five years at £15 Sr. per Annum, he is active, and promises fair being a good industrious Servant —

The compliment of Servants intended for the District the next Winter, exclusive of one Chief Factor or Chief Trader, who will in all probability be appointed to the District, are as follows —

Matawigamingue Post

1 Apprentice Clerk
3 Men —

Kuchatoosh or Flying Post —

1 Clerk in Charge
3 Men.

Alexr. Christie

Kennoogse District July 20th 1825

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Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 124

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 2

DESCRIPTION MATAWAGAMINGUE
(MATTAGAMI)
REPORT on DISTRICT
1825-1826

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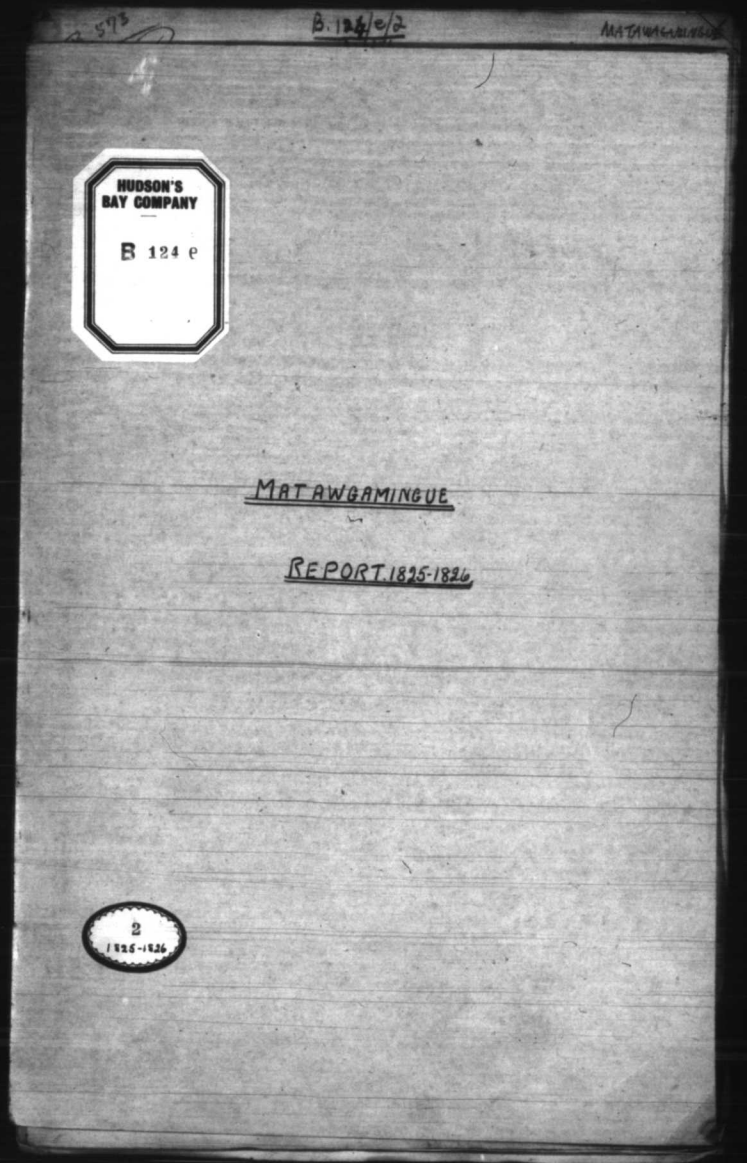

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B. 124/e/2
MATAWAGAMINGUE

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
B 124 e

MATAWGAMINGUE

REPORT 1825-1826

2
1825-1826

Ex. B.573
B.124/e/2
1825/26
MATAWAGAMINGUE

Report on the Affairs of Renoogumisse River District 1825/26

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Matawagamingue Post.

In going over the narrative of the occurrences at this Post, from the conclusion of my last Annual Report, I find that during the Summer months nothing worthy of notice beyond the usual routine of affairs happened — The Outfit of Goods both from Moose Factory, and Canada via Temiscamingue were safely brought up in due time, and in good order, the transport of which was performed by Indians with the assistance of a few men belonging to the District — I found considerable inconvenience from the smallness of the Canoes, usually employed in conveying the Furs down, and goods up, from the Long Portage on the route to Moose Factory — and which induced me last Summer to request Mr Angus Cameron, to prepare two Canoes at Temiscamingue, of sufficient size to contain each 35 pieces of goods, or 25 packs of Furs, exclusive of Provisions for the Journey, two Canoes of this dimensions will in most seasons carry down the returns of the District to the Long Portage, and convey up from thence the whole Outfit of Goods forwarded from Moose Factory, at the same time requiring no more hands to navigate them than two of the Canoes formerly in use, which were only calculated to carry 28 pieces of goods, or 20 Packs of Furs — The road from Temiscamingue to this Post, or from thence to the Long Portage on the route towards Moose Factory, are not well adapted for Boats, besides while we employ Indians as carriers (and who are in my humble opinion by much the cheapest) Canoes are decidedly the handiest, and indeed the only Craft, which they could navigate in Rivers where there are many rugged Portages, and dangerous rapids — there are no good Canoe bark within the District — But no inconvenience will be experienced in this respect, as Canoes of a proper size can at all times be traded, at a moderate rate from the Temiscamingue Indians, and forwarded with the Outfit of liquors and Provisions from Canada without incurring any additional expense, as the Temiscamingue Indians are employed in the transport of these goods, and when a new Canoe may be required to supply the place of such as may be useless, these Indians have only in that case, to be furnished with an old Canoe for their return to Temiscamingue.

From the 20th July when the Outfits were all brought up

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till the latter end of August, Mr. John McRae and three men (Thomas Richards, Xavier Blay, and John McKay) were residents at the post, these men during that time were principally employed procuring hay, repairing the houses, and dressing the gardens — On the 30th August Thomas Richards and Xavier Blay were dispatched for Moose Factory, and on the 13th September I departed from thence, in a half size Canoe manned by the above two men and John Stainger, the weather proving favorable we arrived at Matawagamingue on the 1st October, and found Mr. John McRae, together with John McKay and Angus McKay all well, the latter having recently come down from the Flying Post, agreeable to my instructions of the 17th July to Mr. William Joseph Robins — On the 3rd October Mr. John McRae and one man (Angus McKay) were dispatched in a small Canoe for the Flying Post, with directions for Mr. Robins then in charge to come and pass the Winter at Matawagamingue, on the 10th October, he arrived in a small Canoe accompanied by Angus McKay, by this opportunity Mr. McRae acquainted me, that from the complete failure of the potatoe crop, occasioned by severe frosts in the end of July, and beginning of August, added to which, there being no fall or Winter fishing station in the vicinity of the Post, and to save an unnecessary expenditure of Provisions, he had determined to pass the Winter with one man, therefore requested that Angus McKay might be maintained at Matawagamingue — The produce of the Gardens being safely housed — on the 12th October four men and three Indians were dispatched to attend two fall fishing stations, the produce of which were about 37 kegs of White fish, there with an abundant crop of Potatoes were ample, for the consumption of those at the place through the Winter, and afforded the means of supporting several families of Indians, who without such seasonable relief, would not have survived to see another Summer — Rabbits the former dependance of Indians and Europeans, proved even scarcer than the preceding year, — during the Summer months country Provisions can not be procured sufficient to support the few men required for the duty of the District, so that, at times it is necessary to issue daily rations, at the rate of one quart of corn, and two ounces of grease, to each man per day, — but from the commencement of the fall fishing in the beginning of

of October, and through the Winter season, no European provisions are used, except when the men are dispatched in search of Indians or during a short time about the beginning of April when they are employed procuring firewood for the following Winter —

We were annoyed by the intrusions of Traders amongst our southern Indians, from Posts established in the Interior from Lake Huron, — in the course of the Winter and Spring, men were sent to these Indians tents and every means in my power used, to prevent good hunters from having any communication with other Traders, and in which we succeeded equal to my expectation, except in the case of two or three vagabonds who it is of little consequence where they go —

The unusual quantity of Snow which fell during the Winter, and from the continuance of cold weather to so late a date, little or none of the Snow was dissolved before the 15th April when the thaw commenced, and which continued with such unprecedented rapidity that the Waters in the Rivers, and Lakes, suddenly rose to a height not within the recollection of the Oldest Indian, — it was with considerable trouble we could preserve the railings round the gardens, and the next winters firewood from being carried away, even after it was brought to the house, fortunately however our ultimate loss was very trifling, and the greatest inconvenience which we suffered was the length of time, the water remained on the Gardens, which prevented the seed being put into the ground at the usual time —

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Agreeable to the instructions of the Governor and Council, preparations are made for my leaving Matawagamingue for Moose Factory, on or about the 6th June in company with the Canoes, conveying the returns of the District to the Long Portage, Mr. John McRae and one man are to be the only persons at the house till the return of the Canoes from thence.

Of the Indians

In my report of last year, I stated that Posts were established from Lake Huron convenient for many of the Southern Indians to visit, two of the four Indians who were absent at the date of my writing last season, returned in course of the Summer with a few furs — But the other two Atisokan, and his son Cabeshcam, carried the whole of their

Winter

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Winter hunt 1824/25 to the Hon'ble Company's post established from Lake Huron at Whitefish Lake, where I understand there were two Private Traders established during the past Winter — this Post is situated in a South East direction about five days Journey from Mistawagamingue, and little more than two days march from the above Indians hunting Lands. these two Indians have also carried thither the produce of last Winter hunt — I received information last Autumn of Private Traders having set themselves down beside the Hon'ble Company's Post at Mimiskinagua Lake, — per Extract from Journal — October 17th — Shanguipghwock and Nekumgaws "son (the eldest) came in with ten Martens worth of every kind "of prime Furs. at the same time making urgent requests for "goods in advance, evidently with fraudulent intentions, as the "former carried the major part of his Furs last Spring to a "Post established from Lake Huron at or near Mimiskinagua "Lake, and the latter has not visited here since Spring 1824 "— from their wretched appearance, out of Humanity they were "intrusted with twelve Martens worth in ammunition and "Leather they report that two Posts are established in the "vicinity of the above mentioned Lake, and from which the "Indians are profusely supplied with Liquor, the evil conse- "quences of which, are already too apparent as recently during "a drunken carouse which lasted ten days, two Indians lost "their Lives, such being the case it is evident the Trade of the "District will be very materially injured" — It is to be regretted these Traders having appeared on the Frontier at a time when our Indians were become satisfied with the disappearance of Opposition, and beginning to turn their minds towards sparing the Beaver as much as possible — I trust however that by strengthening the Frontier Posts from Lake Huron, at the same time making no innovation but continue to pursue a steady regular course of dealing with the Indians, that one can not fail of continuing their confidence, and will naturally give an effective check to the miserable demoralizing Trade of these petty intruders —

In the early part of last Summer several Indians were induced from the favorable views which they heard, to go down to Lake Huron with the views of receiving Government presents at Drummonds Island, there to meet on this occasion

occasion returned in the Autumn to their hunting Lands, much afflicted with a disorder similar in every respect to the Whooping Cough, in the beginning of Winter this malady spread through the Indians to an alarming degree, indeed the whole were up or more affected, Two Indians, and two small Children fell victims to its ravages, and what aggravated their distressful situation — Rabbits which in former seasons were their principal support, proved extremely scarce — the Southern Indians in particular were much reduced, being from their sickly state unable to make the necessary exertions in quest of food, those who were within a moderate distance came to the House and received a seasonable supply of Salt Fish and Potatoes — Sam so far happy to say, that with the exception of one Indian, and a Child none of the deaths are said to have been occasioned from starvation, and towards Spring the whole were apparently in their usual state of health —

The tract of country which the Southern Indians occupy, and which lays from S.E. to West of Mistawagamingue, & generally speaking a poor Fur Country, Beaver are nearly annihilated, and during these two past Winters, Cats have also disappeared therefore a few Martens, and Otters were the principal produce of their hunts — The Indians who are from West, to the North ward and Eastward of the House, possess a much more valuable Fur Country, and from the circumstance, of each Indian having a certain allotement of Land for himself and family, a portion of which he hunts Annually, which gives the remainder a little time to recruit, but from the great population, and the small space which falls to the share of each family, they generally go over the extent of their hunting grounds, once in two years — Much however have recently been accomplished towards improving their Country, by refraining from killing the Beaver during the Summer and at improper seasons —

Of the Trade

The number of Musquash received during the past Summer, are somewhat less than the preceeding year, and from the unusual height of the water this Spring, few or none were procured. the Trade however as related to this description of Fur, is about an average Trade —

From Martens being tolerably numerous the Indians

Next

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were encouraged to hunt these Animals and spare the Beaver consequently the number of Martins are more than last year and considerably above an average — I strongly recommended to the Indians in general, to prosecute the hunting of Martins during the ensuing Winter, and to spare their Beaver as much as possible, they promised to do so, But at the same time said that they were at times obliged to hunt the Beaver for food in the Winter, when Rabbits or other provisions could not be procured

The Beaver are considerably less than last season, but in the number procured, there a much greater proportion of Fine skins than were in the preceeding years returns —

Bears are fewer in number than last season, but the Skins are also of a superior quality —

Cats were unusually scarce, which was in some measure attributable to the disappearance of Rabbits upon which they principally subsist — every other description of Furs are equal to an average Trade, as appears from the following statement of three years returns —

	Bears	Beaver	Cats	Fishers	Foxes	Martins	Mesquash	Minks	Otters	Castor
	No.	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	lbs
Outfit 1823/24 —	136	1183	695	233	26	1857	9500	387	304	47
Outfit 1824/25	135	1244	438	233	35	2581	12513	350	398	32
Outfit 1825/26 —	50	728	196	182	43	2979	10820	446	312	32

Value of Furs Outfit 1823/24 ..... £3504 . 8 . 2
Expences of — " — " — 1256 . 11 . 6
Profit upon — " — " — 2247 . 16 . 8

Value of Furs Outfit 1824/25 ..... 4427 . 9 . 4
Expences of — " — " — 1261 . 7 . 0
Profit upon — " — " — 3166 . 2 . 4

Value of Furs Outfit 1825/26 ..... 3484 . 7 . 10
Expences of — " — " — 869 . 12 . 11
Profit upon — " — " — 2614 . 14 . 11

From the foregoing statement the Trades of Outfit 1825/26 comes the nearest to the actual average of Trade, expences and Profit,

of —

of the District, altho' had the whole of the Indians arrived with their Winter and Spring hunts, before the departure of the Canoes for the long portage, the value of this years Trade would have been somewhat more, and a trifling additional expence would have been incurred —

Of the Cattle

The present number of Cattle at Matawagamingue are Eleven, including three Calves, I consider it advantageous to keep about this number, but would not recommend rearing an increase, as procuring hay even for this number is attended with considerable trouble, little or none of which can be got along the Lake except of an inferior quality, commonly called Goose Grass — and which is not to be procured in any quantity except in dry seasons when the water in the Lake is low —

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Of the Gardens

The whole extent of ground under cultivation is about three acres, and the produce of which last Autumn was about 300 Bushels of Potatoes, 20 Bushels of Swedish and yellow Turnip, and 20 gallons of Bear or Big — The soil being a pure sand, it is only from the advantage of the Cattle, which affords the means of having the ground well manured, that reasonable crops are produced, and which may I think be depended upon, except in dry seasons. — this Spring a great proportion of the Ground was inundated by the unusual height of water at the breaking up of the Ice, in which state the water remained for a considerable time, and even so late as the Sixth June, the ground was not in a fit state for receiving the seed —

Of the Houses

The buildings consist of two dwelling houses, one Store and trading room, One Canoe Store, a hay barn and Cowhouse, together with a Potatoe vault and provision room, the whole of which have boarded roofs, — with the exception of the Masters Dwelling which is beginning to decay in the foundation, the other buildings are in good repair —

Of the Servants in the District —

Mr. John McRae

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Mr. John McRae.

This Gentleman was in charge of Mistawagamingue Post last Summer during my absence at Moose Factory, in the autumn he resumed the command of the Flying Post he conducted the affairs of this Post much to my satisfaction, on all occasions he manifested ability as an Indian Trader and Zeal to promote his employers interest — I consider him fully capable to take charge of any Post within the Old Temiscamingue Department. at least from a Nine years residence he is most accustomed to the Trade, in this part of the Country — His term of three years agreement expires this Summer and having urgently supported Recommendations from the Governor and Council to raise his salary in Canada. he was permitted to go down, by the return Canoe from Temiscamingue with an understanding, that he comes up by the Autumn Canoe, to Temiscamingue, in order to resume the charge of the Flying Post for the ensuing Winter — Last Year the Governor and Council recommended this Gentleman for the consideration of the Honble Committee to be engaged for a term of three Years at a Salary of £30 Sr. per Annum —

Mr. William Joseph Robins.

This young Gentlemans Term of Six Years Apprenticeship expires this Autumn, he was in charge of the Flying Post during the past Summer, and was sent further this season also — he passed the winter season with myself at Mistawagamingue, he is not deficient of abilities but unfortunately for himself poor man, he is extremely thoughtless and very inattentive to business — I do not consider him qualified to take charge of any Post within this District, during the Winter season, and provided an opportunity comes up this summer to Lanque de Terre, (as was reported last Autumn) I would recommend that he be permitted to retire from the Service —

Thomas Richards — Steersman and Guide —

This man is well qualified for the Services for which he is engaged — during the past Winter he was principally employed going after Indians who were in the habit of carrying their Furs to Traders from Lake Huron, from this

this time of life, being about 40 years of age he is not so able to undergo the fatigue which he was capable of going through some years ago, — His wages for the last contract (which expires this year was £25 per Annum, —

John McRay — Middleman —

This young man has now served two years, at his own for very laborious duty — he is an active industrious servant at any duty required about the House his Wages is £15 Sr. per Annum, and Contract expires in 1829 —

John Stranger — Middleman —

This man passed the Winter of 1824/25 at York Factory, and came down from thence to Moose Factory in the Union Sloop last September, he is a strong active hard working man, — has served two Contracts, the first for four years at £15 per Annum and the last for three years at £18 — last Autumn he requested permission to return to Europe this season —

George Rivers — Middleman

This Lad is a native of the Country about 21 years of age. he being in a very infirm state of health, occasioned from having received a hurt while assisting to carry a large Canoe, was left at Moose Factory with the view of deriving benefit from the advice and Assistance of the Surgeon — his Wages £18 Sr. has for the past year been included in the expences of Contingencies Inward Outfits —

Langues McRae — Steersman

This man passed the Winter at Mistawagamingue, and returned to the Flying Post in the Spring, from my own observation, as well as from Mr. McRae's report of this servant — I consider him a good industrious servant he has Wintered seven years in the District and returns to Canada, after the arrival of the Canoes with the Outfit of the goods forwarded from Moose Factory Wages during the past year 30 Livres —

Xavier Blay — Middleman

This Man

This is a native of Canada 28 years of age, a very industrious good servant, about the House, and an active hand in Canoes he has Wintered five years at Matawagamingue, and goes back to Canada this season after the return of the Canoes from the Long Portage with the Outfit from Moose Factory. Wages during the past Year 600 livers —

Augustine Berchand — Middleman —

This man is also a native of Canada who has served a Contract for three years at 400 livers per Annum — he is a trust worthy good Servant, and as his services could not conveniently be dispensed with, he has been engaged for one year only, at 600 livers and requests permission to return to Canada next year —

The compliment of Servants which I propose for the Kenoogumisee River District Outfit 1826/27 are as follows — viz —

Matawagamingue Post

1 Clerk in Charge of the Post
1 Apprentice — Clerk —
1 Steersman and Guide
2 Middlemen —

Flying Post, or Kuckatoosh

1 Clerk in Charge of the Post
2 Middlemen —

The Flying Post is situated only from 60 to 80 Miles in a North West direction from Matawagamingue — But by the circuitous route with Canoes the distance is nearly 100 miles, from its situation this Post forms no barrier to prevent Indians making annual excursions to Lake Huron — those Indians who lands lay to the Southward and Westward, and where there are a few Beaver, do not I am sorry to say, hesitate killing these animals when an opportunity offers, being well assured (If we were to refuse trading their Skins) of meeting a ready sale amongst the Petty Traders from Lake Huron, — In the event of those Traders appearing again on the frontier, I would strongly

recommend

recommend the sending a Clerk and two men in the Autumn to establish a post on a small scale, from Matawagamingue towards Minisinaqua Lake, with the view of more effectually preventing, those Petty intruders from having any dealings with our Indians, those people would return the following spring with the result of their exertions, and if the plan was found advantageous, the same plan might be followed up —

From information which I received in the course of the Winter from Chief Trader Angus Cameron, it appears we narrowly escaped from being assailed by a formidable opposition under the direction of Mr. Clark Ross, at Langue de Terre, which is near about half way between Temiscamingue and Matawagamingue, however these new comers were in the first instance frustrated in their views, and should they be inclined to hazard another attempt, I trust with confidence, they will derive little benefit therefrom —

Kenoogumisee River District
June 6th 1826 —

Alexr. Christie

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INCORPORATED 2nd MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 124

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 3

DESCRIPTION MATAWAGAMINGUE
(MATTAGAMI)
REPORT on DISTRICT
1825 - 1826

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B 124 e

MATAWGAMINGUE

REPORT 1825-1826

3
1825-1826

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59/536 B.124/e/3 Bar/26 MATAWAGAMINGUE

Report on the affairs of Kinogumissee River district 1825/26 1

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Mataswagaminque Post.

In going over the narrative of the occurrences at this Post from the conclusion of my last annual report I find that during the summer months nothing worthy of notice beyond the usual routine of affairs happened. The outfit of Goods both from Moose factory and Canada via Temiscamingue were safely brought up in due time and in good order, the transport of which was performed by Indians with the assistance of a few Men belonging to the district. I found considerable inconvenience from the smallness of the Canoes usually employed in conveying the Furs down and Goods up from the long Portage on the route to Moose Factory and which induced me last summer to request Mr Angus Cameron to prepare two Canoes at Temiscamingue of sufficient size to contain each 28 pieces of Goods or 28 packs of Furs exclusive of provisions for the Journey, two Canoes of these dimensions will in most seasons carry down the returns of the district to the long Portage and convey up from thence the whole Outfit of Goods forwarded from Moose factory at the same time requiring no more hands to navigate them than two of the Canoes formerly in use, which were only calculated to carry 28 pieces of Goods or 20 packs of Furs. The road from Temiscamingue to this Post or from thence to the long portage on the route towards Moose Factory are not well adapted for Boats, besides which we employ Indians as carriers (and who are in my humble opinion by much the cheapest) Canoes are decidedly the handiest and indeed the only craft which they could navigate in Rivers where there are many rugged Portages and dangerous rapids, there is no good Canoe bark within the district, but no inconvenience will be experienced in this respect as Canoes of a proper size can at all times be traded at a moderate rate from the Temiscamingue Indians, and forwarded with the outfit of liquors and Provisions from Canada without incurring any additional expence, as the Temiscamingue Indians are employed in the transport of those goods, and when a new Canoe may be required to supply the place of such as may be unfit for use these Indians have only in that case to be furnished with an old Canoe for their return to Temiscamingue.

From the 20th July when the Outfits were all brought up till the latter end of August, Mr John McRae and three Men (Thomas Richards

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Xavier Blay and John McKay) were Residents at the Post; these Men during that time were principally employed procuring hay repairing the houses and dressing the Gardens. On the 30th August Thomas Richards and Xavier Blay were dispatched for Moose Factory and on the 13th September I departed from thence in a half size Canoe manned by the above two Men and John Stainger, the weather proving favorable we arrived at Matawagamingue on the 1st October and found Mr John McRae together with John McKay and Angus McKay all well the latter having recently come down from the Flying Post agreable to my instructions of the 17th July to Mr William Joseph Robins. On the 3d October Mr John McRae and one Man Angus McKay were dispatched in a small Canoe for the Flying Post with directions for Mr Robins then in charge to come and pass the Winter at Matawagamingue, on the 10th October he arrived in a small Canoe accompanied by Angus McKay, by this opportunity Mr McRae acquainted me that from the complete failure of the Potatoe crop occasioned by severe frosts in the end of July and beginning of August added to which there being no fall or winter fishing station in the vicinity of the Post, and to save an unnecessary expenditure of provisions he had determined to pass the winter with one Man, therefore requested that Angus McKay might be maintained at Matawagamingue. The produce of the Gardens being safely housed, On the 12th October Four Men and three Indians were dispatched to attend two Fall fishing stations, the produce of which were about 37 kegs of White fish there with an abundant crop of Potatoes were ample for the consumption of those at the place through the Winter and afforded the means of supporting several families of Indians, who without such seasonable relief would not have survived to see another Summer. Rabbits the former dependance of Indians and Europeans proved even scarcer than the preceding year during the Summer months Country Provisions can not be procured sufficient to support the few Men required for the duty of the district so that at times it is necessary to issue daily rations, at the rate of one quart of Corn, and two ounces of Grease to each Man ⅌ day, but from the commencement of the Fall fishing in the beginning of October and through the Winter season no European Provisions are used except when the Men are dispatched in search of Indians or during a short time about the beginning of April when they are employed procuring firewood for the following Winter. We were annoyed by the

intrusion of Traders amongst our Southern Indians from Posts established in the Interior from Lake Huron, in the course of the Winter and Spring Men were sent to these Indian tents, and every means in my power used to prevent good hunters from having any communication with other Traders and in which we succeeded equal to my expectation, except in the case of two or three vagabonds who it is of little consequence where they go.

The unusual quantity of snow which fell during the Winter and from the continuance of cold weather to so late a date, little or none of the Snow was dissolved before the 15th April when the thaw commenced and which continued with such unprecedented rapidity, that the waters in the rivers and Lakes suddenly rose to such a height not within the recollection of the oldest Indian it was with considerable trouble we could preserve the railings round the Gardens and the next winters firewood from being carried away, even after it was brought to the house, fortunately however our ultimate loss was very trifling and the greatest inconvenience which we suffered was the length of time the water remained on the Gardens which prevented the seed being put into the ground at the usual time.

Agreeable to the instructions of the Governor and Council preparations are made for my leaving Matawagamingue for Moose Factory on or about the 6th June in Company with the Canoes conveying the returns of the district to the Long Portage, Mr John McRae and one Man are to be the only persons at the house till the return of the Canoes from thence.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Of the Indians

In my report of last year I stated that Posts were established from Lake Huron convenient for many of the Southern Indians to visit two of the four Indians who were absent at the date of my writing last season returned in course of the Summer with a few Furs.

But the other two Alisokan and his son Cabesheam carried the whole of their Winter hunt 1824/25 to the Honbr Companys Post established from Lake Huron at Whitefish Lake, where I understand there were two private Traders established during the past winter: this Post is situated in a South West direction about five days Journey from Matawagamingue, and little more than two days march from the above Indians hunting lands, these two Indians have also carried thither the produce of last winter hunt. I received information last Autumn of private Traders having set themselves

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down beside the Hon.ble Companys Post at Menisinaqua Lake in an extract from Journal of October 17th Tchanquipichcook and Nekinganes Son (the eldest) came in with ten Martens worth of very indifferent Furs at the same time making urgent requests for Goods in advance evidently with fraudulent intentions as the former carried the major part of his Furs last Spring to a Post established from Lake Huron at or near Menisinagua Lake and the latter has not visited here since Spring 1824, from their wretched appearance out of humanity they were entrusted with twelve Martens worth in ammunition and leather, they report that two Posts are established in the vicinity of the above mentioned Lake, and from which the Indians are perfectly supplied with Liquor, the evil consequences are already too apparent as recently during a drunken carouse which lasted Few days two Indians lost their lives; such being the case it is evident the Trade of the district will be very materially injured". It is to be regretted these Pedlers having appeared on the Frontier at a time when our Indians were become satisfied with the disappearance of opposition, and beginning to turn their minds towards sparing the Beaver as much as possible. I trust however that by strengthening the Frontier Post from Lake Huron, at the same time making no innovation but continue to pursue a steady, regular course of dealing with the Indians, that we can not fail of continuing their confidence and will naturally give an effective check to the miserable demoralizing Trade of these petty intruders. In the early part of last Summer several Indians were induced from the favorable news which they heard, to go down to Lake Huron with the view of receiving Governments presents at Drummonds Island, those who went on this excursion returned in the Autumn to their hunting lands much afflicted with a disorder similar in every respect to the whooping cough, in the beginning of Winter this malady spread through the Indians to an alarming degree ended the whole more or less affected. Five Indians and two small children fell victims to its ravages, and what aggravated their destitute situation Rabbits which in former Seasons were their principal support proved extremely scarce, the Southern Indians in particular were much reduced being from their sickly state unable to make the necessary exertions in quest of food, those who were within a moderate distance came to the house and received a reasonable supply of Sturgeon and Potatoes. I am so far happy to say

that with exception of one Indian and a child none of the deaths are said to have been occasioned from starvation, and towards Spring the rest were apparently in their usual state of health.

The tract of Country which the Southern Indians occupy and which lays from E. S. to West of Matawagamingue is generally speaking a poor Fur Country, Beaver are nearly annihilated and during these two past Winters cats have also disappeared, therefore a few Martens and Otters were the principal produce of their hunts. The Indians who are from West to the Northward and Eastward of the house, possess a much more valuable Fur Country and from the circumstance of each Indian having a certain allotment of Land for himself and family, a portion of which he hunts annually which gives the remainder a little time to recruit, but from the great population and the small span which falls to the share of each family, they generally go over the extent of their hunting grounds once in two years — much however has recently been accomplished towards improving their country by refraining from killing the Beaver during the Summer and at improper Seasons.

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Of the Trade

The number of Musquash received during the past Summer are somewhat less than the preceding year, and from the unusual height of the water this Spring few or none were procured, the Trade however as relates to this description of Fur is about an average Trade.

From Martens being tolerably numerous the Indians were encouraged to hunt these animals and spare the Beaver, consequently the number of Martens are more than last year and considerably above an average. I strongly recommended to the Indians in general to prosecute the hunting of Martens during the ensuing Winter and to spare their Beaver as much as possible, they promised to do so, but at the same time said that they were at times obliged to hunt the Beaver for food in the Winter, when rabbits or other provisions could not be procured. The Beaver are considerably less than last season but in the number procured there are a much greater proportion of fine skins than were in the preceding Years returns. Bears are fewer in number than last Season, but the skins are also of a superior quality. Cats were unusually scarce which was in some measure attributable to the disappearance of Rabbits upon which they principally subsist. Every other description of Furs are equal to an average Trade, as appears from

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the following statement of three Years Returns

	Bears	Beaver	Cats	Fishers	Foxes	Martens	Musquash	Minks	Otters	Castor
	No.									lbs.
Outfit 1823/24	136	1193	695	233	26	1857	9500	337	304	47
" 1824/25	195	1284	598	233	35	2531	12513	350	398	32
" 1825/26	50	723	196	182	23	2979	10820	226	312	32

Value of Furs Outfit 1823/24 £ 3502. 8. 2.
Expences of " " " " 1256. 11. 6
Profit upon £ 2247. 16. 8

Value of Furs Outfit 1824/25 £ 4527. 9. 4.
Expences of " " " " 1261. 7. —
Profit upon " " " £ 3266. 2. 4.

Value of Furs Outfit 1825/26 £ 3484. 7. 10.
Expences of " 369. 12. 11
£ 2614. 15. 11

From the foregoing statement the Trades of Outfit 1825/26 comes the nearest to the actual average of Trade, expences and profits of the district, altho' had the whole of the Indians arrived with their Winter and Spring hunts before the departure of the Canoes for the long portage, the value of this Years Trade would have been somewhat more and a trifling additional expence would have been incurred.

Of the Cattle

The present number of Cattle at Matawagamingue are Eleven, including three calves. I consider it advantageous to keep about this number, but would not recommend rearing an increase, as procuring hay even for this number is attended with considerable trouble, little or none of which can be got along the Lake except of an inferior quality commonly called Goose grass, and which is not to be procured in any quantity except in dry Seasons when the Water in the Lake is low.

Of the Gardens

The whole extent of ground under cultivation is about

three acres, and the produce of which last Autumn about 300 bushels of Potatoes, 20 bushles of Swedish and yellow turnips and 20 Gallons beans or big. The soil being a pure sand, it is only from the advantage of the Cattle which affords the means of having the ground well manured, that reasonable crops are produced, and which may I think be depended upon except in dry seasons — this Spring a great portion of the Ground was innundated by the unusual height of Water at the breaking up of the Ice in which state the Water remained for a considerable time, and even so late as the sixth June the ground was not in a fit state for receiving the seed.

Of the Houses.

The buildings consist of two dwelling houses one store and trading room, One Canoe store, a hay barn and Cowhouse together with a potatoe vaulte and provision room, the whole of which have boarded roofs with the exception of the Masters dwelling which is beginning to decay in the foundation the other buildings are in good repair.

Of the Servants in the district

Mr. John B.te Rat. This Gentleman was in charge of Matawagamingue post last Summer during my absence at Moose Factory, in the autumn he resumed the command of the Flying post, he conducted the affairs of this Post much to my satisfaction, on all occasions he evinced ability as an Indian Trader and zeal to promote his employers interest.

I consider him fully capable to take charge of any Post within the old Temiscamingue department, at least from a nine years residence he is most accustomed to the Trade in this part of the Country — his term of three years agreement expires this Summer and having urgently requested permission from the Governor and Council to visit his relations in Canada he was permitted to go down by the return Canoes from Temiscamingue with an understanding that he comes up by the Autumn Canoe to Temiscamingue in order to resume the charge of the Flying Post for the ensuing Winter, last year the Governor and Council recommended this Gentleman for the consideration of the Hon.ble Committee to be reengaged for a term of three years at a Salary of £ 120. — £. p.r annum.

Mr. William Joseph Robins

This young Gentlemans term of Six years apprenticeship expires this Autumn, he was in charge of the Flying post

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during the past Summer, and was sent thither this season also — he passed the winter season with myself at Matawagamingue, he is not deficient of abilities but unfortunately for himself per Man he is extremely thoughtless and very inattentive to business — I do not consider him qualified to take charge of any Post within this district during the Winter season, and provided no opposition come up this Summer to Sangue de Terre (as was reported last Autumn) I would recommend that he be permitted to retire from the Service

Thomas Richards Steersman and Guide

This Man is well qualified for the services for which he is engaged — during the past Winter he was principally employed going after Indians who were in the habit of carrying their Furs to Traders from Lake Huron; from his time of life being about 40 years of age he is not so able to undergo the fatigue which he was capable of going through some years ago — his wages for the last Contract which expires this year was £25 — pan.m

John McKay Middleman

This young Man has now served two years, altho' weak for very laborious work he is an active industrious Servant at any duty required about the house, his wages is £15 — pan.m and his contract expires in 1829.

John Hainger Middleman

This Man passed the Winter of 1824/25 at York Factory and came down from thence to Moose factory in the Union Sloop last September, he is a strong active hard working Man, has served two Contracts, the first for five years at £15 — per Annum and the last for three Years at £18 — last Autumn he requested permission to return to Europe this season

George Rivers Middleman

This Lad is a native of the Country about 21 years of age, he being in a very infirm state of health was sent from having received a hurt while assisting to carry a large Canoe, was left at Moose Factory with the view of deriving benefit from the advice and assistance of the Surgeon his Wages £12 — M.r's has for the past year been included in the expenses of Kinogumissi River district

Angus McKay Steersman

This Man passed the winter at Matawagamingue and returned to the Flying Post in the Spring: from my own observation as well as from Mr. McRae reports of his Services, I consider him a good industrious Servant; he has wintered seven years in the district and returns to Canada after the arrival of the Canoes with the Outfit of dry Goods forwarded from Moose Factory, Wages during the past year 600 Livres

Xavier Blay Middleman

This Man is a native of Canada 28 years of age a very industrious good Servant about the house and an active hand in Canoes, he has wintered five at Matawagamingue and goes back to Canada this Season after the Returns of the Canoes from the long Portage with the Outfit from Moose Factory wages during the past year 600 Livres

Augustine Beckand Middleman

This Man is also a Native of Canada who has served a Contract for 3 years at 600 Livres p.r Annum, he is a trustworthy good Servant, and as his Services could not conveniently be dispensed with, he has been engaged for One year only at 600 Livres and requests permission to return to Canada next year

The Complement of Servants which I propose for the Kinogumissi River district outfit 1826/27 are as follows viz.r

Matawagamingue Post

1 Clerk in charge of the Post
1 apprentice Clerk
1 Steersman and Guide
2 Middlemen

Flying Post or Kuckalousk

1 Clerk in charge of the Post
2 Middlemen

The Flying Post is situated only from 60 to 80 Miles in a North West direction from Matawagamingue, but by the circuitous route with Canoes the distance is nearly 100 miles, from its situation this Post forms no barrier to prevent Indians making annual excursions to Lake Huron, those Indians whose Lands lay to the Southward and Westward, and where there are a few Beaver do not I am sorry to say hesitate killing those animals when an opportunity offers, being well assured (if none to refuse trading their Skins) of meeting

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a ready sale amongst the petty Traders from Lake Huron. In the event of these Traders appearing again on the frontier, I would strongly recommend the sending a Clerk and two Men in the Autumn to establish a Post on a small scale from Matawagamingue towards Mesininagua lake with the view of more effectually preventing those petty intruders from having any dealings with our Indians, those people would return the following Spring with the result of their exertions and if the plan was found advantageous the same plan might be followed up. From information which I received in the course of the Winter from Chief Trader Angus Cameron, it appears we narrowly escaped from being assailed by a formidable opposition under the direction of Mr. Clark Ross at Langue the Terre which is near about half way between Temiscamingue and Matawagamingue, however these new Comers were in the first instance frustrated in their views, and should they be inclined to hazard another attempt I trust with confidence they will derive little benefit therefrom

Kenogummissi River district
June 6th 1826

Signd Alexr Christie

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1825-26

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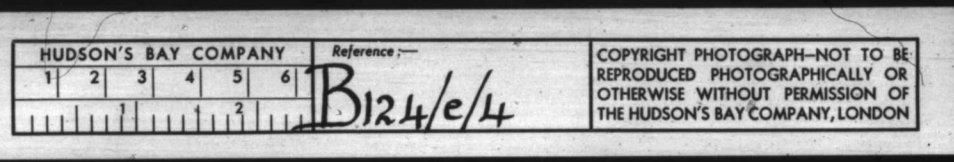

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INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 124

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 4

DESCRIPTION MATAWAGAMINGUE
(MATTAGAMI)

REPORT on DISTRICT

1826 ~ 1827

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MATAWGAMINGUE

1826 - 1827

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1826-1827

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No 62

To Alex Christie Esqr

Qr 810

O

Malawgamaugue 1st June 1827

B 124/e/4
1826/27

Report on the affairs of Athabasca coming on Bdt 1826/27

Nothing of importance has occurred at this post during the year Excepting general Farmin among the few natives, beyond what is usual in the general Routine of Business - The manner of Indians employment of the ensuing year will be found in the Journal of Occurrences and occurrences.

The foundation logs and corner posts of the dwelling House being rotten have been replaced with new logs, with the intention of taking it down during the summer of possible, and removing the foundation - The Produce of our Garden last fall was 150 Bushels of Potatoes, the greater part of which were of good quality, but greatly deficient in quantity to what was formerly the increasing distress owing to the numerous grubs that kept cutting them as soon as they made appearance out of the ground till the latter end of July - For a trial I have got a piece of new ground manured, on the Island, on the Corner of the Canoe store which will admit of 8 large drills, well calculated for the purpose, most of the manure will be made large enough to be put into the garden below the hill, for it is supposed against this year and will not be fit to sow any thing upon this new piece of Ground together with what was formerly in cultivation, it is this year planted with 30 Bushels of Potatoes seed - and if the season turns out favourable, an excellent crop may be expected, enough for our own fishing Craft with provisions for 35 Dogs, and 200 hungry mouths from Lake Winnipic, the Waters and the Rapids - Rabbits are more scarce this year than they have known to be for many years past, not an inch of ground round the house for many miles distance has been left undisturbed in search of them - and notwithstanding all our exertions we could only barely procure a sufficiency — On Cow & the year we netted 1 Ox of 10 Months old 1 Heifer of 8 Months, and Calf of these creatures have been missing these last fall, leaving the number at present on hand to, 2 Bulls - 1 Ox of 4 years old, 3 Cows 1 Heifer of two years old, 1 Ox of one year old, and a Cow Calf of about a month old in all 9.

The fishing this spring has been very bad - a Net has not as many whitefish taken in one night as could be procured in a day about the 10th May, and then only enough for one meal a day — Seven Trucks have been seen here this spring than for many years past

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Thos

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Three Clerks and Three Men have been the residents of this Post during the winter exclusive of one Man who was sent from the Peking Post on the 14th January to be maintained, and left there again on his return to the Peking post on the 27 March of this. The cause of so few Natives, is the great scarcity of Rabbit throughout the Country, because when they are plentiful Women and Children can catch them one thing, but if in case the case may, the men have had work themselves to hunt for their Lively hood, and when they are so employed they cannot look out for Fish, and not a single Rabbit has appeared hard for want of food last winter.

Donald M'Kay Clerk in Charge

William Joseph Robins Clerk — This Gentleman is the same as when you last saw him with you here, he is an inoffensive young man but is unfortunately, is unfit to take Charge of a Post, and to speak seriously but an indifferent assistant

Richard Hardisty — Clerk — is a person of habits and by conduct during the time he has been here, leaves me nothing to say but, he is what he well deserves —

Peter Didantel — Middleman, a good active young man

Pierre Nevrin — Middleman a quarrelsome, but will become a good man I believe —

James Monerick — Middleman. This Man had not been long here, he arrived on the 11 Feb[y] from Moose in company with Geo Moore, and being taken ill with pain, and in consequence rendered unfit to return to Moose, he is a good Man and has behaved well —

J

Thomas Richards Middleman This man is very Ambitious but is more out in the woods and it proves him much to keep up with the rest at Work, yet I never met with a better man he would be a good hand, in time of Opposition

Of the Indians

The character of each individual Indian being pretty well known to you, it becomes unnecessary for me to say more on that subject — The same Indians have visited here as formerly, with the addition of Widows who died in the early part of the Winter — during the Month of March I sent people in search of Mistchun, who has not visited here for the last two years — he was found in a starving condition, with nothing to subsist on but the Moss from the Rocks with neither Ammo Shot Shot or Twine for Snares and in every respect as wretched as it is possible for a person to be a Son of his a grown man with many Children starved to death, and all probability the whole family would likewise have perished from want, had we not found them out as we did, and provided them with Twine and Ammo to the back but from all later accounts of his whole winters hunt he has taken all he could catch with skin and all, he promised to come on the Spring, but has not yet arrived — in all probability he has gone to Dunvegan as I think he would have been in —

Deschamps a Canoe with all his Family, and Metaweemi have either starved to death, or been murdered and eaten by a detachment of Semi-carnivorous Indians of the name of Nechemini, who murdered Joe the writer before of the Semi-carnivorous Indians, I understand that this Nechemini is come back to the Peking Post I never saw him here It would appear that Canoe & Dieudonné had made a rendezvous last Fall where they would pass the Spring together at a good fishing place and Rapid Bush, in consequence of which the latter went to that place and remained there in expectation that the other would arrive down (as his Canoe was there) but no appearance of him as and as the Cannibal himself said that remained sometime last winter with Canoe, I have no doubt but he committed the horrible deed,

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Donald M'Kay

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4
1826-27

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
B 124 e

On Service

To

Alex^r Christie Esqr

Moose Factory

Pl^r [illegible]

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INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 124

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 5

DESCRIPTION MATAWAGAMINGUE
(MATTAGAMI)
REPORT on DISTRICT
1828

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HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
B 124 e

MATAWGAMINGUE

REPORT 1828.

5
1828

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(62)

Report Kinogomissa District
Matawegamangue

MATAWAGAMINGUE 1828
HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

There is such a constant sameness in the occurrences of this part of the country, that I really am at a loss what to form a Report of without entering into details of a most unpleasant nature such as the sterility of the Country its barreness &c. which certainly surpasses any that I have travelled through or resided in, the Country is almost destitute in general of any animal sustenance of the larger kind of wood animals, any few of any kind resort in these parts, there are a few straggling Rein Deer but very scarce, any other of the Deer kind are never seen some years Black Bears are pretty numerous in the summer season & the natives kill a considerable number, & this is the only treat of the kind they have. formerly Cats were pretty numerous & was a favorite as well as profitable hunt to the natives & in the winter season used to kill a good many at present they have almost entirely disappeared — Hares which were very numerous also some years ago, was the chief resort of the natives & the Country in general abundantly supplied with them, they have in some parts almost entirely disappeared, & the poor wretched natives reduced to the utmost wants in fact several died of starvation & I am confident had we not supplied many of them with fish & potatoes, which fortunately in the fall we got an ample crop of the former & pretty successful in the latter & several of them would have died several of them reached the establishment in a most emaciated state we have ten or twelve of them at a time for eight or ten days feeding & recruiting & then supplied them with a sufficiency for a few days to reach some distant quarter, where they might expect to find some kind of sustenance either fish or Hares to linger out a miserable existence untill Spring, but the waters of this part of the Country seem to be as little favoured by nature as the woods for very fish are taken in them altho there are very fine Lakes, this constant habit or misfortune of starvation prevents

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prevents the Indians very much from making the Lands they always would do— their time is constantly employed in looking out for a Bear or a Partridge, they have not therewith to make Casts for trapping Martins — Beaver is out of the question, the Country being in general almost entirely destitute of that valuable Commodity— Particulars to the Southward, a people are frequently trading to the Northward of this, in fact almost all the Beavers that are traded at this Establishment come from that Direction, however unfortunately they begin to be scarce, lately of a scarcity also

Fortunately for the Indians that resort to this Establishment we annually require a number for Voyaging, transporting our Goods, Pelteries &c to & from Moose Factory, for which they get almost all their most necessary Advantages, in this manner about twenty are generally required from towards Moose & ten to Timiscamingue to bring up the Provisions that comes up from Montreal for this District— I understand there is some rumour of introducing Boats to this quarter, I am very apprehensive Indeed, would not succeed in Boats, nor do I think we will always procure them with facility to go as far as Moose, it would be a long time absent from their families, even as it is where only a few go on that business they frequently desert going to the Long Portage— however I must form an erroneous Opinion, there are several better acquainted with the natives & mode of Voyaging than I am —

We made out to settle with the Fall in the fishing way, we caught an ample supply from Xmas afforded us good Cops of Potatoes — Turnips & a little Barley not a grain of Canada Provision was imported during the winter for the men families are no expence, they draw no rations in winter they generally are sent out to hunt Hares — we allow them a few Nets for fish & Potatoes occasionally which cost very little, in summer they have more of their own seldom or ever get a grain of our Provisions

Hugh Faries

2

List of Mistawiyamangue Indians at R. D. 1838

		Above 10 years		Under 10 years		
		Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Mistokan	1		1	1	4
2	Amewayanans a young Man	-	-	-	-	-
3	Addenamishance	-	-	-	-	-
4	Cagayash Chief	1	1	2	-	5
5	Capinokamant	1	-	-	1	3
6	Cakishpenquish a young Man	-	-	-	-	-
7	Capimiwayattam	1	-	-	-	2
8	Capadotch a young Man	-	-	-	-	-
9	Cawashpan	1	-	-	-	1
10	Kekicachew	1	-	1	2	1	5
11	Keenowindo a young Man					
12	Kishickonenis	1	-	-	3	1	5
13	Kishickopinacy	1	-	-	-	-	1
14	Kesweitchitch	1	-	-	-	-	1
15	Missenis	1	-	1	2	2	6
16	Mixinigwis	1	-	1	2	2	6
17	Manitowash	1	-	-	-	2	3
18	Mayawanengo	2	1	1	5	2	11
19	Nookan	1	-	-	-	2	3
20	Nitawacnem (Sacco)	2	-	1	-	1	4
21	Nitawacnem the blind of one eye	2	-	-	1	3	6
22	Nitawigan	1	-	1	3	-	5
23	Omishuqueripinacy a young Man	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Orakaban	2	-	-	-	2	4
25	Onangoimimis a young Man	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Carried forward	22	2	9	20	22	75

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List of Matawegamang Indians Cont^d

		Women	Above 14 years Boys	Above 14 years Girls	Under 14 years Boys	Under 14 years Girls	Total
	Brought forward	22	2	9	20	22	75
26	Okisackamie	3	.	1	5	3	12
27	Opwaganawaysay a young Man	.	.	.	.	.	.
28	Otamickgwabay	2	.	1	.	.	3
29	Otashipiconinie	1	.	.	2	.	3
30	Pickgwahonce	1	1	.	.	.	2
31	Quitchitch	1	.	1	3	.	5
32	Quiwisess	1	1	.	3	1	6
33	Tchangaypickwock	.	.	.	.	.	.
34	Tchangaynashkangiway	1	.	.	1	.	2
35	Wabikinnoo a young Man	.	.	.	.	.	.
36	Wabinacy	1	.	.	.	2	3
37	Wassaywinay	1	.	.	.	.	1
38	D^o 4^t Son a young Man	.	.	.	.	.	.
39	Wasinigway	.	.	.	.	.	.
40	Wayshiabay	1	.	.	.	.	1
	Widows & Children	12	2	5	4	3	26
	Orphans	2	.	.	.	1	1
		47	6	17	38	32	140

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HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Report

Kinogomissee District

Matawegamanque

1828

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

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B 124 e

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1828

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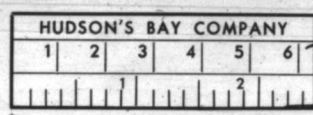

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SECTION B

CLASS 124

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 6

DESCRIPTION MATAWAGAMINGUE
(MATTAGAMI)
REPORT on DISTRICT
1828 - 1829

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MATAWGAMINGUE

REPORT 1828-1829.

6
1828-1829

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Report of Estabanegamiepee 182[illegible]

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My Report regarding the occurrences of this quarter differ very little from that of last year, the same dismal tale to relate of the distressful situation & destitution of the Natives, they suffered little more this last winter than the preceding — several having died through want of food actually starved to death — & what is most painful to relate, destroying one another to save themselves a Father & Mother having subsisted some time on their Children three in number & the Mother at last dispatched the Father for the same purpose, & subsisted on his flesh untill she happened to meet some other Indians who were known in the same predicament for want of food, but not quite so much reduced & with excessive exertion made out to reach the Factory — This is not the only instance of the kinds this winter several similar Catastrophes occurred — I have been under the necessity of sending a considerable distance men with skins & render them to the house & have had some of them feeding constantly all winter, they cannot procure subsistence, Furrs who's is almost their only resource having entirely disappeared in some quarters, all those who winter in the Southern direction have suffered most direfully — it is unnecessary to remark when the natives suffer in this manner Returns must fail as a matter of course, their mind as reasonably might be expected, are entirely taken up in endeavouring to procure something to satiate a ravenous appetite — & Marten being their only hunt on Season, they have not the requisites for taking their Food either flesh or fish, therefore a reasonable Plea for not making better Returns — those of them who reside to the Northward do not complain so much & consequently make better hunts — Indeed what little Furrs we procure here we from that quarter our Gardens not proving so productive as last Year, it was rather more expensive in assisting them being under the necessity of giving them a little Flour, Corn &c now & then — Our Fishings turned out very well — but our Potatoes failed as our transport of Goods &c from & to the Factory requires a number of hands, sufficient for the Natives they have this Season in procuring their supplies for if they entirely depended on their hunts in procuring they would be constantly [illegible] getting for the value of twenty furrs to thirty making to perform the trip each man to a place called the Long Portage about 100 Miles on this side of Moose Factory where they meet the People with the Outfit from the latter places & with whom they exchange Cargoes, the latter continuing on with the Returns

to

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they generally take about a month in performing the trip, & owing to the bad Craft seldom or ever render the Property in good order, the Canoes which we make use of being made at Temiscamingue of very indifferent material I was something inclined to think Indians would not answer in Boats but waver in opinion at present, having seen them in other parts of the Country answer perfectly well — they are frequently employed between York Factory & Norway House in that manner the distance being as great & fully as bad as between this & Moose or the long Portage & in my humble opinion the experiment ought to be tried, it requires less hands & the Property no doubt rendered in better order, the Boats ought to be made as light as possible, Indians not being so strong as Europeans or Canadians, it would save a good deal of trouble & expense, in procuring the Canoes, for when wanted we must send to Temiscamingue not having in this quarter who can build them — however this is only an individual opinion there are others no doubt far better acquainted with the Navigation of the River & the use of Boats than I am, & more competent to judge, much of the Property was lost & damaged the last Summer for want of good Craft & a proper Conductor —

Our Domestic occurrences went on as smoothly as I could wish or expect, we had a sufficiency of salt Fish & we had Potatoes enough for all hands untill the Spring — & we got a few Hares in course of the winter therefore expended very little Corn — Our buildings are old & tottering especially the dwelling house, & have timber ready for erecting a new one in a different Spot on the opposite side of the Lake a commanding & pleasant spot

Hugh Faries

Mataweyamangue June 7. 1829

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1828-29

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Report
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SECTION B

CLASS 124

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 7

DESCRIPTION MATAWAGAMINGUE (MATTAGAMI)

REPORT on DISTRICT

1830-1831

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MATAWGAMINGUE

REPORT 1830-1831

7
1830-1831

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Report Nequammiskt District 1836/37 1837/38 1

There being so little variety in the occurrences of this District, & its limits not being extensive for such little interesting matter for forming any thing like a Copious Report. The only interesting subject I can enter on particular is a State of the Country & the resources of its inhabitants, in the first instance, it is of that Sterile description, that in all my travels in the Indian Country, & which was over a considerable tract of it, have I met with any part so truely destitute of most all furr bearing animals there are however of mostly all kinds, found in other parts of the Country Wolverenes & Minks excepted, but very few- Beaver the most valuable are unfortunately almost extirpated or exhausted, particularly in the Southern quarter, the very few we procure, coming from the Northard towards the Bays & of 50 Packs the return of this District the last year there were not more than 6 or 8 Beaver Skins included therein— Martins are few & the Natives complaining so constantly of Starvation that they cannot hunt them as they otherways would, their minds & whole attention being taken up in roving about in endeavouring to find some thing to subsade a constant ravenous appetite, therefore have not the means of procuring Packs for their traps, to the Northard where they find a few Beaver yet, the hands of the Natives are generally better in most kind of furs, for where there are Hares, they are sure of finding Cats, & Hares afford them the means of subsisting their Martin Foxes & a few Beaver are yet found not suffering so much by hunger are generally more vigorous for hunting- The natives to the Southard suffer most fullest & last few furs, they do bring being Martins & Muskrats, in fact they cannot make out to pass the winter on their land they endeavour to reach the establishment generally about the middle of the winter, where they linger about now & then coming in for a few Pounds of Flour until the fine weather sets in, when they move off again to their lands

The manner the Trade is carried on in this District is entirely by Barter, very few Debts being given, & when they make any thing of a successful hunt in Martins, sweep off a good deal of Goods, our Order always being made on a new & contracted Scale as to Article, few of the Staple articles remain on hand in the Spring. I have considerably reduced the article of Liquor in this quarter, & found it not attended with the least discontentment on the part of the Natives they are quiet, good Indians generally

generally speaking & easily dealt with — the Trade in my opinion is carried on, in as economical a manner as possibly can be, nothing is requested but what is absolutely required in regard to Goods or Provisions, the transport of Goods & furs is entirely done by Indians, with the exception of two or three of the Companys Servants, true it runs away with a good deal in paying them with our best article of trade & probably the loss of a Couple of Packs of Mus Rats, still it is the cheapest manner of conveyance, about twenty of them are employed generally, a few of them are in the habit of deserting on the way, however one way or another the always make out of rendering the goods without much seeming inconvenience on that score —

I was in hopes, by Government Stores being removed from Drummonds Island to Penitanguishen it would entirely have abolished the Idea of the Natives visiting in that quarter, but no I find, a few still continue their summer peregrination, the few presents given them hold out great allurements to them, their being so wretchedly poor, & I am afraid they generally secret some little share of their winter hunt, to make an entry with the Traders about Lake Huron & there is no manner of remedy I know of in preventing them — however very few as yet have gone —

[Our Farden have afforded us a tolerable crop of Potatoes 250 Kegs & our White fish fall fishery, consist of about 40 Kegs Salted a sufficiency to feed all hands, & assist the Indians without touching a Train of our Corn, since the fall, formerly Hare, were plenty & a number taken by the People of the establishment, but at present very scarce there have not been upwards of forty taken by all hands in course of the winter —]

The buildings at both establishment I found on my arrival here old & much out of repair, therefore got good substantial ones erected at both place — & got the Farden considerably enlarged, which I may say has been the means of enabling me to save some poor creatures of Natives from a miserable exit — these are all the occurrence that come within my knowledge —

Kinogumissi
7 march 1831

Hugh Faries

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1830-31

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SECTION B

CLASS 127

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 1

DESCRIPTION MESAUGAMEE LAKE

REPORT ON DISTRICT

1815 - 1816

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B 127 e

MESAUGAMEE LAKE.

REPORT. 1815-1816.

1
1815-1816

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No 90
Ex 373/515
B. 127/e/1
1815/16

Mesaugummee Annual Report for 1815/16.

Principal Occurrences during the Year.

On 2d Septr 1815 I left Moose factory with four Men and an Indian for the purpose of Establishing a Trading House at Mesaugummee, where after a most unpleasant Journey of Thirty one days we arrived at one of the Lakes, the length of time we were on the Journey I attribute to the Shoalness of the Water in the Partridge Creek and also to the very zigzag course of that Creek particularly towards the head of it. I am of Opinion had there been sufficient Water in that Creek we should have completed our Journey in about Sixteen days, on our 19th day from Moose I deemed it necessary to leave part of the Cargo as I saw no probability of our getting forward with the Whole in any reasonable time, on our 2d day from the Factory we left the Creek and carried the Goods Overland (for Ten days) to the Lake where it was intended we should settle, I can with certainty affirm that the Goods brought to the Lake were carried at least One third of the distance from Moose factory on they Mens backs, many parts of the Creek was so very Shoal that it was with difficulty we got the empty Canoes up, for a more detailed account of our proceedings in the Partridge Creek I beg leave to refer to my Journal to and from Mesaugummee Lakes. I also beg leave to mention that on our departure from Moose I had a small Compass but unfortunately it was Broke a few days after we left the Factory which has prevented me from ascertaining the course of the Creek.—

Owing to the sudden setting in of the Fall and the very unfavourable State of the Weather (Vide Journal from 24th Octr to 5th Novr) I am sorry to observe we entirely failed in making a fall Fishing, and as we had no Provisions of any kind and no probability of procuring Fish sufficient for our maintenance at these Lakes during the Winter months (particularly as we did not know the most proper fishing places) I came to the determination

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determination of returning to Moose factory where we arrived on 26th Dec.r — on the 1st Inst.t I had the misfortune to lose one of my Men for the particulars of which see journals of the 11th of that month. — and 18th March Inst.t returned from Moose factory with two Men but nothing of any consequence beyond the usual routine of affairs occured from that time until our return to the Factory on 4th July following. —

Men's Characters,

Rob.t Cull Native of this Country years in the Service, both well qualified to manage a Canoe but by no means a Diligent or yet Intelligent Servant. he is also much addicted to Liquor —

John Corrigal 23 years of Age Labrador came to this Country in 1815, he is generally rather Dilatory in his work. —

Mary Cranston 23 years of Age, Sent to this country as a Labourer in 1815 he is unable to earn half the amount of his wages he was engaged for, he is no prospect of me qualification that I know of to render him worthy to be retained in the Service. —

The following is an Account of the Indians that have visited Missisaguimmes since it was Established. —

№1 Peccaccuse This Indian brought in 34 Beav.s 31 of which went to pay his Debt at Moose, in the month of April he was so much reduced by Starvation that he was unable to leave his Tent for some time. —

№2 Meshickist.e from this Indian I received 29 Bv.s the whole of which went to pay the Debt he contracted at Moose factory. —

№3 Jacques With this Indian I traded 11 Bv.s on the Fall of the year since which time I have not seen him, he generally hunts from 30 to 40 Bv.s in the year. —

№4 Shewens This Indians brought in at several times 33 Beav.s the whole of which went to pay his Debts at Moose factory. —

№5 Peskeyjoward From this Indian I only received 6 Bv.s which also went to pay his Debts at Moose factory, he is now a man for advances in years and I much doubt will never be able to pay the Debts he has contracted. —

№6 Jacquestar With this Indians I traded 7 Bv.s on the fall since which time he has not been much any of these Lakes, he may be considered as a constant hunter for the Canadians at Abbitibi.

№7 Estatsumes This Indian tho a young man may be considered as a very lazy hunter, he never kills more than twelve or fourteen Beavers during the year, and seldom so many, he came in on 25th April in a very Starveing state. —

The above Indians (№s 6 & 7 excepted) were always in the habit of going to Moose with their Winter hunt till last Summer when they three first mentioned went with the Hunter Latterly to the Canadians at Abbitibi taking with them their whole hunts and I am sorry to say that the whole of them are apparently more attached to the Canadians than they are to us. —

The Canadians. —

At present I have no means whatever of ascertaining the amount of the Trade now procured by the N.W. Company at Abbitibi as it is the nighest Canadian Settlement to this place, their business there is conducted by Mr Alex.r McDougall (one of their Proprietors) who has under his Command three Clerks Viz.t Mess.rs Fraser and Poulson the latter persons is a native of Hudsons Bay and was formerly in this Service) and three Men, I have been at too great a distance from them to ascertain their conduct during the past Winter. —

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The Trade.

It is with concern that I have to report that the Trade of this Place may be accounted as nothing for had they few Indians that hunt in this quarter gone to Moose as they formerly did with the few Skins they procured this place in that case would have no trade at all, and as to they Indians that visit Abbitibi their are Six of them that occasionally come to these Lakes to fish but then that is not till such time as they have been at Abbitibi with their Winter hunt according to Indian information even that Six do not come so often as they did in former years, only one of that number have been at these Lakes this eighteen months past. — I am of opinion that the Trade in this quarter can be considerably extended by again establishing Abbitibi, but to insure a trade I should suppose the Trader sent there would require a large assortment of Goods and also two Clerks and Eight active men before he could make any thing of it, the the NW Co have only two men there at present yet the easy means the have of procuring more even at a late season renders that number necessary on our part, it is not even then to be expected that a golden harvest is to be reaped there on the first outset as they Natives are said to be more attached to our opponents than they are to us, and I have every reason to suppose that the Canadians will be somewhat exasperated at our again establishing a Trading House there and I have also every reason to think the would be as lavish of their Goods (particularly Spirits) as he possibly could be so as to induce they Natives to continue trading with them. — As an Outpost to Abbitibi I should propose to reestablish Frederick House, it would I think be the means of adding to the Trade and would in all probability induce several Abbitibi Indians to go there, with at least part of their hunt, indeed for some years I should expect that more Furs would be got at Frederick House than would be at Abbitibi itself. — There are perhaps other places in the Abbitibi quarter that would be equally advantageous to establish, but I must confess I am not acquainted with the Geographical Situation of the Country. —

Wm Stewart

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Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 129

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 1

DESCRIPTION MICHIPICOTEN
REPORT ON DISTRICT

1817-1818

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HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
B 129 e

MICHIPICOTEN

REPORT 1817-1818

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1817-1819

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B. 129/e/1 1817/18

Mishippicotton District Annual Report 1817/18

Andr Newell

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

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Ex B 520

Principal Occurrences

1817 August

The undersigned begs leave to observe that he is totally ignorant of the transactions that has occurred at Mishippicotton prior to the 11th August (as no papers regarding the occurrences are to be found at the Post before that date) on that day Governor Vincent and party left here on their return from the Sault St Maries to Moose factory. In the afternoon of the same day Mr John McNab left here for Montreal, on the 28th of this month Mr Geo Budge and four men arrived from St Maries with a Boat load of Corn &c, on the 23rd a Canoe from Point Meuron called here for a Supply of Provisions. On the 26th Mr Budge and six men left here for St Maries for a further supply of Provisions, Mr Robt Jones also took his passage in the Boat this gentleman was left here by Governor Vincent in the event of the Earl of Selkirk requiring his services and is now gone to the Sault in case his Lordship should pass through Lake Superior on his return from the Interior.

Septr On 13th Septr three Boats called here for a Supply of Provisions on their way from Red River, the Officer in charge had three of the NWCo Servants in custody, Viz Archd McLellan (one of their Partners) charged with being accessory to the Murder of Mr Keveney, the other two Peter Pangman dit Bastonais & Seraphin Lamarre charged with several crimes regarding the Colony. Mr Budge also returned this evening from St Maries with the Boat loaded chiefly of Indian Corn. On 6th Octr

Octr Mr Robt Jones arrived in a Canoe from St Maries being the bearer of despatches addressed to the Earl of Selkirk and Commissioner Coltmans, on the 9th he left here in one of our Boats for Reds River, he had also the assistance of two of the men belonging to the Post from St Maries and the assistance of three of our men from hence in the Boat,

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1817
Oct.

Mr Jones and party returned on the 18th having met Mr Semple at whom he delivered the Despatches addressed to the Earl of Selkirk, at the same time he also met with Commissioner Coltman & whom of course he delivered his Despatches, — on the 17th Mr Sale called here on his way from the Indian's and left us in three hours after his arrival. — on the same day Mr Budge and four men were sent to Mr Jones for more Provisions, Mr Jones and his three men also took their passage on the Boat for Pembina — on the 19th a Canoe from the Colony called here for a supply of Provisions to take them to Mr Jones, on the 23rd another Canoe arrived from Lake River requesting a supply of Victuals, — on the 24th the present Master of Michilimackinac arrived from the Lac Coutte, he arrived here in a Canoe belonging to New Brunswick accompanied by Mr Jones Junr, Boy, on the day following Mr Cuthbert Grant the former Master of this Post Mr Hockley and party left here for Brunswick with a Canoe load of Provisions for the benefit of that Post, on the succeeding day Ten Canadians in the employ of the Fur Trade called here for a supply of Provisions on their way from Nov. Saint Peters to Montreal, — On the 2nd Nov. Mr Hockley and party returned here as they were set fast by ice in Lake Winnipic Lake which is nearly half way between here & New Brunswick, this gentleman returned here to get another Canoe load of Corn for he observed that Brunswick as far as the way by Water as possible, this was a most prudent Step of Mr Hockley as otherwise he must would have been with the unwelcome tale of the ice was too thick to walk on, besides by returning he received Snow shoes &c to enable him to send to Brunswick much sooner than he otherwise could have done, on the day following he again left here with a full Cargo of Provisions on the same day Mr Budge and four men returned from

1817
Nov.

St Peters with the Boat & two more Boats laden with the Companys Goods and this only reason Mr Budge has thought proper to give for leaving St Peters (when he could have received several Boat loads) with such a trifling Cargo as that he "did not like to take more" — In the Journal of this day will be found a letter from Mr Sale addressed to Mr Good informing him that he had appointed Messrs Budge and Jones & the Commander of Point Douvent and at the same time requesting that they might be furnished from time with any articles of the trading Goods that could be spared for the service of that Post as it is nearly destitute of Goods for the Trade, and the same letter will be found my opinion regarding this business on a letter to Governor Semple which I received an answer from them on the 29th Nov. & the Nov. Mr Jones Boy & the four men were sent to St Peters for a still further supply of Provisions and also with Governor Semples dispatches for Canada — on the 30th a Canadian which we took Canadians from Red River called here for a supply of Provisions, they were fourteen days from Dec. Point de Sauvage to here, — On the 3rd Mr Hughes Mr Stewart's arrived here on his way to Canada and from thence to London, he was the bearer of Despatches & the Hon. Committee on the detention by one of the Northern Ships when homeward bound from the Country, he was accompanied by Mr Semple from Brunswick and several Strange Canoes from the Saskatchewan the two following days these Gentlemen were prevented from departing, and the morning of the 16th they were furnished with our Common Boat and Orkneys for St Peters, but as a most tremendous gale of wind was blowing with the wind at this late season on Lake Superior considerable damage was done to the Boat in which they were under the necessity of leaving a few little more than one third of their way to the Sault, and I believe that after leaving the Boat they experienced considerable difficulty in walking over the high Rocks

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1841
Last Feby

with which Lake Superior is surrounded. — On the 14th Feby Mr Johnny Humphry and three of the men that left here with Mr Cornwall returned, they were accompanied by Mr Johnstone and two of his men that left here with the boat last fall. — On the day following Mr Humphry left here for Brunswick.

March

On the 10th March Mr Humphry again returned to this Post on his way to St Francis Some Indians still keep there as Lake Superior is Navigable and have proceed to this Place with two Boats Loads Provisions, for as money is taken account of this business Under Governor Vincents letter was received this day. — on the 5th Mr Pruden and four men were sent to St Francis for this purpose and on the 10th left Humphry John Vincent to Brunswick with four Men despatched for the same place. — On 3rd April Mr Pruden returned —

Mail

On the 9th April Mr Pruden man — on the 10th arrived from St Francis with a packet of letters addressed to Governor Vincent and the day following the Packet was sent to from hence to Mr Ermatinger at Kaministiquia which he forwarded by him to Brunswick the Governors Winter residence on the 20th of the month our River became Navigable, the Lake Superior was not clear of Ice since the 15th Instant (now May)

May

before the 2nd of May on the 17th of which month Mr Humphry and party arrived from St Francis with a supply of provisions. on the 18th a Canoe was sent from here with letters from Montreal addressed to Gov Vincent to these letters were brought up by Mr Humphry on the 19th a Canoe from Montreal (the first this season) arrived here the Officer in charge returned a Packet of Letters for our Governor and immediately departed on his way to Red River these letters were sent off forcibly on a light Canoe to be delivered to the Officer in charge of the Canoe that left here for New Brunswick Yesterday. — — Now beg leave to call the attendance of my employers to the following circumstance — During last Summer and Winter a number of your servants purchased a variety of articles at St Francis from Mr Ermatinger

and that Gentleman has drawn upon our Agents in Montreal and believe received payment for the Goods sold in Summer a duplicate of many of the Servants accounts has been sent him by Mr Ermatinger but not of all their accounts as known from Mr Lewis that he for one contracted Debt at St Francis of which no account has yet come to my hands. — Debt has also been contracted at Drummond Island by the Officers belonging to here in Summer and the Merchant Mr Lawrie receives payment — the whole of these accounts remain Debtor to money and to each persons account there added 10 per cent — so as to defray the expences of conveyance &c — so Long certain that neither all the accounts of the supplies to this Post from St Francis nor yet all the Servants accounts there has been sent here. They leave to day, that I consider myself exonerated from all responsibility respecting — these accounts —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

The State of this Post with regard to the Buildings are as follows, one Masters house 40 ft by 17 ft containing two small apartments, — one Store house 45 ft by 18 ft, one Mens house 30 ft by 27 ft and one small house where Mr Pruden Wife and family of the Colonists, have been living last Winter, the two latter houses were built new last fall — it is my intention to convert the Mens house into a Store and the Stone house to be fitted up for the Men, as the latter is far too much as a Store house — nearly a sufficient number of logs are got home for building a new Dwelling house for the Master. — a sufficient number of Planks has been cut at St Francis this Spring for Ceiling flooring &c &c for the intended house and I hope means will be found to convey them from thence this Summer if so the Masters house will be built during this Season. — No cause of the Planks being cut at St Francis

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will be found in my letter to Governor Vincent on the Journal of 17th March, inspect if we had not got Planks there in all probability we should have been under the necessity of going without as all kinds of wood is difficult to be got here particularly for Building. — Last Season Mr Richd Isaac found 7 pints of Potatoes from which he got on 1st Octr 12½ Falls. — this Season the 12 Bus^s Mr Isaac left and 9 Gals that we had from Brunswick were put into the ground between 18th May and 8th June. —

Servants Characters

George Budge for about 20 years one has served and for 16 years of his Term past years on the capacity of a working man on the Albany Department, these three last years he has been on the Moose River as an Officer where Trade at the got Mr Budge can excert himself with considerable advantage to his Employers and I believe has done so when on the Albany River. — for this some time back he has however been very dissatisfied with his situation and repeatedly said to me that he was determined never to be of more benefit to the Company, when asked his reasons for such expressions the only answer he would give was he wanted to go to the Colony with his family, or words to that purpose, on his return from Severn and 3rd Oxford with a Packet addressed to Governor Vincent he told me that he would be D—d if he would have brought his Packet had it not been for the sake of getting back to his Children" on his arrival he complained of a pain in his leg but I had no sooner got the Packet off for Brunswick than Mr Budge appeared to be perfectly recovered, from which circumstance and some other conversation that has occasionally passed between us I am led to suppose that the pain was feigned for the purpose of preventing him from proceeding as the weather was then very warm and of course walking very bad. — in Governor Vincents letter to me Vide Journal of 4th March

have directed to send Mr Budge and family to New Brunswick the first favorable opportunity, such an opportunity occurred on 7th May Mr Budge was therefore directed to get ready with his family for going to Moose on the following day, he refused to go and persisted on his refusal till both times as I then intended to send him, he then embarked but his family still remain here for further particulars regarding Mr Budge Vide my letter to Governor Vincent on 18th May. —

Robt Jones Fur Trade on the Lowrer. — this person is also a very dissatisfied Officer. — During part of last Summer and all Winter he had been on the employ of the Earl of Selkirks, on 17th May he returned to this Lowrer. — in last Octr this Officer was employed on conveying Government Dispatches addressed to the Earl of Selkirk & and Commissioner Coltman he met Mr Saml Gale and the Commissioner this side of the Pic from thence he returned to here and was again allowed by my predecessor to depart for Fairlakes. before his departure he put into the Store 12 Bus^s Biscuit 32 lbs Flour 4 lbs Pease and 18 lbs Pork this provisions was formerly had home for this journey and remained there till such time as Mr Corsewell arrived in January, these articles were then applied for this Gentlemans Lowrer. — on 4th 1817 I received a Letter from Mr Jones dated at Fairlakes wherein he demands payment for these Pukkin Provisions by an order on Mr Tomatanguy, which his request I however have not conceived myself authorised to comply, and I am informed that no returns will be given for no receipts to this Department. —

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John Vincent a Young Lad bound Apprentice to this Service, although this Officer came Overland by Albany from the Fairlakes last Fall no blame whatever can be attached to him for it as I believe a considerable quantity of Lee was formed on the Lakes on his arrival there. —

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Dominique Demarais A Canadian gentleman from Canada engaged last Summer at Fort Chaneis for one Year as a Clerk. Believe him to be not possessed of the necessary qualifications, but when a person is wanted that speaks the French Language Mr Dominique wanted answer, (at his own request) he left this Service and the Land with the intention of going to the Colony. —

Barr James This man was engaged for one year as an Armand was formerly in the Service in Red River, not a very active hand but as an obedient Servant. —

Hoskins Hay Three Years in the Service in the capacity of a Labourer, as an active able bodied Servant has two Years of his time Fit to Leave. —

Lacoste Benjn Canadian engaged for one Year, by reference to the Journal it will be seen that this man has been generally employed in cutting fuel the reason Winter he never cut more one day half the quantity of Wood that the other men did, in fact he is totally unfit on every respect for the Service, he will therefore be discharged this Summer the first favourable opportunity. — for which he owes Cons that he was employed to Cut wood joined him and the sum of Twenty Shillings Halifax Currency. —

Mr Dougall Duncan This man engaged at Fort Chaneis for one Year, was sent by Mr Ermatinger to Montreal on the fall of the Year with Despatches for the Earl of Selkirk, on his return he passed here for the Red River under a special engagement. —

McKay Angus Engaged last Summer as a Lawyer formerly in the Service at York Factory, as a Lawyer he is a good Workman but at the same time he is a lazy, Descontented Servant.

Stone Lawrence Canadian, engaged for one Year employed during Winter on the New Brunswick District, for a particular account of this Mans Rascally conduct they have to refer to my letter addressed to Governor Vincent on the Journal of the March, — on this mans arrival at Fort Chaneis the latter end of March he received three days Provisions and then allowed to provide for himself. —

Wilson Andw Engaged last Summer as a Lawyer, formerly in the Service at Churchill, may be reckoned a good Servant, that of late he has been rather Lieutenant by the advice of Angus McKay. —

Weatherwood de Neis Formerly in the Service at Red River, this man has not been more than two days under my immediate Directions yet from the accounts given me I believe him to be a good Servant. —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Indians. — There are no Indians in the Quarter that those of the are attached to us intact there is but few Indians that have been as yet met with, there are at this present time Five Indians about their House but they are so strictly watched that they cannot desert us without the Canadians knowledge. — last Summer I believe there were a few Indians belonging to Mr Mainer and Drummond, I blame that Gentleman for not procuring for him as much Cedar bark as covered the Houses — the Chiefs leaving him the promised to Mr Good that they would return next Spring, this promise however remains yet to be performed.

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Canadians, — As to the exact amount of the Furs procured by the N.W.C. at Richibucto I have no means of ascertaining but think I may with safety affirm that it will not amount to One Thousand Pounds more than 2 or 3 Thousand Pds and if we may judge from the Indians that has visited home during Winter and Spring I am inclined to think it is even far short of that amount — At Pacharoonis which is about 30 Miles from St Johns we have learned that they make nearly two packs, we also understand that the Indians that frequent that Post pay a great part of their debt annually in Maple Sugar. That Post is under the immediate command of a Canadian Clerk who has with him two men. — There are three other N.W. Posts under the management of the Richibucto Establishment but as these three Posts are all within the limits of New Brunswick I have no doubt a more full account regarding them will be found on the Report of the Master of that District I have now the honor to forward me, — The management of the N.W. business here is conducted by Mr Daniel M.Intosh (one of their Partners) John Brown Clerk to assist him. Mr Brown left the Settlement the 3rd Jan.y when he went to Restigouche to replace John Robertson who came here and has since remained here as a resident on their Waters head which was reckoned at the time we established this Place two years ago. Their Winter Houses is 2½ Miles from one of our Buildings — Robertson is a Half breed and was brought up in our Service he describes from Mr Geo. Gladman whom Master at New Brunswick many Years ago. besides Robertsons they have had Four men at this place this Winter, and during Summer some Sent to Quebec, During the Winter months three of their men were employed almost constantly in cutting firewood and the other man attending one of their Horses and Lodging at Home, — as I have invariably noticed all Removals and Depredations likewise all other transactions of the N.W.C. at this Post that appeared to me worth noticing in my Journal they leave 8th Inst.y for any other informations regarding them. — —

Trade, — The N.W.C. have made a command over the Indians that are on this quarter that between fear and inclination they always attend to them but supposing that they did visit us and give us Half their hunts now this would be inadequate to defray the expences as a Trading Post but I believe the establishing of this Post for Trade also but a secondary object as this Place is more a place of Depôt for the supplying of Provisions to our Settlements towards the Lizard and also for the Lubbying at Provisions &c. to our Vessels passing from the Interior through Lake Superior, of the latter a number were Lubbied with Provisions &c during last Summer — as a Post of communication from Canada to the Bay Settlements it is also very eligible, — —

In regard to the management of this Place I should propose that exclusive of the Master two men should be kept during Winter, — in the Summer Season Five men would be required so as to attend to the Fishery and Netting of Fish from the Lake and Rivers this essential article is very difficult to be got here inconsequence the additional Men were sent here by the 5th May they would then be in time for the first immerchal fishing at a small River about 5 Miles from here another of the Fishing places is little short of 25 Miles from home there are several other fishings but as water most of these fishing places required at least Four men & hand the Lines &c. upwards of seventy fathoms in length to all these places the N.W.C. always sent from here, — I am fully of opinion that if the Fishery was properly attended to it would do for itself the expences of this place that very little Money from Canada would be required for the maintenance of the residents either in Summer or Winter, at the same time it must be observed that the men thus employed could not be employed on the transportation Provisions from St Johns unless that there were more men accompanied the other three already mentioned and that they arrived here

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

about 20th June in this case all our business (in this quarter) would be done in good time. — Four of these men should leave here early in the fall of the year with a Canoe load of Provisions for New Brunswick and the other two assistant hands should also be sent there if required for the Trades as soon as walking was practicable, if not wanted they might remain here so as to keep readiness for conveying Despatches either to or from Canada. —

Hillsippicottone
June 1818

[signature]

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1817-18

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SECTION B

CLASS 129

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 2

DESCRIPTION MICHIPICOTEN

REPORT ON DISTRICT

1818 ~ 1819

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MICHIPICOTEN.

REPORT. 1818-1819.

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Michippicoton District Annual Report 1818/19

1818 Jany

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Principal Occurrances —

From the 1st May 1818 the date of the last Michippicoton Report to the 17th of the same month nothing beyond the usual course of affairs occured, on the last mentioned day Mr John Murphy arrived from St Maries with a Supply of Indian Corn, on the day following Mr Jones who also arrived from St Maries where he passed the Winter was sent for New Brunswick with Letters from Canada addressed to Govr Vincent, on the 19th a Canoe arrived from Montreal the gentleman in charge Mr Gibson delivered a packet of Letters for Govr Vincent in ten minutes after their arrival Mr Murphy proceeded to overtake the Canoe that departed on yesterday for New Brunswick, he succeeded in coming up with Mr Jones to whom he delivered the letters and returned to the house the day following — On the 21st Mr Murphy and all the men at the Post departed for St Maries for a further Supply of Provisions, at the same time Patrick McNulty and family belonging to the Colony took their passage for the same place, this family were maintained here during the past Winter, from

June the 21st Inst till the 3rd June remained alone at the house, on the latter day Mr Murphy and eight men returned in two Small Boats loaded with Provisions — on the 4th Mr Murphy and six men departed for a still further Supply — June 17th this day four large Canoes called at the N.W.Co house on their way to Fort William they left upwards of Fifty pieces chiefly trading goods for the Service of their Post at this place and

three

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1818 June

three other Out Posts, at the same time Mr John McLeod arrived from Montreal and delivered a few letters for Govr Vincent, in the evening of the same day Mr Colin Robertson arrived here in a light Canoe from Montreal this gentleman was also the bearer of letters for Govr Vincent but delivered them to Mr Murphy at St Maries, — Mr Robertson left a person here named Geo Monin to act as Indian interpreter and Clerk if required — on the 18th three more Canoes called at the Nipissing house and left twenty five pieces of Goods and Provisions, — on the 23rd Mr Murphy returned in a large Boat with a supply of Flour Pork and Corn, he had four of our Servants and two hired Canadians in the Boat, in the evening of the same day Mr M. again started for St Maries with the same men that accompanied him here, also Geo Monin and Magnus Kirkness were sent with him to assist in taking a large Canoe from St Maries with which the latter

July

returned on 17th July in company with Mr Murphy in the Boat, — in the evening of the same day Captn Matthey arrived at our house in a Canoe from Montreal on the day following two more of the Captains Canoes arrived and remained with him at the house all day as a very thick fog prevented their departing these three Canoes were manned chiefly with Settlers for the Red River Colony, — on the 22nd Mr Murphy departed for New Brunswick with Mr Monin, Angus McKay Andw Wilson and James Barr, the three latter men on their way for Europe — in the afternoon of this day Mr Gibson Master at Point Meuron called here on his way for that Post, this gentleman and Mr Forrest Junr called in on their way from that Post to St Maries on the 8th Inst — 26th July Mr Monin returned in a Canoe

1818 July

a Canoe that came from the Sauvage with the necessary supplies for this Post, — on the 27th Mr Donald McPherson Master at Lac la Pluie arrived by way of Albany and Moose on his way for Montreal to answer the Warrant he was laid under by Commissioner Coltman, on the 29th he departed for St Maries to which place I accompanied him on our arrival there Mr McPherson received a letter addressed to him that had been left by Captn Matthey wherein he recommended him to return and resume the command of Lac la Pluie as he could assure him that he would not be called upon to answer the charges laid against him, Captn Matthey also left a letter for Mr McPherson at Michippicoton in which he more strongly requests him to return to his Station, we accordingly returned (after transacting some business with Mr Comatinger the Company's Agent) to Michippicoton on 14th August, — on the 15th Mr Lacroix

August

called here on his way from Point Meuron he departed the following morning for Drummond Island, — On the 17th a Canoe in which were twelve persons chiefly from Red River called for a supply of Provisions and within half an hour after their departure Captn De Lorrimier arrived on his return from the Colony he received a supply of Provisions for three Canoes and departed late at night for Montreal — on the 19th Mr D McPherson and eight canadians departed for Lac la Pluie — on the 20th Mr Geo Budge arrived from St Maries on his way for his wintering Station Point Meuron, this person was formerly in the Service of the Southern Department, — on the 17th August two heavy loaded Canoes arrived in Michippicoton River on their way from Mr Nolin at St Maries to

Capinacaymie

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11th August

Capinacegamic to appear one of our Outposts from New Brunswick, finding that this was their intentions on the 22nd Instant entered into an arrangement with Joseph Dufante Mr Stolens Clerk to that he gave up his design of proceeding to Capinacegamic and joined us in opposing the North West Company at Matangumaie, under the Lead of "Trade" Shall endeavour to state in the fullest manner my motives for entering into this agreement — in consequence of this agreement a Canoe loaded with an assortment of trading Goods was despatched on the 24th under the conduct of Mr Mesnin for Matangumaie —

Sept — On 12th Sept Cuntoms, people to a small River about eighteen miles from the house that empties itself into Lake Superior for the purpose of procuring Trout fish to salt but unfortunately as we were ignorant of the proper method of cashing them it was not attended with the Success that was expected — on the 18th a Canoe arrived on which were thirteen men chiefly from the Athabasca, from Augustus Bourgette one of the Crew Purchased seven Moosehins and twelve pair of Leather shoes for which he received a Bill of £10 10s — payable by the Agents in Montreal and goods from the Store valued at £3 0s — the Invoice value of which goods is Eighteen shillings and Sixpence — Iam aware that I am liable to censure for purchasing any article without having obtained Governor Vincents permission, but the extreme want of this article on the Department will I trust appear as sufficient excuse for my conduct on this affair, as a proof of the necessity we are in for Leather all the Shoes and most of the Moosehins were sold to the Servants belonging to New Brunswick and this Post, by whom the demand for Shoe Leather was

10th Sept — was much greater than could be complied with, as this little article was appropriated to General Service and Household use — On 19th Sept Drummond Craigie one of our Servants that keeps Fish on the Lake of the Woods when Mr Murphy had taken Robertson of the Nipigon on his custody to York arrived this day in a Canoe from the Marais to Point Chevron — On 1st Oct a Boat on which were nine men from Red River called here for a supply of Provisions which they received and immediately departed — on the 2nd of this month we finished taking up our Potatoes on all twenty eight Bushells brown seven gallons of Seed, twenty gallons of Potatoes were damaged but from the other fourteen gallons we could not get what would pay the Seed which we think was owing to their being more severely frost bit on the spring than those set apposite to the House) — On the 6th we commenced making our fall fishing and continued from that date untill the 3rd November during which time we caught 4900 Fish — On 13th Oct Mr Bonvert Interpreter and eight men called here for a supply of Provisions Mr Bonvert is the bearer of despatches from Red River they dispatched the same day but on the 19th in the evening seven of the men returned by Land from where they were sent Canoe for a further supply — on the 20th Oct Mr Murphy arrived from New Brunswick for a supply of Provisions which he received on the following morning and departed for that Post, at the same time Mr Michael McDonnell arrived from Chaux factory on his way to Point Chevron. —

1st Nov — On 2nd Nov a Canoe arrived from Lac Seul River on which were a Clerk and six men, the Clerk was the bearer of the despatches that were lost in Lake Winnipie by

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1818 Mr McKenzie, owing to the lateness of the season these
people were lent one of our Boats to enable them to pro-
Novr. ceed better through Lake Superior and as Mr McDonnell
did not think proper to attempt going with only two
men to Point Meuron particularly as the last Canoe
was seventeen days from there, he therefore took his
passage in the Boat for Montreal, — — from the
9th November to the beginning of January the men
Decr. at the Post were employed chiefly in cutting Fuel;
this essential article is very difficult to be got here
as prior to Mr Rechd Good establishing the Post, the
Nth Cos for upwards of twelve years got all their fire-
wood nigh where our houses now stand, nearly
the whole winter we had one man driving three Dogs
with the Wood Sley. the maintenance of these Dogs
was a much greater expence than had we had a Horse
that would have performed more than double the work
of the Dogs — the only expence of keeping such a useful
Animal at this place would be the maintainance of two
men for about eight or ten days in procuring Hay —
if we had a Horse by that means we would get a quantity
of dung for manure to our poor Sandy Potatoes ground —
1819 — On 5th January I left this Post for New Brunswick
Jany for the purpose of arranging some business with the
Governor, on my departure from there I was accomp-
anied by Mr Murphy to Michippicoton where we arrived
the last day of the same month, — On 5th Feby
Feby Mr Murphy and four men departed in our remaining
Boat for Montreal Mr M is the bearer of letters
from Govr Vincent to our Agents there — the extreme
mild weather in the forepart of the Winter admitted
of Mr Murphy's navigating Lake Superior at this late
season, they got by water to within a days walk of the
Sault St Maries but their passage was much impeded by
floating

1819 floating Ice — Mr John Vincent and two men that arrived
from New Brunswick on 25th Decr departed for
March that Post on the 8th March following, the two men
were sent for the purpose of assisting the men belonging
to Michippicoton to procure Wood for building a house
in which business four and frequently five men were
employed with the exception of the two men from
Brunswick from the beginning of January to the
latter end of April, during which time they procured
one hundred and thirty three Saw Logs of ten and twelve
feet long and nearly two hundred Plank and Boards, be-
sides forty six pieces of Squared wood, the greater part
of the Wood here alluded to has been procured about eight
miles from the House, since the opening of the Navigation
we have rafted home all the Wood except about seventy
Logs that can be got in Summer as they were cut on
the edge of Lake Superior — on 19th March three
of the men that accompanied Mr Murphy to St Maries in
February returned by Ice these men inform me that
they experienced more danger by walking on the Ice on
Lake Superior than they did in going in the Boat as
they frequently fell into the Water through the thin
Ice and were even obliged to walk on floating pieces
of it, — owing to a strong gale of Northwardly Wind
April Lake Superior broke up on 3rd April and Michippicoton
River became navigable on the 25th of the same
month, — — I have already stated that our produce
of Potatoes last fall was twenty eight bushels from seven
gallons of Seed, they men are now employed in putting
May the Potatoes into the ground, we intend sowing twelve
bushels, the ground is too Sandy to allow the least prospect
of grain growing at Michippicoton, —

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Servants Characters

Mr Geo Monroe Clerk and Indian interpreter, this officer was left by Mr Colin Robertson in 17th Sept 1817 he being then unable through sickness to proceed further into the interior where he was intended to employ him, — on Mr Robertsons leaving him at Shuhyapecatoos he cautioned Mr Monroe in very strong terms not to give him, or up to Liquor as he had before done, — when I visited Mr Macias I endeavoured him with the charge and likewise the Key of the Store, on my return I learned with regret that he had not conducted himself in the manner becoming a person in charge of Stores, on my putting several questions to Francois Charlebois (a man that remained at Shuhyapecatoos on the same house with Mr Monroe during my absence) whether he had not frequently been at Mr Macias the worse of Liquor? Charlebois declared he would not state any thing regarding Mr Monroes conduct unless on Oath, when asked his reasons for not answering the questions put to him he replied he did not wish to draw him out of his scrapes" such an answer as this appears to me to require no comments — on consequence of the arrangements with the Stolins people this officer was sent in charge of the cargoe to Chatanguimes on 24th August, on 3rd September Monroe brought the Mapp that he was still on the first Portage from the house to where I walked in less than two hours after receiving his information, and found them there, — on enquiry Mr Monroe assigned as a reason that two of his men were unwell and that he did not wish to make me uneasy by informing me of their situations. — Leave my Honble Employers to judge of his conduct when I inform them that Mr Monroe and party consumed nearly

Eighteen gallons of High Wines during the eleven days they were on the Portage and seven more from there to Chatanguimes, — I had no difficulty on getting them to proceed on their Journey the same evening leaving them on the Carrying place, to sum up Mr Monroes character I conceive him to be unfit for the Company's Service in any capacity — on compliance with Sir Simons wishes Mr Monroe will be sent to Moose factory the first opportunity that presents itself —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Drummond Craigie Labourer this man arrived at Shuhyapecatoos on 19th September last from Canada where he remained from the fall of 1816 he having then gone to work with Mr Humphry when that gentleman had taken Robertsons of the Mapp as prisoners, as a Labourer this man is tolerably good but for other duties such as fishing, Canoework &c he is at present unfit. —

James Flett, a Labourer, Hudsons Bay Servant, has one year of his contracts to serve, he was rendered unfit for duty for upwards of six months this Spring at the time his services were much wanted by a severe cut he received on his right hand, — is employed generally on attending to the fishery —

John Harvey Sawyer this man is of rather an indolent disposition and frequently dissatisfied with his allowance of Provisions he having demanded Flour and Pork when he had on an unlimited number of good Fish to eat with he had an unlimited number of good Fish to eat with half a gallon of Corn per week, — for insolent language and not attending to his duty fines down on 31st March on the sums of Ten Shillings —

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Magnus Hoskings This man I look upon as the best steersman at the Post - and 31st December he had the misfortune to get both his legs shot which rendered him unfit to walk about for upwards of two months and even to walk about for upwards of two months and even at the date of this Report he cannot be employed on any work that requires much bodily exertion - nor can he work that he is capable to get his feet wet, he has hitherto been employed generally with Pilot on the fishery -

John Harvey This person arrived from New Brunswick on 25th Sept last on the capacity of a Carpenter - He is now about erecting a new House but from his work hitherto there is little probability of his being fit to finish it - when employed planning he was to very [illegible] that I found it necessary to fine him on the [illegible] of Five shillings on the same day that John Barnes was fined on the like terms - Harvey came to the Country last year -

Joseph Labombard a Canadian - When I rested at Francis this man was engaged for one year, he received an Equipment similar to other Canadians engaged in Canada for this Service - at the time that I left Shuhshippiatan there was only Magnus Hoskings belonging to the Post, had not employed this man he could not have made out fall fishing) as Craigie (who arrived on 19th Sept.) and Hoskings were not sufficient to manage the Seine - Labombard has been very useful during the past season but as he was engaged at high Wages he will be allowed to leave the Service in Summer. -

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Canadians -

We have not the means of ascertaining the amount of the North West Companys trades at Shuhshippiatan this year, and at the date of this Report their people have not arrived from any of their four Out Posts that are as follows - one at New Brunswick close to our establishment here - one at Pepinacacamies Lake where the Master of New Brunswick has also a Post - two more at Watanguenie Lake about 50 Miles from here on the direction to New Brunswick - their fourth Post is at Batchawinnie Bay Lake Superior about 30 Miles from St Francis. - the two first mentioned Posts being within New Brunswick limits the Master of that Post has it on his power to give my New Employers as more detailed account respecting their conduct and their probable trade than can be expected from me - the N.W. Post at Batchawenna, by an old Canadian trader who has much here three men but they are at too great a distance from here for me to know anything of their proceedings - at Watanguenie they have a person on charge named John Brown with whom three men also Winter, it is probable Browns trade this year will amount to 200 if not 300 packs - at Shuhshippiatan there business is conducted by Mr Donald McIntosh one of their Lake Partners who had much here as Clerks - Peatherstone Thompson, John Robertson, D. Clarke and Francis Mellroy, the two latter arrived on the Boat with Mr John McLauchlan Partner on the 5th December McLauchlin had just returned from his way for Fort William) from taking his trial at York for being accessary to the murder of Mr Semple. The N.W. had also at Shuhshippiatan four men there

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(12)

of whom were employed most of the Winter in cutting firewood and the rest the nights in hauling the Canoes with their Cargoes — there has not an Indian resided there during the whole Winter except a large family that were starving and that remained at their Houses upwards of five months eating parts of their overplus of Fish and Potatoes. —

Trade —

In my last Report I gave it as my opinion that no trade can be made by us at Michippicotan and there there have had still greater reasons for adhering to that opinion as during the past Summer and Winter there has but very few Indians resided the North West Company and those few are so overawed that they dare not be seen with us, — last Summer an Indian who had formerly traded at Capimacagamick a present of Rum received from the hands of Mr. Stuart took a most severe beating which has struck such a terror into the other Indians that we cannot get any prevailed upon to accept us — it is a well known fact that the Agents of the North West Company, residing at Michippicoten goes far short of defraying the expences of that Post, their little profit if any is derived from their Out Posts, Mr. Mc Intosh informed me that there was upwards of £ 200 laid on his Department last year. — In a former part of this Report I mentioned that I had entered into an agreement with Joseph Dufant a Clerk to a Mr. Nolin a private trader at Temagami — that Clerk having arrived at Michippicoten on 17th August on his way for Capimacagamie

(13)

one of our Out Posts from New Brunswick, I conceived it my duty tho Not Authorised to prevent if possible his proceeding thereto, in order thereby to hinder him from going to where he wanted to have it in his power to materially injure our trade not only for this year but also in succeeding years I knew the agreement alluded to, as had Dufant gone to Capimacagamie he certainly would have had it in his power to procure some Furs, he being personally known to all the Indians in that quarter, and had he been only moderately successful it would have been a strong inducement to other Adventurers to follow his examples, Dufant had also three Canoes hunting Indians from Lac des Isles with them and to prevent them from obtaining any local information of this quarter was also another motive for my entering into the agreement — accordingly Mr. Shannon after Dufant was interested with the change of the Goods at Matagamie where it was intended that Dufants party should Winter — I omitted several points in drawing out the agreement one of the most material I had now appears to me is, that Dufant and his adherents were not prevented from going to Capimacagamie, but as we had a person of our Service in charge and who was under my immediate control When did not think it necessary to insert such a clause — I beg leave to say that the copy of the agreement that now follows, that statement was drawn out in a hasty manner but hope my inability to draw it out either in point of law or in grammatical language will not detract from my intention of benefiting the concern. —

Before the undersigned Witnesses the following agreement was entered into between Andrew Stewart on the part of the Hudsons Bay Company's Post at Michippicoten and the one

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in part, and on the other part by Joseph Dufaut in charge of two Canoes (now at Michippicatoon) loaded with Goods belonging to Mr Augustin Nolin of Sault St Marie in behalf of the said Mr Nolin; —

Article 1st It is hereby agreed between Andw Stewart in behalf of the Hudsons Bay Company and by Joseph Dufaut in behalf of Mr Nolin that a joint supply of Goods for the Indian trade and likewise a joint supply of Provisions shall be sent by the said Andw Stewart and by the said Joseph Dufaut from Michippicatoon to the Post of Matangumie there to commence the Indian trade in opposition to the North West Company at present at that Place. It is also hereby agreed that All the Furs procured by the Servants sent to Matangumie or Environs by the said Andw Stewart in behalf of the Hudsons Bay Company and by Joseph Dufaut in behalf of Mr Nolin shall be equally devided when the trade is finished in the following Spring. —

Artl 2nd It is hereby agreed that any Goods or Merchandise used in carrying on the said trade not being part of the said Joint Stock shall be paid for by the party to whom the Goods do not belong at the Invoice price of the party to whom the Goods do belong but it is to be clearly understood that the Goods so used are not to be paid for in Furs but by Bill drawn on the Hudsons Bay Compy or on Mr Augustin Nolin as the case may be, it is likewise agreed that any difference of Mens Wages shall be balanced in the above manner. —

Artl 3rd It is hereby agreed between Andw Stewart and Joseph Dufaut that the business at Matangumie shall be conducted by the following persons on the part of the Hudsons Bay Company, Mr George Mann (to be put in charge) and

and James Flett on the part of Mr Nolin Michels Gustave Francois Piquette and Francois Beson, in behalf of the Hudsons Bay Company, the said Andw Stewart hereby binds himself that providing another man is required at Matangumie that the man so required will be sent with all convenient despatch. —

Article 4th The said Andw Stewart hereby covenants and agrees to store all Goods belonging to Mr Nolin in charge of Joseph Dufaut not wanted for the trade at Matangumie in the Hudsons Bay Companys Store houses at Michippicatoon free of all expences, in consideration of which Joseph Dufaut hereby binds himself in behalf of his employer Mr Nolin that All Canoes large or small shall be furnished by the said Joseph Dufaut for the use of the trade at Matangumie and that two thirds of the expences so incurred to be defrayed by Mr Nolin and the other third by the Hudsons Bay Company. —

Article 5th It is hereby agreed that the said Joseph Dufaut and Nicholas Morrice shall pass the Winter in the Hudsons Bay Company's Houses at Michippicatoon, and it is likewise agreed between the said Andw Stewart and the said Joseph Dufaut that all Furs procured by either party or the Servants under their respective charges at Michippicatoon or elsewhere shall be equally devided as specified in Article first, it is also agreed that the trade shall be carried on at Michippicatoon Post in the same manner as at Matangumie with this sole exceptions that the Servants belonging to either party shall be maintained at the sole expence of their respective employers when at Michippicatoon Post, but when going after Indians the expences in such cases to be equally devided. —

Article

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

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Article 6th He is also further agreed that the said Joseph Dufault shall not under any pretences whatever leave or quit Michilipicoton without first acquainting the said Andrew Stewart and the said Andrew Stewart on behalf of the Hudsons Bay Company doth covenant promises and agree to find one or more men as the case may require with the said Joseph Dufault to or after the seasons or any other business whatever regarding the joint concern. —

Done and passed at Michilipicoton this twenty second day of August one thousand Eight hundred and Eighteen years and signed by the parties in presence of Witnesses after being duly read —

Witnesses
Geo. Le Mesurier
Michael Fortier

(Signed) Joseph Dufault
(") Andrew Stewart

On 15th Sept. ult. Cairns arrived and the agreement was to be altered that Dufault was sent to take charge at Mastaingue Nicholas Chanveau was likewise sent to remain, — my chief reason for removing Mr Stanieis was his extreme attachment to liquor for altho I had instructions here with the charge in August it was my intention to remove him to Isaac more fit person could among from New Brunswick for Mr Vincents Member residence to where intended to send for the services of his sons. —

As Mr Hadden now had Dufault and four Canadians at Mastaingue and one only Mr Stanieis and one man the difference of Hands was considerable against us and as the value of the goods sent by us did not amount to so much as Mr Nolins the difference of both added together amounted to £ 295 — Nelapsar Burnaby a Bill for which payable by our Agents in Montreal on 25th

25th June 1819 was given to Mr Nolins — by reference to the accounts Books will be seen the nominal loss by our connection with Mr Nolins I say nominal as it appears to me this loss will henceforth be a blessing to the advantage to our concern, — before entering into the agreement I foresaw it would be attended with a loss on the first case two, but must freely confess that I had no great misgivings that we jointly should procure any quantity of Furs as it was necessary to throw every obstacles in the way of Mr Nolins as a private trader, so that Mr N. finding to make any trade will certainly dump this enclination of his other Adventurers who are ever ready to take this least advantage of any thing in our way. —

It is with very great pleasure I state that a more than usually good trade has been made last Winter at Lapenacagamee by Mr Southwaite on charge for us altho he had two men of the North West Company as opponents. — Had Dufault and party got into Lapenacagamee which is the best Beaver ground on this quarter they would certainly have given our Trader a vast deal of more trouble and dependents of the heavy expences attending trade to prevent which they leave to stay was the sole object I had in view on 22nd August last. —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Michilipicoton
15th May 1819

Andrew Stewart

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Article 6th It is also further agreed that the said Joseph Dufant shall not under any pretence whatever leave or quit Michilimackinac without first acquainting the said Andrew Stewart and the said Andrew Stewart in behalf of the Hudsons Bay Company doth covenant promise and agree to find one or more men as the case may require with the said Joseph Dufant to or after the seams or any other business whatever regarding the joint concern. —

Done and passed at Michilimackinac this Twenty second day of August one thousand Eight hundred and Eighteen years and signed by the parties in presence of Witnesses after being duly read —

Witnesses
Geo. Ermatinger
Michel Cadieux

(Signed) Joseph Dufant
" Andrew Stewart

On the 15th Sept. of this year arrived and the agreement was so far altered that Dufant was sent to take charge at Matagamy Nicholas Cheveux was likewise sent to remain — my chief reason for removing M. Nolin was his extreme attachment to liquor for altho I had entrusted him with the charge in August it was my intention to remove him to Moose as a more fit person could arrange [illegible] New Brunswick for Vincents Member residence to where I intended to write for the Lowness of his Lot. —

As M. Nolin now had Dufants and four Canadians at Matagamy and me only M. Nolin and one man the difference of Wages was considerable against us and as the value of the Goods sent by us did not amount to so much as M. Nolins the difference of both added together amounted to £ 295 — Relative Summary a Bill for which payable by our Agents in Montreal on 25th

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25th June 1819 was given to M. Nolin. — by reference to our account Books will be seen the nominal loss by our connection with M. Nolin. Say nominal as it appears to me this loss will nevertheless be attended with advantage to our concern, — before entering into the agreement I foresaw it would be attended with a loss on the first case tous, but I must freely confess that I had no great misgivings that we jointly should procure some quantity of Furs as it was necessary to throw every obstacles in the way of M. Nolins as a private trader, so that M. N. finding to make any trade will certainly dampe the intentions of other Adventurers who are ever ready to take the least advantage of any turnup in their way. —

It is with very great pleasure I stated that a more than usually good trade has been made last Winter at Lapimakaganes by M. Southwater in charge for us altho he had two men of the North West Company as opponents. — had Dufant and Farley got into Lapimakaganes which is the best Beaver ground in this quarter they would certainly have gotten our Trader a vast deal of more trouble and dependents of the heavy expence attending trade to prevent which I have to say was the sole object I had in view on 22nd August last. —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Michilimackinac
15th May 1819

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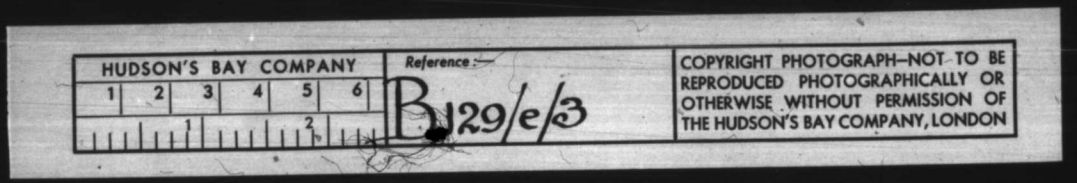
THE END.



Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 129

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 3

DESCRIPTION MICHIPICOTEN

REPORT ON DISTRICT

1819 - 1820

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B 129 e

MICHIPICOTEN

REPORT 1814-1820

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1814-1820

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Michippicoton District Report for 1819/20

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Principal Occurrences

1819 June

On the 8th of this months the undersigned left Michippicoton with five men in an old Canoe for the Lacell St Maries for the purpose of taking from thence part of the necessary supplies of Provisions required here, when on our way for the Lacell we found in the woods a Boat capable of carrying about 90 pieces, this Boat was left by a party of people sent from Fort William by the Earl of Selkirk in the fall of 1816 and as the answered our purpose much better than either our small Boat or any Canoe we could get we took her to St Maries where she received a slight repair, we returned with a cargo of Provisions in her on the 22nd of the same month.

July

On 6th July I sent two men from here to New Brunswick with despatches for Govr Vincent that I received the 12th Ult when on my way to St Maries at the same time I forwarded the Accounts and all other papers relative to the affairs of Michippicoton. On the 24th of this month a canoe arrived from New Brunswick by which conveyance we received part of the goods intended for the service of this Post from Moose factory, and by this canoe Mr Peter Spence formerly Master at Kinnaquamonissee

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1819 July arrived from the Seacoast. He having obtained permission to join his family in Canada, he remained here till such time as an opportunity offered for his going to Augt St Maries which was on the 12th August by a Boat that called here with a bundle of Furs procured at Point Meuron and which was sent for Moose factory on the 15th following as on the day preceding the last mentioned date another canoe arrived from New Brunswick in which were the Shipwright Edward Taylor (and Wife) and two assistants. On the 19th of this month I left Michippicoton in company with the Shipwright his two assistants and another man (we left only one man at the house) for the purpose of selecting an eligible spot to build a Vessel intended for conveying supplies from St Maries through Lake Superior as far as Point Meuron. On the morning of the 21st we met three men that I sent in the Boat on the 12th Inst. returning with our Boat that was left by Mr Murphy in Feby last about 30 Miles from St Maries. We then left the Boat we had from Michippicoton on an Island and embarked in the other but owing to very boisterous weather we did not reach St Maries before the 28th and as the Shipwright informed me when there in writing that he could not find about St Maries either an eligible place to launch a Vessel of the tonnage required nor proper wood for the building of her we returned

2

1819 to Michippicoton on the night of the 5th Septr. Septr. On the 6th of this month I sent four men to a River about 20 Miles from hence in order to procure Trout for our Winter Sustenance, they returned in Seventeen days after with Fifty Keys (each 9 Galls) of Salted fish. On the 29th we commenced making our Fall fishing and from that date untill the latter end of October we caught in the River 4724 Whitefish and had we not been interrupted by the arrival of Mr Oxley with the NWCo Prisoners and in assisting to expedite the return of the New Brunswick canoe in which went two of our best fishermen I am warranted in saying we should have caught a sufficiency of Fish to serve the men stationed at Michippicoton without using any kind of Grain provisions. On the 30th Septr we commenced taking up our Potatoes and by the 23rd of Octr we housed 152 Bushels besides which we supplied 5 Bushels to Gentlemen passing at sundry times and as we commenced eating them on 6th Septr we made use of at least 13 Bushels more making in all 170 Bushels of Potatoes from 13 Bushels planted in last May. Octr On 16th Octr Mr John Murphy and John Clouston belonging to New Brunswick arrived from Red River. Mr M passed here in May as the bearer of despatches in our express Canoe from

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1819 Oct.

from Montreal to Fort Williams. The crews crossed a Lake & Portages and Embarked on the following morning for Canada — On the 8th of this month Mr James Oxley arrived from Moose factory with two canoes on which were as Passengers and four Servants of the N.W.Co. as Prisoners on their way from York factory to Montreal & on the day following Mr Oxley departed on a large Boat belonging to this Post He having left the two canoes they were furnished with Goods & Provisions to the amount of £28.18.1 exclusive of the expences incurred in conveying the Supplies from Moose factory and Manitou which amounts to nearly 25 p Cent add to this the value of the Boat and the Wages of Richard Hyland from 19th Oct. to 10th June following —

On the 21st Mr John Murphy left here for New Brunswick on an canoe and on which went the Shipwright and his Apprentant Peter Cargie three New Brunswick men and two of the Rupertsland men — On 23d Sept. Mr John Bremner and John Corcoran with their men arrived from St Maries they were all of the party that conveyed the N.W.Co. to the Lault and as the Officers and two of the men belongd to New Brunswick they were under the necessity of remaining at this House till such time as the Rivers and Lakes were thought to be sufficiently low to allow them to walk to that Post for whence they departed Dec. on the 15th Dec. They Rivers about the Rupertsland Lake last only five days before their departure — The two men belonging to this Post that went as Apprentice hands on

Mr

1819 Dec.

Mr Murphy's canoe for New Brunswick on 21st Oct. returned on the 29th of this month in company with one of the New Brunswick Servants who was sent to assist two other men attached to that Post and that were left here by Mr Murphy on Potatoes as their crops for Pasky to bring home necessary trading goods to New Brunswick with which they started on 3d and 4th Nov.

1820 Feby.

On 13th Feby two men arrived from New Brunswick and on the following day their others from the same place They all depended on their returning on the 15th with a Sky load of Provisions each which disappointed Murphy of Potatoes — On 1st March Mr Sherman McGillivray (Sons of Wm McGillivray the N.W.Co. principal Agents) and three others arrived at the N.W.Co. House here from Montreal with a number of Warrants issued for the Seizure of Fort Williams and others of our Company — On the night of the 3d April

April

these men arrived here from the Northern Settlements the guide was the bearer of Despatches from Fort Williams addressed to our Agents on Montreal, they guards had also on his charge a Government Express addressed to Henry Goulburn Esq. as Under Secretary of State, and as the two men complained much of weakness from actual want of food for no less than the last three days of their journey they requested a few days to recover their strength — On their departure from Pasky Sherman the master of that Post sent with them two men one of whom was to proceed with the Express to Montreal the other as I was verbally informed was to request from here

HUDSONS BAY ARCHIVES

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1821 August

a Supply of Liquor and Provisions, neither of these men appeared on the 9th along with the express and it was supposed by the two men that did arrive there that the person sent from Canal Mesnard to accompany them to Montreal had been lost on Lake Superior as they had not been seen for eight days antecedent to their arrival, the other Servant they left about 20 Miles from hence as he was so very knawkleed and at the same time so weak that he could not proceed any further Accordingly sent three men by Daybreak on the following morning with provisions and to assist one or both of the men that were left to this house — The man left about 8 Miles off they found with whom they returned on the third day after they started — during the time this business was going on the men preparing a canoe and canoe skys as the Ice on Lake Superior was then so very unsafe to walk on and the season far advanced there was a great probability that the least heavy winds would break it up so that they might proceed (if they returned the canoe) at least the greater part of their way to Moose by Water, and we were certain that part of the Lake was open not more than 25 Miles to the southward of this place — On the morning of the 9th August the Despatches were sent off with the three men that conveyed them to hence, they had the assistance of two men from Michipicoten for three days in dragging and carrying the canoe over the rough Ice to the 18 mile point, they three express men returned for their canoe

1821 April

216 lb Provisions — my reasons for giving such a quantity was the great probability of their being detained by Ice we have since heard that they were twenty one days on going to Moose — my motives being so particular in this Report respecting the Weather express is its being detained here no less than five days — —— at Pic Island on the 6th Inst Lance Kennedy the man left by the other three express men arrived at this House but in so very weak a state from the want of food for no less than twelve days including this day that he could not stand when taken into the house without assistance — on the day prior to the three men leaving here he fell from some high Rocks when snapping shot of the points along the Lake and altho he informed his companions on their encamping that he had fallen and hurt himself they not understanding life him in the following morning and to add to their cruelty they left him without one ounce of provisions of any description they taking with them their whole stock which consisted of about eight Rescents and a small piece of Pork — The three unfeeling Wretches also took away Kennedys Hatchet and although he succeeded in getting a piece of Williams only two nights after their leaving him (he having fallen into the Lake and got his match wet) yet he did not get any part of himself dry, Kennedy and the other three men are all Canadians, — On the 7th May a small canoe arrived with a despatch from

May

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1821
May

St Marcer arrived to Govr Vincent from the Montreal Agents on the 24th day the canoe started and her return and by this conveyance Lanes Kennedy took his passage for St Marcies, during his stay at Michipicoten he was attended almost constantly by one man particularly for the first ten days — On the 9th the Despatches were forwarded for New Brunswick. and on the 21st of this month Mr^r Simpson and Mr^r Connell arrived on a light canoe from Montreal, from the former gentleman I received a despatch for Govr Vincent which was forwarded on the following morning — on the 23rd the two men that conveyed the first Despatches returned from New Brunswick and the two men subsequently sent returned from the same place on the 31st —

June

On the 9th June Mr^r Oxley arrived from Montreal and on his canoe the three men also arrived that went with him 1820 Prisoners last Octr from this Department, Mr^r Oxley departed the following morning for Red River and as his canoe was but weakly manned he leaving Off two three men, he had John Bruce from this Post as a working hands —

On the 14th Left^t Last Hyacinthe from Lac Winnipic named Jean Baptiste who was passing from Red River Moccasins and Moccasin Shoes to the value of £11. 0. 0, as we have been annually in want of Leather at Michipicoten this was absolutely necessary and as care has been taken that the conveyance should be at no loss as will be seen by the following statement I hope that this part of my conduct will not be disapproved of — On the 19th Mr^r Oxley had for domestic three clerks and seven men besides the four prisoners 19 Pr^s Shoes at 3. 2. 6, We supplied to Paul Chenaux half a Moose skin valued at 15^s to New Brunswick During the fall and Winter Leather to the value of £ 1. 17. 6 — on the 8th April the three men that conveyed Govr Williams express had Leather to the value of 9^s — and during the Winter the men stationed at this Post purchased the remainder to the amount of £ 8. 5. 10 so that instead of any loss taking place there is a trifling gain of 15^s on the whole of the sales — on the 19th June Cannieau from whom the Leather was purchased called here on his way to Red River when I learned with regret that the Montreal Agents had withheld payment of the Bills given him but trusts that he will yet receive payment as the Leather was of superior texture at Michipicoten — At this present moment we are overstocked with parchment Deerskins but they are of so poor a quality that few if any will pay the trouble of taking the hair from the skin and afterwards dressing it — they are only fit for making Snow shoe lacing ——

Since the last Michipicoten Annual Report we have completely finished erecting two good substantial Houses one of which the Master resides is 32 feet by 22, the other as the mens dwelling &c

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1820 May

St Marcies arrived to Govr Vincent from the Montreal Agents on the 14th day the canoe started on her return and by this conveyance James Kennedy took his passage for St Marcies, during his stay at Michipicoten he was attended aboard constantly by one man particularly for the first ten days — On the 9th the Dispatches were forwarded for New Brunswick and on the 21st of this month Mr Simpson and Mr Connell arrived in a light canoe from Montreal, from the former gentleman I received a despatch for Govr Vincent which was forwarded on the following morning — on the 23rd the two men that conveyed the first Dispatches returned from New Brunswick and the two men subsequently sent returned from the same place on the 31st —

June

On the 4th June Mr Oxley arrived from Montreal and on his canoe the three men also arrived that went with him 19th Seasons last Octr from this Department, Mr Oxley departed the following morning for Red River and as his canoe was but weakly manned he having left one three men, he had John Bruce from this Post as a working hand —

On the 8th Left. Last purchased from a Sioux a man named Jean Gannon who was passing from Red River Skins and Moccasins Skins to the value of £11. 0. 0, as we have been annually in want of Leather at Michipicoten this was a valuable acquisition and as care has been taken that the canoes

1820

should be at no loss as will be seen by the following statement I take that this part of my conduct will not be disapproved of — On 19th Oct Mr Oxley had for himself three clerks and seven men besides the four prisoners 19 Pcs Skins at 3. 2. 6. We supplied to Paul Chenan half a Moose skin valued at 10/ to New Brunswick during the fall and Winter Leather to the value of £1. 17. 6 — on 8th April the three men that conveyed Govr Williams express had Leather to the value of 9/ and during the Winter the men stationed at this Post purchased the remainder to the amount of £6. 5. 10 so that instead of any loss taking place there is a trifling gain of 9/ on the whole of the Skins — on the 19th June Gannon from whom the Leather was purchased called here on his way to Red River where I learned with regret that the Montreal Agents had withheld payment of the Bill given him but trust that he will yet receive payment as the Leather was of superior texture at Michipicoten — At this present moment we are overstocked with parchment Deerskins but they are of so poor a quality that few if any will pay the trouble of taking the hair from the Skin and afterwards dressing it — they are only fit for making Snowshoe lacing —

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1820 20 feet by 12, both houses are covered on the Roofs with Weatherboarding, the Sidewalls are also Weather-boarded — The foundation of another Store 30 feet by 17 was laid in May for which the Posts and Sidewall Logs are on the Spot, besides sufficient Timber has been cut about eight miles from the house for covering the Roof and weatherboarding the Sidewalls and most of the Logs have been rafted to the house in the Spring. —

We have lately built a Log house of 10 feet long 7 feet broad and 7 feet high, four feet under the Surface of the Earth for the purpose of keeping Potatoes during Winter. —

On 15th May we commenced putting our Potatoes into the ground and from that day to the 29th we planted Sixteen Bushels and a half. Twelve bushels of which is into ground that we have cleared of all Roots &c &c —

Canadians

The NWCo Trade in the Michippicoton Department this year amounts to Seventeen Packs 100 each (of which a very small proportion is Beaver) which is two Packs less than their returns of last year and five packs less than their trade of 1818. — At Michippicoton Mr Donald McIntosh one of their partners, Messrs Allen and Robertson Clerks and four men passed the Winter, at New Brunswick David Holmes Clerk and five men, at

1820 at Matauguamie John Brown Clerk and two men, at Capenacagamie two men (the latter is also a New Brunswick Outpost) and at Batchawinna (which is within 30 miles of St Maries) Francis Hillery Clerk and one man. — Their returns from New Brunswick was Six Small packs which I should think might be nearly 400 MBr, from Matauguamie and Capenacagamie Brown brought Nine and a half good packs, the rest of their trade was collected from Indians along Lake Superior. — When I inform my Honble Employers that the Goods the NWCo received at Michippicoton from Montreal in June 1819 amounted to £1292.7.2 to which may be added at least £50.— for Leather Flour and other articles received from Fort William, to which is also to be added the Salaries of the Master and five clerks £470.— and the wages of fourteen men at 80 Livres each (which is a very low rate in their service and it is known that several of the Michippicoton Servants have more) amounts to £466.13.4 making a charge of at least £2279.—.6 — the value of their stock on hand I have not had the same means as yet of ascertaining, but I am aware that their expenditure was very great at New Brunswick, and no less so at Michippicoton, at the latter Post they failed in making a good fall fishing and consequently their expenditure of Corn to their Servants and Indians was much greater than the preceding year. — I have not the smallest doubt but that the NWCo are very

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1820 considerable losers by last years transactions in this quarter. — Their receipts from Montreal this year on the 9th and 13th June consisted of fourteen Bales, three Rolls, Thirty one Kegs, (each 9 Gallons chiefly Liquor) three Boxes, three Gun cases and Fifty three Bags Corn and Flour, each corn bag contains 2½ bushel and the other bags 100lb Flour each. —

Servants Characters,

Pre Jean Baptiste Pernault (a Canadian about Sixty years of age) this Servant arrived from Lac du Mariages on the 1st September last. He having entered into an agreement with Govr Semple when at Mariages on July 1817, Mr Pernault has been in the Company in the South Rivers Department for nearly eighteen months, about Nine years ago while I believe he conducted himself to the Satisfaction of his Superior Officers since. I have not the least doubt but that Mr Pernault is still inclined to make himself useful but as he labours under three severe bodily infirmities Viz rheumatism Rupture he cannot be actively employed, on 9th May last I sent him along with another man to New Brunswick with Dispatches, he has since declared that he would never have been able to return had it not been for the great care that the other Servant took of him. Mr Pernault has been in the employ of the NWCo for the term of nineteen years. —

1820 Drummond Craigie, As a labouring hand this man is very useful, but he is totally unacquainted with the management of a canoe, he was sent as an assisting hand from here on 21st Octr to New Brunswick in the canoe with Mr Murphy from thence he returned on 29th Octr — on the 19th June Craigie was again sent as a hand in one of the two canoes that went from this Post for New Brunswick — Craigie has one year of his contract to serve. —

James Flett As Labourer Interpreter good Servant, At 2 Rapids Upton at the House he acts as principal Fisherman, his contract for four years Labour expired on June 1820 He was reengaged for one year at an advance of £5 — —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Labon Hanes Sawyer and Labourer this Servant is not very active but by looking after he will perform his work, Last year I found it necessary to fine him in the sum of ten shillings for inattention to his work and also for very insolent language which seems to have had the intended effects — Hanes was sent on 19th Octr to Mariages as one of the escorts to the NWCo Pressmen, from thence he returned on 13th Novr — During the winter he was employed in mending our Dogs sleds &c — on 9th June Hanes was sent on Mr Bethunes canoe as a working hand to the Northern Department. —

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1820 Michael Hyland, This man arrived from New Brunswick on 14th August last to be employed in sawing wood for the Vessel that was to have been built at St Maries, as this business has not been carried into effect Hyland returned from thence on 7th Sept from which day to the 19th October he was employed in sawing wood for the buildings at this Post — On the last mentioned day Hyland was sent in the Boat as one of the escort to the N.W.Co Prisoners and from St Maries he proceeded to Montreal where he passed the Winter — on 8th June He returned to here in Mr Oxleys canoe — as a Sawyer I believe he is a good workman but I strongly suspect that when an opportunity offers he would not be backward in sowing Discontentment among his fellow Servants towards their Superiors, Hyland remains at Michipt but on no fixed terms till such time as I hear from Govr Vincent —

Magnus Kirkness a good Servant, as he is Willing and perfectly qualified to perform any duty required at Michippicoton, He has served the Company five years at 20£ pannum, he has reengaged for one year at an advance of 5£, This sum will not I trust appear too much as we could not do well without his and Fletts Services, they being the only men stationed here capable of conveying dispatches from hence to the Interior. —

1820 John Mowat Carpenter, Since the last Annual Report this man has been chiefly employed in sawing timber and in erecting dwelling houses for the Master and Men, He is contracted for five years (two of which he has served) and to receive 15£ pannum if employed at Labouring work and 20£ if employed as a Tradesman, altho Mowat is only a very tolerable Carpenter yet as he is a good Sawyer and has conducted himself more to my satisfaction last year than he did his first winter, I think him as deserving of 20£ pannum as any of the labouring class that receive similar wages —

Michippicoton
Lake Superior
25th June 1820 —

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Wm Stewart

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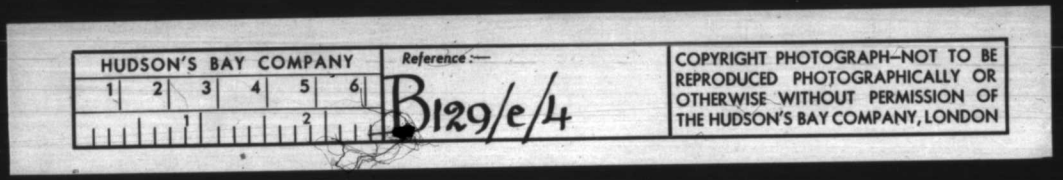
THE END.



Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 129

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 4

DESCRIPTION MICHIPICOTEN
REPORT ON DISTRICT

1820~1821

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MICHIPICOTEN

REPORT 1820-1821

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1820-1821

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B 129/e/4 1820/21

Michippicoton District Annual Report — 1820/21

Ex 558/527

1821

Principal Events

On the 22nd Inst. the four men attached to Michippicoton returned from St Marcs with the second Boat load of Provisions and which nearly completes the quantity ordered by Govr Vincent — On the 25th two men were sent for New Brunswick with the Accounts of this Post and also with sundry letters for Govr Vincent. On the arrival of these men at New Brunswick they were contrary to my wishes sent to Moose Factory consequently Swas deprived of their Services till 17th Sept. — From the dates of the departure of the two men for New Brunswick until their return the remaining two men were employed in collecting some firewood and attending to the fishery they also did a little towards erecting the new Storehouse — On the 30th Mr Donald McIntosh a Partner of the NWC with a Clerk and twelve men arrived at their Settlement on the opposite side of the River from Fort William — On the 31st a Boat arrived from Point Meuron on her way to St Marcs by this conveyance received nearly a sufficiency of Birch Barks for building three North Canoes —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Augt On the 14th of this month a canoe in which were seven men called here for a supply of Provisions to enable them to reach St Marcs — This is according to their Statement the thirteenth day since they left Point Meuron — On the 30th Mr John Bunn late Surgeon at Moose Factory who passed here last June on his way to Upper Canadas, returned from Sandwicks — During this and the past month the two men stationed at this House

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have been principally employed on the fishery, our work at their spawning ~~ground~~ have been so unfavourable as not to have procured any thing nigh a sufficiency for our consumption —

1811 Sept. 2d On the 7th the Lord Wm Pennets and his two men left a Rein Deer & 21 Weeks from hence to procure fresh for our Winter Sustenance — On the 9th the two men that were sent from here on the 25th July with letters &c to New Brunswick returned from Moose Factory, by them received letters from Govr Benjamin Beddes Journal pages 25 & 26 — The two men who arrived this day were on the following morning sent to assist Mr Pennets and the two men at the Grand fishery —

27th This evening the fishermen returned from Grand River with only one barrel of fish. A large party of the Mitchs men were at the same place, but they were equally unsuccessful —

Oct. 2d On the 3rd four Canoes in which were Mr Alexr McDonnell and 28 men arrived here on their way from the Northern Department. A Supply of Provisions was given to them when they departed for Montreal — On the 3rd Mr Murphy sent here for a Supply of Provisions for the Settlers of New Brunswick but owing to the small quantity of Provisions we received from Manitou this Season and our failing at the Grand fishery I could not spare so large a quantity as Mr Murphy requested (please see Journal page 31) — On the 23rd September our fall fishing on the River commenced and the 30th Ditto Came happy to say that we procured a greater number of fish than usual, On the 28th the Men finished taking up our Potatoes, Last Spring was planted 16 Bush and reaped 250 Bushels —

1812 Feb. During the last and present month the men of this Post were engaged on the usual duties that are to be performed at this Indian Establishment — On the 28th inst. two men arrived from New Brunswick with a letter (Vide Journal page 42) from Mr Murphy requesting information respecting the Mitchs and also Mr Mc Donnells proposals for me to oppose the Mitchs at an Establishment there named Mekangunnie — As I have given my opinion very fully on my answer to that Letter (please see Journal page 44) for me to oppose the North West Company at Mekangunnie it appears to me to be unnecessary to say anything further on this Report on the Subject. —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

March In consequence of the arrangements between Mr Murphy and myself (vide Journal pages 31 & 34) a quantity of Provisions was sent from Michipicoten for the support of his men at Mekangunnie Lake on the 27th Ult. — By return of the Servants who conveyed the Provisions I received a letter from Govr Bruneau (vide Journal page 33) dated at Moose Factory —

May 25th This day Mr Alexr McKenzie who is the bearer of Dispatches announcing the Coalition of the Hudsons Bay and North West Companies arrived from Montreal from Mr McGillivrays Encampt a Dispatch addressed to Govr Bruneau which I forwarded by day break on the following morning (please see Journals pages 34) —

June 5th This evening two men arrived from New Brunswick by them I received a letter wherein Mr Murphy requests the supply sent from here on the 28th Ult. — On the evening of the 27th Mr Geary a member of the Chairs Committee and

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Chief's Wm and Simon Wm Tollemaje arrived from Moosonee in compliance with instructions which proceeded from the former Gentlemans the Mr Factor and myself to take a correct Inventory of the Goods & Furs on the Honble Companies Stores and also of the property into the Mr Merchandize - All the Effects belonging to the former Company were then transferred to the Mr managing partners - Two of the men stationed at Michipicoton were then sent for Moose Factory, Mr Pennault and the other man John Howatt were permitted to leave the Service, they departed for Canada on the 28th June -

Servants Characters

Wm Cain Interpreter Pennault Clerk and Bookkeeper by one years Service - This man has for the last year been so much troubled with his Ruptures and Rheumatism that he could not be employed on any kind of Active duty consequently he and his large family contributed no profit Service to the Michipicoton expenditure on the decease of Mr Ganong J.B. Pennault was discharged from the Service on 28th June -

James Elliott Labourer and Fisherman, 6 Years Honest good Servants, His contract for 5 Years expired in June 1828. He was reengaged for one year at 25£ which was confirmed by Gov.r Simpson -

Michael Hoyland, During the greatest part of this Winter Hoyland was Steward on the New Brunswick Vessel - At the time he was at Michipicoton I have known him to be a Disagreeable Indolent Servant. -

Magnus Harkness This man I have found at all times ready to perform any duty required at Michipicoton & along with Hall were the only men that knew the way to New Brunswick consequently they were often ordered to convey Dispatches from Michipicoton to Hall Bay In June Hall Harkness received an advance of 5£ It is his intention to return to Moosonee next season -

John Howatt Sawyer and Carpenter, His services cannot be valued too highly as a Mechanic & a good workman He has formerly been for six years made Sawyer more useful than on either of his two preceding years and he may now be considered as good a Servant as any of the labouring class - Howatt obtained permission from Mr Ganong to leave the Service, he accordingly embarked on the 28th June for Canada. -

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Conductors

The Trade on the Michipicoton Department of the Mr is I believe somewhat greater than either of these two last years - I have not been able to ascertain the Amount Their success may be attributed to their receiving the Furs of a large family of Indians from the Red Quarter and to the annual goods hunts made by many of the Michipicoton Indians -

I have more than once stated for the information of the Honble Committee that we had no chance of ever succeeding in any Trade at Michipicoton Indeed when Michipicoton was established few years ago it was then clearly understood that it was with the view of supplying New Brunswick with Provisions and to

keep up a regular communication with Canada, particularly in case of the Ship being detained in the Country.

Michippicoton
28th June 1821

Angus Stewart

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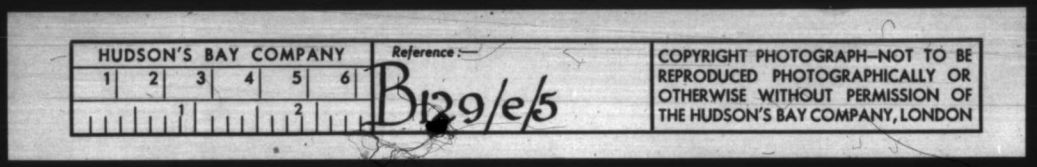

Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2nd MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 129

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 5

DESCRIPTION MICHIPICOTEN

REPORT on DISTRICT

1828

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MICHIPICOTEN

REPORT. 1828.

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1828

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Report of Lake Superior District, Southern Department 31st May 1828

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Respecting the limits of this District, it may suffice briefly to state, that its whole length on one side is entirely confined by the Waters of Lake Superior which lave its Banks for more than 300 Miles – It is bounded on the land side by St Marys, Moose, Albany and Rainy Lake Districts, and its greatest breadth does not appear to me to exceed 130 Miles.

The Trade of this District is supplied with the requisite European Articles from Moose Factory and the Stores and Provisions &c are advantageously procured from St Marys – The Navigation from Moose Factory, with the exception of Moose River, to Lake Superior is the most disadvantageous of any I know in the Country, being much obstructed with rough stony shallows, rapids and very rugged Carrying places. The remainder of the Navigation applicable to this District is principally confined to the Shores of the North side of the Lake, which comparatively affords few Harbours and towards Autumn is generally very boisterous and consequently dangerous to heavy laden and weakly manned Craft.

The soil altho' laying in a Southerly Latitude and enjoying generally a moderate temperature is barren and unfruitful comprising a great deal of sand and Rock. Such parts of the District about the Establishments as are adapted for cultivation requires a great deal of manure to render it productive. Hence the only vegetable cultivated to any extent is the Potatoe, which indeed is a very necessary Articles to prevent the injurious effects which a salt diet might otherwise produce, during the long winter season – Some other vegetables however are successfully cultivated at Ft William, but this is the fruits of

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of much previous labour and attention —

The Animal Creation of this District is much decreased. With the exception of a few Rein Deer, every variety of the Deer Species appears to be extinct — Of the Fur bearing Animals we have the Black Bear in considerable number, the Beaver, Otter, Mink, Muskrat, Fisher, Lynx Cat, Marten and Rabbit — The Wolf and Wolverine are rarely to be met with — I have no doubt but the number of Fur bearing Animals is annually diminishing, yet I have been a good deal surprised that there are so many — in a Country which has been so long established. The Climate of such an extent of Country from South to North naturally varies. The more Southern Establishments comparatively enjoy a happy temperature. At Michipicoton Establishment last Winter we experienced only three days at different periods of severe frost when the Thermometer fell to 22, 28 & 35 below Zero. At the same place the Ice settled on the River on the 17th November and moved off on the 20th April following, which by former residenters was considered late. The Ice in this Quarter did not begin to form on Lake Superior before the 20th of January — and never during the season extended to any considerable distance from the Shore as we could generally distinguish open Water without the assistance of a Telescope. —

The most prominent advantage which this District appears to possess is its proximity to Lake Superior and St Marys from the latter of which it procures large and cheap supplies of Stores and Provisions, without which the Trade, under the present reduced state of the Country, could not be carried on to any considerable advantage and the Vicinity of the former enables the Company to perform the Transport by means of an Establishment which under other circumstances would be far from being adequate to the task — These however are not unattended by some disadvantages — such, for instance as the temptation and facility held

out to Adventurers from Canada to engage in the Trade and its proximity to the United States affords too frequent opportunities to our Servants to desert the Service, a practice which is becoming too common and which it is impossible entirely to suppress —

The local means of Subsistence which this District affords, with the exception of Lake Nipigon are precarious and considerably under the demand, besides being comparatively expensive. It consists exclusively of various kinds of fish, which periodically visit the Shores of this extensive Lake, such as Trout, Tettamengue or White Fish (an excellent species unknown in England) a kind of Herring and others of less estimation and more limited numbers — It is very true that great numbers of Trout and Tettamengue some seasons visit the Shores of the Lake for the purpose of casting their Spawn, but they frequently change situations and our Establishments cannot afford many people to attend to the fisheries — the produce of which is invariably put into pickle to preserve them for Winter consumption — Hence vegetable production becomes an object of importance at all our Establishments —

During the current Outfit this District maintained five regular Trading Stations, besides four temporary or Out Posts — the former are Fort William, Lake Nipigon, the Pic, Michipicoton and New Brunswick, and the latter, Lac la Fleche (Arrow Lake) Sturgeon Lake, Long Lake and Batchewenan Bay — The former and latter Out Posts are of little importance farther than as a kind of protection to the Southern and Western extremities of the District — which are vulnerable to American and other Intruders and which consequently should not be neglected.

The Establishment of Clerks and Servants has been much reduced since Outfit 1825. It presently consists of forty, including, OutPost Masters, Interpreters, Guide and

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The local means of Subsistence which this District affords, with the exception of Lake Nipegon are precarious and considerably under the demand, besides being comparatively expensive. It consists exclusively of various kinds of fish, which periodically visit the Shores of the extensive Lake, such as Trout, Tittamegan or White fish (an excellent species unknown in England), a kind of Herring and others of less estimation and more limited numbers – It is very true that great numbers of Trout and Tittamegan some Seasons visit the Shores of the Lake for the purpose of casting their Spawn, but they frequently change situations and our Establishments cannot afford many people to attend to the fisheries – the produce of which is invariably put into pickle to preserve them for Winter consumption – Hence regular production becomes an object of importance at all our Establishments –

During the current outfit this District maintained four regular Trading Stations, besides four temporary or Out Posts – The former are Fort William, Lake Nipegon, the Pic, Michipicoton and New Brunswick, and the latter, Lac la Sheche (Arrow Lake) Sturgeon Lake, Long Lake and Batchewanan Bay – The former and latter Out Posts are of little importance further than as a kind of protection to the Southern and Western extremities of the District – which are vulnerable to American and other Intruders and which consequently should not be neglected –

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and Labourers besides their Commd.ng Officers and five Clerks — And so far as my information extends I have great pleasure in reporting that their conduct generally merits much commendation —

My limited information respecting the number of Women and families connected with the Officers and Servants on this District does not enable me to offer any accurate computation possibly before the Document is forwarded to Moose Factory I may be enabled to annex a List — Meantime it may be proper to state that with few exceptions they are maintained and supported at the expense and cost of individuals —

Here follows

A Statement of the Cost of living during the five most expensive Months of the Year viz.t November, Dec.r January, February & March at Mishipicoton Establishment

	No. of Grown & Adults	lbs Flour	lbs Beef & Suet	lbs Pork	lbs Lard	lbs Tallow	Bush.ls Wht Corn	Bush.ls Potatoes	Cwts Salt Fish	Cost £	s	d
		½	¾	¼	⅓	⅐	½	⅓	¼	£	s	d
Officers M.rs	2	138	50	.	30	40	5	3	30	8	14	11
Labourers	8	61	160	21	.	89	26	.	111	34	15	7
Officers families	4½	.	30	.	.	.	.	.	35	4	5	1
Labourers d.o	8	20	40	8	.	20	8	.	82	11	1	2
Freemen in Want		.	.	.	.	17	8	4	12	6	3	5
Indians d.o		.	.	.	.	44	18	4	30	11	11	5
		219	280	29	30	210	65	11	300	76	11	7

= 5⅞ ₰ diem ea.
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= 1¾ d.o d.o

The foregoing statement may possibly be considered high and I am apt to think exceeds the ordinary expenses of the Post but it may be proper to observe that the Winter season was severe for the Native population and the Establishment was otherwise burthened with several poor families from St Marys and elsewhere which without our support must have perished.

During the Summer season, the fishery is productive, particularly the Herring fishery and the expense of subsistence is consequently moderate —

The regular Native population of Mishipicoton Establishment and its Out Post, Batchewanan Bay, amount this Year to thirty one Men, five Youths, twenty one Boys, about and under twelve Years of age; thirty one Women & thirty Girls about and under twelve years of age — During the course of last Summer we lost three of our best Hunters, two of whom died of Sickness and the other was treacherously murdered by a Native on the 18.th September last — The Trade in consequence suffered a serious loss — These Indians Hunts average about thirty six made Beaver P.r man, something above the result of the preceding, but considerably under the actual nominal value of advances made to them throughout the Year — This however has been the Case for a number of Years back and the tendency of encreasing extravagance on the part of the Natives and the demanding means to gratify this propensity are likely to baffle any efforts that may be made to remedy this growing evil. The Native population of the District according to the best information I possess may be computed at one hundred and ninety Men, twenty four Youths, one hundred and ninety eight Women and two hundred and ninety Children, male and female, forming a total of seven hundred Souls — They are a mixed race, deriving their origin from the Saulteaux or Ojebway and Cree Tribes and of course resemble those people in manners and disposition. The Natives of Surgeon Lake, an Out Post from Lake Nipegon are not comprehended in the above estimation —

On the Subject of the Trade of the current

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current year. I mean that of outfit 1827 my information is incomplete and I cannot longer postpone closing this report. The amounts and report of Nipigon Lake, not having as yet reached this place. However from the amounts I secured during the Winter from Mr. Alexander McTavish now promoted and I humbly conceive very deservedly I have reason to expect a favorable result, in which case the Trade this Year will be at least as valuable as that of the preceding and the expenses I am persuaded less. A result which I presume may be justly attributed to the wise arrangements of Council, the cordial co-operation of the Officers attached to the District and the judicious management generally of the different Posts. One of the outposts this year mustered a considerable increase / that of Long Lake under the management of Mr. John Swanston / which however was procured at the expense in a great measure of Lake Nipigon by means of a valuable family of Indians, of late Years attached to the latter, having resorted and taken the profits of their industry to the former Establishment. The Trade notwithstanding this gratifying prospect suffered considerable loss from the following circumstances: During the course of last Summer, without the least provocation, a valuable family of Indians constantly in the habit of trading at Fort William Establishment went over to American Traders in the Fond du Lac District / when in part the lands of this family are situated / and have not returned to that Post. In like manner a very industrious and valuable family of Indians have absconded from the Pic Establishment without the least cause of offence whatever and have not been seen in that Quarter since last Summer. It is supposed this family is gone to Albany District.

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At Michipicoton Establishment during the Course of last Summer, as before mentioned, two very industrious and invariably successful Hunters died of Sickness and a third was treacherously shot by a relation of his at the Establishment. Thus from one cause or other the District has been deprived of the Services of thirteen of the most valuable of its Indians, who on a moderate calculation would have mustered collectively eight Packs of Furs of the first quality. On the boundary line between the United States and Canada it is satisfactory to state that the Trade has been vigilantly and I believe successfully protected from the efforts of petty Traders and Adventurers who invariably assail the Indians on that Quarter. The American Fur Traders at St Marys made repeated attempts near Batchewana Bay but I am informed reaped no advantage. Their Trading Post / Grand Marais / in the vicinity of Fort William made little effort.

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J. Graham C.F.

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1828

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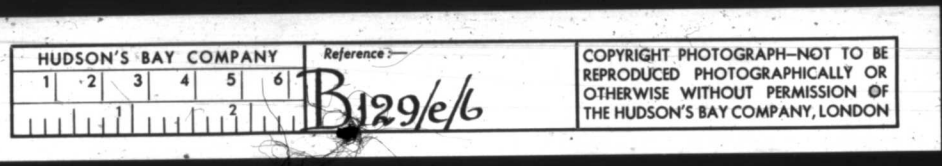

Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 129

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 6

DESCRIPTION MICHIPICOTEN
REPORT on DISTRICT

1828-1829

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REPORT, 1828-1829.

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B.129/e/6
1828/29
MICHIPICOTON
Inc 923
year 1829

Report of Lake Superior District Outfit 1828.

Limits of the District

Having unavoidably been confined to my Post since my appointment in this Quarter I do not feel perfectly master of this Subject - It may however suffice to State that the entire length of the District from South East to North West is circumscribed by the waters of Lake Superior which lave its banks for more than three hundred Miles - The District is bounded on the land side by S. St Marys or rather Lake Huron, Moose River, Albany and rainy Lake Districts Its greatest breadth from the Shores of the Lake does not appear to me to exceed one hundred and twenty miles. -

Navigable Rivers, Lakes, Transport

All the Rivers of the District discharge their Waters into the Lake. Those of any Note are Batchewanan, Agaywam, Michipicoton, the Pic, Lake Nipigon and Kaministiquia Rivers. The two former are not navigable to any extent for large Craft and the others being either shallow or much obstructed with Falls Rapids and Portages are far from affording an advantageous Navigation - The Furs of this District are transported via Michipicoton and New Brunswick Rivers to the Long Portage in the latter, whence return Cargoes of European supplies are afforded - Formerly North Canoes were employed, which on account of their lightness are certainly best adapted for such an intricate shallow and rugged Navigation. Last Year in order to combine the Lake Huron Transport, (together with considerable supplies of Provisions &c for Moose Depot from St Marys) with that of this District, five Keel Boats, similar to those in use in the Northern Department, were directed to be adopted. Owing however to the tardy collection of the Lake Huron and part of this District Returns three of the number were only employed - Four Canoes

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Canoes having been substituted in lieu of the other two Boats. An arrangement which eventually produced very beneficial consequences to the success of affairs. In fact, judging from the toil and difficulties which the three Boats experienced I am strongly of opinion that the two other Boats going off alone would have stuck somewhere along the route – The successful result how-ever of the three Boats, notwithstanding the very disadvantageous state of the Portages and lighting places, incontestably proves the practicability of the System, at least during seasons of tolerably favourable water –

During seasons of low Water the System however would be extremely distressing and harassing and from what I can learn, owing to the extreme ruggedness of some of the Portages and lighting places, which in a manner bids defiance to any attempt at radical improvement the System can hardly ever be carried on with so much ease and alacrity as in the Northern Department – However the practice is only in its infancy. No one can say what time and perseverance may effect. It is certainly much more economical than the Canoe System and hitherto I have most earnestly and anxiously done and of course continue to do all in my power to promote its success – A year or two of low Water is most to be dreaded. Such an unfortunate occurrence I fear would completely disgust our Labourers who do not find it by any means to their taste – However we must hope for the best –

The interior of the District is much intersected with Lakes of less or greater extent – Some of which facilitate the transport to the interior Posts of the District – Most of these Lakes are bountifully supplied with excellent fish. An excellent resource to the natives of they were provident enough to avail themselves thereof –

But to return to the Transport. In consequence of the very unfavourable nature of the Communication between

this District and Moose Depot it is very fortunate that we have an intercourse with Upper Canada via Sault St Marys so direct and practicable, by which means a very large proportion of the Supplies / Provisions, Liquor and Tobacco required for the District is easily procured from thence and at a very cheap rate – The Northern shore of this Lake is in general very rugged and open and consequently rather dangerous for heavy and weakly manned craft, excepting during the Summer Months – Hence it becomes a primary object to get the [illegible] the general Transport to and from Moose performed as soon as possible –

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— Nature of the Country Soil &c. —

The nature of the Country is rocky and mountainous – intersected with a great deal of marsh and Lakes – comparatively there is little scope for cultivation. In most parts where the country is level the soil is chiefly composed of a light sand. With the exception of Fort William the only vegetable production successfully cultivated at our Establishments is the Potatoe and for this we are in a great degree indebted to the small stock of Cattle nursed at every Establishment permanently kept up, by means of which a little manure is collected for the Potatoe fields – At Fort William some Barley and peas are cultivated, but then is the result of the great labour and care bestowed upon the plan during the time of the late N. W. Co.

— Animals, Fur Bearing &c. —

Excepting a few small kinds of Fur, the Deer species would appear to be extinct. The Wolf and Wolverine consequently are rarely to be met with. Indeed I have not heard of any of the former having been seen for a number of years past and a Bear or two of the latter is the most that the District produces in the course of a year –

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HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

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— Animals, Fur Bearers &c. —

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year. An enumeration of fur-bearing Animals will embrace, the Beaver, Otter, Musquash, Mink, the black Bear (there are scarcely any Brown) Lynx Cat, Fisher, the Cross, Red & Silver Fox, the Martin, Weazle and Rabbit, which latter is very abundant throughout the District and constitutes the principal article of food to the Natives during the Winter Season. The most valuable fur-bearing Animals are annually diminishing which can scarcely fail to be the case where the Country is hunted close. The Natives however generally study to spare the Beaver during the Spring season in order not to destroy the Young. However altho family Territorial divisions seem to be long established and cherished they are very prone to poach upon one anothers hunting grounds and the Beaver, not much more on account of the value of the Fur as the food which the carcase affords often falls a prey to such depredation which sometimes occasions dangerous feuds between families —

— Climate —

In such an extent of Country from North to South the temperature is naturally subject to some variety — However with the exception of Lake Nipigon which is our most Northern Establishment it may be considered mild — We experience however some short intervals of intense frost in January or commencement of February but these never exceed two or three days duration and are generally succeeded by mild Weather — Last Autumn was considered mild. At Michipicoton the Ice finally settled on the River (the Thermometer that morning was at 28 below freezing point) on the 4th December and broke up last Spring on the 28th April — a period by the by which was considered late. The lowest I observed the Thermometer during last Winter was 30 below zero — During the Winter Months I have only observed of the Feathered

Feathered creation, the large and small Owl, several Species of the Hawk, two small Magpie, the hardy little wood picker, a small kind of sparrow and several kinds of Partridge. There are some Water fowl in the Lake throughout the Winter —

Advantages & Disadvantages

The most prominent advantage in respect to Trade is the great facility of intercourse with Upper Canada via Sault St Marys by which means the District is furnished with a great proportion of necessary Supplies at a very moderate expense and with comparative little trouble. This operates very beneficially upon the Native population — a good many of whom, more it is true from a want of industrious and provident conduct than from a scarcity of the resources of the District, require occasional assistance in provisions, which could not be afforded if furnished from the Depot at Moose. The difficulty and expense of the Transport would occasion an interdict of the Article beyond the indispensable supply —

In the almost total absence of the Deer Species, it is also fortunate that the Rabbit is so numerous throughout the District, which is also well stocked with the finny Tribes by means of Lake Superior and a number of interior Waters intersecting it, which at certain periods of the Year I am persuaded afford abundant means of Subsistence. Unfortunately few of the Tribes of Indians of North America, and particularly where the means of life are plentiful, extend their views in this respect to the future. This is too much the case in this part of the Country and consequently too often the source of severe and sometimes fatal privations during the Winter Season — A melancholly proof of this occurred to some of the Natives of Michipicoton last Winter, two Women and three children having died of famine —

In discussing the disadvantages, the most obvious and momentous is undoubtedly in respect to Trade, the intricacy and harassing nature of our general

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general Trans port via Michipicoton and New Brunswick Rivers to the Long Portage / which by the by in point of distance is trifling, being I dare say not much beyond 280 Miles long / particularly in consequence of the introduction of the Boat System. — The Trade is moreover much exposed and somewhat annoyed by the vicinity of the District to Upper Canada, or rather to the United States of America and I wonder we are not more pestered with adventurers from those Countries considering with what facility petty incursions might be performed. However, none but trusty, experienced and active persons could succeed to any degree in such enterprises and such are not readily met with.

The frequent intercourse with and deportation of Sault St Marys is also a considerable nuisance by exciting and encouraging habits of drunkenness, to which all Indian Tribes are too much prone / dishonesty and a great many other vices and follies on the part of the Natives, from which our Servants do not wholly escape impunion, and from which sources may be traced discontent disaffection to the service and sometimes desertion.

— Posts Occupied —

During this Outfit the District maintained five regular Establishments besides three temporary or out Posts. The former are Fort William, Lake Nipegon, the Pic Michipicoton and New Brunswick. The latter are Lac la Roche / Arrow Lake / Long Lake and Batchewanan Bay. Long Lake although an Out Post is one of the most valuable of the District. The other two Out Posts are merely dependance but necessary to the protection of the rest, which without them would be harassed by petty adventurers without end.

— Means of Subsistence —

Here with the exception of Lake Nipegon are somewhat precarious and inadequate some years to the demand, on part I mean to local supplies about the Establishments which consist exclusively / Vegetable productions and a few Rabbits or Partridges occasionally / of various kinds of fish which periodically visit the shores of the Lake and which for Winter consumption require to be pulled on being caught, during the latter end of September and almost all October. These are Trout and Tittamingues (or white fish) principally. A kind of Herring is very abundant at some of our Establishments during the latter end of May and most part of the Month of June. What is required beyond the finny Tribes consist mostly of Indian Corn with a seasoning of Tallow, say ¾ lbs or ¾ lb for each quart of Corn. Flour & Pork occasionally for allowances are reserved for sale. However since the introduction of the Boat System and the consequent more laborious nature of the Transport it has been deemed advisable to allow a small proportion of these for the Servants during the Transport season. A liberality which is duly appreciated and which is productive of very little additional expense to the Company. The former being procured / all expenses included / at about 1½ d per pound and the latter not exceeding ¼.

— Officers & Servants &c —

The Establishment of this District has been considerably pruned since Outfit 1825. especially that for 1827. For an extensive and frontier District it is at present in my humble opinion rather too much so in respect to Clerks. The Establishment for Outfit 1828 consists of three Commissioned Officers, three experienced / two of whom at least are very efficient viz. J. Gladman & J. Swanston / Clerks, one apprentice Clerk and forty one Voyageurs, including

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including one Guide, one OutPost Master, one Interp^r and three Mechanics. Six of the Voyageurs are Young recruits from the Orkneys last Year and in point of efficiency for active and general Service are a Year or two too Young – This is not meant as any disparagement to the poor lads, who on all occasions exert themselves to give satisfaction. In short of the general conduct of all, as far as my information extends (and I am now penning this report in the absence of general recent accounts in order to be prepared for closing the general business and delaying as little as possible the departure of the Transport Craft on arrival of the Returns) I have every reason to be satisfied. Mr Swanston (Clerk) altho comparatively Young in the Service has acquitted himself of the Management of the Pie and superintendancy of Long Lake with much judgment and appears to be well qualified for general business –

— Native Population —

The Native population of Michipicoton and its OutPost Batchewinan Bay amounted this last Season to 31 Men 4 Youths 38 Women 22 Boys & 30 Girls – The Mens hunt at the former average about 34 Made Beaver being something less than last Year and as usual too much short of the actual nominal Advances – Comparatively few Indians resorted to Batchewinan Bay this Year and it is certainly good policy to withdraw as many as possible, not only on account of the exhausted State of the Country in fur-bearing Animals but also in consequence of the Natives being so much exposed to the inroads of Needy settlers and adventurers from St Marys. But to the point – The whole Native population of the District amounts to about 208 Men 212 Women 34 Youths and 317 Children of both sexes; forming an aggregate number of 771 Souls – A small population for such an extent of Country and in my opinion gradually declining – arising principally from indolence and inattention on the part of the Natives to provide by a prudent foresight and exertion the means of subsistence – Hence a number of children perish

perish during their infancy from want of care or means of subsistence. – The Natives of this District are a mixed race, deriving their origin from from the Maskigon Cries and Ojibbeway Tribes and of course resemble those people in character and manners, altho in point of energy of temper and moral disposition they are much degenerated from their Ancestors – This I attribute in a great measure to their increased intercourse with Strangers particularly with pretending half Christianized Indians (a most immoral and depraved race) who poison their minds with the grossest absurdities and excite them to habits of idleness and dissipation. Properly speaking there are no Chiefs amongst them. Individuals enjoy some ascendancy on account of family connexions, and often in consequence of being an expert and successful hunter. Excepting during intoxication they are in general peaceably disposed – The Indians of Lake Nipigon are certainly the most turbulent and extremely treacherous and violent amongst themselves – formerly seldom an year passed without several violent deaths – but this inhuman practice was much checked of late Years by Mr A. McTavish, C.T. energy and prudent management. However generally they appear to me to be very inoffensively disposed towards the Whites. Their dependency on whom for I may say indispensable supplies no doubt is conducive to this – And indeed it is only during fits of intoxication generally that any violence is committed amongst themselves – It would be happy for them if Spirituous Liquor was abolished altogether, but admitting the Company adopted such a measure, such is their violent attachment to this beverage that they would flock to the American Traders about the frontiers, who as usual would indulge them to their hearts content – with the velist and most adulterated kind of Spirits –

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State of the Trade

The Trade of last Outfit is not so bulky or I imagine quite so valuable (and I write principally from conjecture as no time has been allowed since the arrival of the returns for drawing out a comparative statement, being extremely desirous to expedite the departure of the Craft in order to take advantage of the most favourable state of the Water) as last year — However I do not suppose it falls much short and had not the breaking up of the Ice been protracted so late last Spring, which prevented a great majority of the Indians of Long Lake and a number of those of Lake Nipigon from bringing in their Hunts in time, there does not exist a doubt but the Returns would have turned out to be considerably more valuable. However part at least of this draw back will be forthcoming for the next altho' it is to be feared, owing to the negligence generally of the Natives of this District, that some Furs belonging to the Indians of Long Lake will be lost as no person remains there, as usual, during the Summer season to receive them. This is a loss and disappointment to the Natives of that Post as well as to the Company. The former, from not receiving their usual Spring supplies, which however will not occasion any distress as they can subsist plentifully upon fish in most of the Lakes in that Quarter during the Summer season. Hence the disappointment may be productive of future benefit as the Natives will naturally be more alert in bringing in their hunts when they perceive that the whites cannot indulge their dilatory movements — Since I am on the subject of Long Lake it may not be improper to mention that the Returns suffered some diminution in consequence of a few good Hunters having carried their entire Hunts to the Establishment of St Martins Falls in Albany District — For three Years previous they partially trafficked clandestinely with the person in charge of that Post, but last Year it is strongly affirmed that they were completely seduced — It is

certainly laudable to be zealous to make Parks but the means resorted to in the present instance are unfair and very annoying to the suffering Post (and it is merely on this account that I notice the circumstance or at least this is my principal motive) as it shews a very bad example to the other Indians of the Post and tends to make them discontented and unreasonable with their Trader — It also provokes retaliation and thus the general interest is exposed to be lost sight of. — Fort William and Lake Nipigon muster in bulk at least, each an Augmentation of two Parks, but owing to a diminution of the most valuable Fur, the real value is perhaps not susceptible of much, if any increase — The greatest defection falls on Long Lake, this place (Michipn) and the Pie Establishments, altho collectively, owing to the superior quality of the Furs, the Pie and Long Lake Returns are about as valuable as last Year — Indeed the increase at Lake Nipigon may be estimed to have been made at the expense of Long Lake, as several Indians were transferred from the latter to the former Establishment. The reduction in bulk, altho perhaps very little in value at Michipicoton arises from casualities amongst the Natives and severe privation during the Winter Season. My last accounts from New Brunswick gave me room to anticipate a favourable result at that valuable small Establishment. I have no doubt, indeed it is clearly evident that our vile assortment of Cloths last Year afforded cause for some discontent and consequent apathy amongst the Natives, particularly those of the Nipigon and Fort William Establishments and I regret to have to observe that the American Fur Co established near the latter succeeded better than they have done during any preceding Year — Our South Eastern frontiere (Batchewan Bay) has been, well protected — The American petty traders in that Quarter have lost ground — In short upon a full review of circumstances we have reason to be satisfied and in closing this subject I feel particularly gratified

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gratified to state that I have been ably and cordially assisted by all the Officers in the District and the conduct and behaviour of our hardy Voyageurs appears to be improving and altogether very commendable —

— Suggestions in regard to Alterations &c —

The only alteration of any importance which I have taken the liberty of suggesting to the Governor is the restoration of the Establishment of Sturgeon Lake (transferred to Albany District by the Council held here — May 1827) to this District — It is one however to which I attach much importance — In the first place, by re uniting the Nipigon Country under the superintendance of one person, a powerful check would be provided, even under moderate management, against the acknowledged violent and turbulent disposition of the Natives, who by the present separation find a kind of refuge or retreat in the event of committing any violence or depredation from one Post to the other or rather from one District to the other — Secondly and principally the restoration would enable this District by means of its own proper resources to perform its own general Transport besides that of Lake Huron and St Marys Districts between this and the Long Portage in New Brunswick River; whereas under the present arrangements this Transport would annually require the services of three or four of the Lake Huron Men, which would be evidently very annoying and inconsistent I fear with the successful prosecution of affairs in that District — In proof of which I need only mention, that altho I only requested Mr C F McBean to furnish three men for this Transport, one of the three sent forward is an invalid — × I might ask what has been gained to the general interest by the Transfer? If the Estabt of Long Lake had been dismembered from this District as was strongly recommended by some Chief Factors who successfully pressed the separation of Sturgeon Lake to the Governors attention what would have become of the important

× I do not impute any unfair views to Mr C F McBean — The man I understand was in good health when he despatched him on this service

important and advantageous System introduced by the Governor of causing the returns of Lake Huron District to be conveyed to, and the requisite European Supplies — forwarded from Moose Factory instead of passing as formerly by Montreal? This I mention to afford some Idea of what I consider the inconsiderate mania for the dismemberment of this District upon the occasion of my appointment to the Superintendancy. —

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Remarkable Occurrence

On this subject I lament to state that one of our Servants (Charles Robedoux) together with a freeman (Antoine Pombrillant) were unfortunately drowned about the 24th October whilst employed in attending a fishery on the shores of Lake Superior. This distressing accident is entirely to be attributed to the intemperate rashness of the unfortunate Sufferers who were both expert navigators of small craft. The accident happened by the filling or upsetting of a Canoe during a furious gale of wind. — It is also distressing to relate that a Party of the Natives, in a mad attempt to cross over from the main land of the Lake to Michipicoton Island (a passage of about nine miles broad, perfectly unsheltered) in an old Canoe about the latter end of March perished in the same manner. The Party consisted of no fewer than three men, four Women and nine children! The object they had in view was to manufacture Maple Sugar upon the Island which is abundantly stocked with Maple wood and the Party was most reluctantly urged and goaded to their deplorable fate by the persuasions and abuse of an old man, one of the Sufferers — One argument which he strongly insisted upon to dissipate the dreful apprehensions of the great majority was "that as God had vouchsafed to give him a son only "two days since, was it credible that the Almighty

"Almighty would send a man child into the World
"to perish immediately."

Mistipicoton L. S. Dist.
30th June 1829

Geo Keith C.F.

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List of Families attached to the District Outfit 1828

		Women	Children
Louis	Bouchard	1	.
Pierre	Camarere	1	.
Thomas	Cadrant	1	4
Hyacinthe	Davilleau	1	.
Baptiste	Deschamps	1	4
Joseph	Dubois (b)	1	2
Antoine	Dutremble	1	.
Olivier	Desautels	1	.
Joseph	Fontaine	1	.
George	Keith C.F.	1	5
Roderick	McKenzie C.F.	1	7
Donald	McIntosh	1	5
John	McIntosh Clerk	1	1
Joseph	La Perdrix Blanc	1	1
Jean Amable	McKay	1	4
Jean Baptiste	La Vallé	1	2
John	Robertson	1	4
		17	39

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THE END.

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Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2nd MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 129

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 7

DESCRIPTION MICHIPICOTEN
REPORT on DISTRICT

1829 - 1830

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MICHIPICOTEN.

REPORT 1829-1830.

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1829-1830

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Report of Lake Superior District Outfit 1829

Year 1830

Limits

The extreme length of this District, coast ways along the Northern Shores of Lake Superior, may be computed to extend upwards of three hundred Miles. It is bounded on the land side by Lake Huron, Moose River, Albany and Rainy Lake Districts, and its greatest breadth in a direct line from the shores of the Lake does not I fancy exceed one hundred and twenty miles.

Navigation

All Rivers to the Southward of the height of land, naturally discharge their waters into the Lake — Those which are navigable for craft of any burthen, are Michipicoten, Pic, Lake Nipigon and Kaministiquia Rivers. They are all [illegible] more obstructed with Falls and Rapids, occasioning numerous Portages and lightning places to the craft which navigate them. Hence the Transport of the Returns to Moose Factory via Michipicoten and Moose Rivers, communicating with one another by means of Lakes and Portages, and that of the European Goods required from thence, altho' by no means a long transport as the Craft of the District do not proceed beyond the long Portage, is however laborious and occupies much time. Fortunately by means of the convenient intercourse with Upper Canada via Sault St Maries all the Stores and Provisions required for the District are procured from thence.

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Nature of the Country &c

The Country is exceedingly hilly and rocky, interspersed much with marsh or swampy ground and richly stocked with Lakes and Small streams. The soil in general is sandy and in a great degree totally unfit for cultivation. The only vegetable cultivated to any extent at our Establishments is the Potatoe, and even this plant could not be produced to any advantage, without the manure afforded by means of

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of a small stock of Cattle. At Fort William some Barley and Peas are produced but these are the fruits of the immense improvements / combined with the large stock of cattle still kept up / bestowed upon that Establishment during the latter Years of the late N. W. Company. –

Animals

Nothing of the Deer species remain, excepting a few small herds of the Rein Deer which are sometimes discovered, principally in the Eastern Sections of the District. Wolves and Wolverines are of course equally scarce. The Fur-bearing Animals are, the Beaver, Otter, Musquash, Mink, the Black Bear (scarcely any Brown) Lynx or Cat: fisher, the Red, cross and silver Fox, the Martin and Rabbit – the latter is abundant and furnishes a great proportion of food for the Natives.

Climate

In such an extent of Country the climate is naturally unequal however with the exception of Lake Nipigon, the most northern Establishment of the District, the temperature may be considered mild. At Michipicoton I have not seen the Thermometer lower than 32 below zero. At the same place the Ice closes on the River about the latter end of November and breaks up about the same time in the month of April following. Of late years the Ice seldom connects itself into a Body beyond the Bays in the Lake. –

— Advantages —

The most prominent with respect to Trade is the great facility of Transport from Upper Canada, by which means the District is furnished with abundance of Stores and Provisions at a moderate expense and with comparative little trouble. The Native population is also largely benefited by the abundance of fish and

and Rabbits, which resources, with any degree of industrious and provident management, a very ample subsistence might be secured throughout the Year. But I have generally observed, that, amongst the Indian Tribes of North America, wherever the means of life were most abundant, there prevailed a proportionate indifference and culpable neglect to take the necessary steps to secure this primary object, which is also too much the case in this District. –

Disadvantages

The most obvious is the intricacy and precariousness of our general Transport via Michipicoton and New Brunswick Rivers to the Long Portage, where another set of Craft, bringing supplies from Moose Factory require to meet those from this District, carrying the Returns of Lake Huron and this District to that place – the two sets of Craft after exchanging Ladings proceed on their return to their respective Districts. The Trade is also much exposed to competition from our vicinity to Upper Canada and the United States. –

Posts Occupied

During Outfit 1829 the District maintained five regular Posts, viz: Michipicoton, New Brunswick, Pic, Fort William and Lake Nipigon, besides three temporary or Outposts, namely Batchewanan Bay, Long Lake and Lac la Fleche. Long Lake although an Outpost is one of the most valuable in the District. The other two are merely defensive but very necessary to the protection of the rest, which otherwise would be harassed by petty adventurers without end. –

— Means of Subsistence —

During the Summer season, sufficient local subsistence is left or more precarious at most of our Establishments. By proper

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proper care and attention the Supplies required for the Winter Season may be obtained generally in abundance. These consist exclusively (vegetables with a few Rabbets & Partridges excepted) of various kinds of fish, particularly Trout which periodically resort to the shores of the Lake and which for Winter consumption are pickled on being caught, during the latter end of September and the following month — when they cast their Spawn. The Tittamingue or White fish also flock to the small Rivers along the Lake for the purpose of throwing their Spawn — A Species of Herring is also very plentiful at Meshepicoton and the Pic from about the commencement of June to the middle of July when they again return to the body of the Lake. They are however of an inferior quality to the same finny Tribes of N. Britain — What is required beyond local Supplies, consists of Indian Corn and Tallow — Flour Pork &c excepting for allowances are reserved for sale — Since the introduction of the Boat System, which I am happy to say succeeds beyond expectation, it has been deemed advisable to allow a small proportion of Flour and Pork for the Servants when employed in the general Transport between this place and the Long Portage. A liberality which is duly appreciated and productive of advantage in tending to support the vigour and spirits of our hardy Voyageurs when engaged in this laborious duty, and which is attended with very little, if any extra expense. The former article being procured (all expenses included) at about 1½ and the latter at 4 ₰ pound. — The cost of living in the District may be estimated at about three pence ₰ diem ₰ Officer, nearly as much ₰ labourer — 1⅞ ₰ adult of Officers family and 1½ ₰ do. of labourers family. Most families however are maintained at the expense of their Protectors or Guardians. —

Officers & Servants &c.

The Establishment during this Outfit consisted of three Commissioned Officers, four able and experienced Clerks, besides an Apprentice Clerk, and thirty eight Servants or Labourers including a Post Master and Mechanicks. Besides these we had two recruits from Orkney (Contingents for following Outfit) and three supernumerary Labourers. One of our Clerks namely, Roderick McKenzie (a) died on the 25th Feby — An event which releases me from the unpleasant task of noticing more at length some parts of his conduct in the charge of the OutPost of Batchewman Bay of a character unbecoming his rank in the Service and consequently tending to operate injuriously on the success of Affairs — With this exception I feel peculiar satisfaction in stating that the conduct of the other Servants has been most exemplary and deserving of the highest commendation. — Of my Colleagues in the District, any attempt of mine to mark their cordial cooperation, correct conduct and distinguished ability would fall much short indeed of their merit —

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Number of Indians &c.

The Native Population as nearly as my means enable me to estimate amounts to 214 Men 35 Youths, 209 Women 22 Young Women 148 Boys or Children and 169 Girls or Children, forming a total of seven hundred and ninety seven. —

There does not exist a doubt that the majority derive their origin from the Ojibeway or Saulteau Tribe, altho' a number of them are descended from the Maskegon or Swampy Cree Tribe. In character and disposition they naturally bear much resemblance to their rude Progenitors, altho' much more civilised and trained to lead a more peaceable life. — They still however shew too much of a haughty, vindictive, treacherous and blood thirsty disposition, which sometimes bursts forth, notwithstanding every endeavour and incitement to the contrary on the part of the Honble Companys Officers and Servants. Such traits of character are far from encouraging and fostering social habits,

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habit, and anxiously their appears to exist less friendship and cordiality amongst them than generally is to be observed amongst the Tribes in the north.- Family attachments however are strong and relatives appear to pay much attention to the wants and infirmities of the sick and aged - Chieftainship has in a manner totally disappeared in consequence of the progress of knowledge and civilisation. Individuals connected with powerful families do however arrogate a superiority and during occasional meetings make themselves respected and obeyed - Those of them who have had much intercourse with citizens of the United States are extremely fond of spirits, indolent crafty and deceitful. Those on the Contrary whose intercourse has been limited to the society of and transactions with the Servants of the Hon.ble Company are comparatively honest faithful and industrious.-

State of the Trade

On this subject, considering the impoverished state of the Country I am happy to say there is much improvement in comparison to several Years past, which indeed was partly to be reputed as owing to a very protracted Spring season last Year a quantity of Furs remained in possession of the natives, particularly at Long Lake Out Post. This fond anticipation however almost entirely failed, in consequence of the Furs alluded to having (as we have been assured) found their way to Martins Falls in Albany District. Consequently our success rests mainly on the results of the current Year, which from a general retrospect cannot be esteemed in any respect more favourable to our interests than ordinary ones. Indeed it has been rather otherwise since much of the usual period afforded for the Spring hunt was lopped off, in consequence of a very early and sudden dissolution of the Snow and Ice. I am led therefore to ascribe (in which opinion my Colleagues coincide) the augmentation of returns this Year, principally

to the much improved assortment of the Outfit, which afforded much satisfaction to the Indians and which when compared to the preceding one, so much superior, naturally excited an increased desire and emulation to obtain articles so much suited to their taste.-

I have also much pleasure to state that the Intruders and Opponents on the Eastern and Western extremities of the District continue to be foiled more and more in their attempts to obtain a Share of the Trade. Indeed the American Fur Co.y on the vicinity of Fort William made a retrograde movement last Autumn of forty five Miles and I fancy rather imprudently and prematurely announced their intention to withdraw altogether the following (last) Spring. This intimation naturally induced the Natives of Fort William to abandon them altogether. A resolution which indeed was much accelerated by a very appropriate and timely interference on the part of Governor Simpson, who in passing at Fort William last Summer, embraced the opportunity of ordering a Feast to be given to the principal Indians and did not fail to admonish them on the subject of unanimously evincing a propensity to favour the opposition &c.a &c.a A proceeding which was highly gratifying to the principal Chieftian (the Spaniard descended on the Fathers side from an individual of that Nation and no less celebrated for shrewdness of intellect as for valuable limbs, but whose suite and influence are now much diminished) and productive of much advantage to affairs. One cause operating to induce the American Fur Co.y to retreat is perhaps the prospect of their assumed boundary line (limiting British Territory to the Eastward of the old Grand Portage instead of admitting the River St Louis to be the real boundary line) not being ultimately conceded by the British Government - altho' the loss invariably sustained in that Quarter I presume constitutes the main argument for the proceeding. Last Summer a report reached this quarter, that Borland & Gray of New Market (Upper Canada) intended sending a formidable

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formidable party to oppose the Honble Company in this District. Fortunately however the report turned out to be premature. During the first Years I have no doubt an opposition well conducted would make some impression but ultimately their affairs would decline. — The Country however in every respect will be infinitely happier under the liberal management and fostering care of the honourable Company exclusively. —

— Suggestions in regard to alterations, improvements &c. In my report for Outfit 1828 I ventured to propose the restoration of Sturgeon Lake Establishment to this District. The subject was taken into consideration during the deliberations of Council this Year and altho' it was not deemed expedient to restore the Post in question, the Governor and Council were pleased to sanction so much of the views contemplated as to authorise an augmentation of four labourers to the ordinary Establishment of this District principally with a view to enable us to perform the general Transport of European Supplies for Lake Huron, St Marys and Lake Superior Districts by means of the resources of the latter exclusively. A measure which past experience and subsequent circumstances strongly attest the propriety. —

I might here allude to an Official Communication (dated Moose Factory 11th Augt last) from Chief Factor Kennedy, signifying his dissent to the restoration alluded to and further acquainting me that in his report of 1828 (for Albany District) he had recommended the propriety of further extending Albany District by re-iterating the project of retrenching or rather divesting this District (a proposition which I am apt to think common courtesy if not fair play might have suggested an earlier intimation) of the important Out Post of Long Lake — in order to be transferred to Albany District. However since that Gentleman is retired and the subject in question having been overlooked by the Council recently held

held at this place I do not feel the least desire, nor do I conceive myself called upon to enter the lists of discussion with, or to criticise the views and opinions of one who is not likely to have an opportunity of replying and for whose general character I feel much disposed to cherish all due respect —

— Remarkable Circumstances —

None have occurred worthy of notice. —

— List of Families at the Honble Companys Estab^ts —

		Women	Offspring
Pierre	Camarere	1	1
Thomas	Cadrant	1	4
Hyacinthe	Davilleau	1	1
Baptiste	Deschamps	1	4
Joseph	Dubois B	1	2
Antoine	Dutremble	1	.
Joseph	Fontaine	1	.
George	Keith C.F.	1	3
Roderick	Mc Kenzie C.F.	1	6
Donald	Mc Intosh	1	3
John	Mc Intosh Clerk	1	1
Joseph La Verdrix	Blanche	1	2
Jean Amable	Mc Kay	1	5
Jean Baptiste	La Vallé	1	2
John	Robertson A	1	4
John	Swanston	1	.
		16	38

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

Michipicoton
27th June 1830 } George Keith C.F.

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Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.

SECTION B

CLASS 129

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 8

DESCRIPTION MICHIPICOTEN

REPORT on DISTRICT

1830 - 1831

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B 129 e

MICHIPICOTEN

REPORT 1830-1831.

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1830-1831

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B.129/e/8
1830/31

MICHIPICOTEN

Report of Lake Superior District Outfit 1830

It is with infinite regret I find it necessary to premise that owing to various causes and particularly to personal indisposition for some time past I was compelled to postpone drawing out my report 'till nearly the twelfth hour and in consequence the necessity of dispatch obliges me to limit my remarks to the more important particulars —

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

— Posts Occupied —

During this Outfit the District maintained five regular Trading Posts viz. New Brunswick, Michipicoten, Fort William and Lake Nipigon and three temporary or Out Posts namely, Batchewanan Bay, Long Lake and Lake la Flache — Long Lake alone an Out Post, under efficient management is one of the most productive of the District — The other two Out Posts are merely dependencies but necessary to the complete protection of the rest, which otherwise would be much exposed to the incursions of the American Fur Co and petty adventurers —

— Means of Subsistence —

Then by means of the productiveness of our autumn Fisheries were abundant but at those Posts — such as Long Lake and Lake Nipigon, where the collected fish for Winter consumption was not according to custom pickled, the long open and mild Autumn proved fatal, at least most injurious, as most of the fish collected at these Posts became corrupted and consequently very unpalatable as well as unwholesome for food — The Natives also suffered less or more throughout the District from an extraordinary scarcity of Rabbits — a scarcity which naturally proved very unfavorable to the prosecution of the Martin Hunt, to which moreover the unusual abundance of the Lynx Cat contributed as the latter is a more profitable pursuit both as a means of subsistence and emolument —

Officers & Servants &c

The Establishment of the District during this Outfit consisted

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consisted of three Commissioned Officers, three Clerks two Post Masters and forty three Servants or Labourers including Mechanicks. — Of my Colleagues, any commendation from my pen would fall infinitely short indeed of their merit. — Let it suffice to say that I continue to derive the most cordial, prompt and efficient assistance from their zeal and confirmed general ability. — Two of the Clerks are superior men — excellent Traders and good accountants — I allude to Messrs Joseph Gladman and John Swanston — Indeed for the general business of the Country I conceive the latter deserves to be ranked amongst the first of his Class — In proof of which I presume I need only appeal to his general management of the Pic and Long Lake Establishments for three Years past, combined with his services at this place and excellent management during the same period of the general Transport between this and the Long Portage. This marked notice I conceive to be due — It is at any rate most honestly and impartially awarded and not uncalled for, since to protect, foster and distinguish merit, is what peculiarly belongs to the province of all commissioned Officers, more especially those honored with the Superintendance of Districts. — The general conduct of the labourers continues to merit much commendation —

State of the Trade —

On this subject I sincerely regret to observe that the Establishments of Lake Nipigon and Long Lake have fallen much short of their usual Returns. The depression at the former is evidently the consequence of the deplorable and destructive warfare which has raged amongst the natives of that Country since the month of September last, and to which the termination appears remote, as it has assumed the character of deadly feud between two Clans or families of very extensive influence. It has proved fatal to six

Indians (besides two females) and compelled ten others to take refuge in other Districts — besides preventing twenty Seven (more than two thirds of the Total number of Men on the Companys Books there) from bringing in, some their Winter and others their Spring hunts — Indeed upon a review of circumstances I wonder the Returns are even so valuable — The comparative deficiency at Long Lake I fear is to be traced principally to the incapacity and mismanagement of the Post Master (Louis Denis de LaRonde) who was intrusted with the management — upon an average the other Posts viz Fort William, Pic and this place have exceeded the flattering result of last Year — As yet I am not aware of the result at New Brunswick but by last accounts the prospects were fair — It is very satisfactory to add that our Eastern and Western frontiers have been ably protected by the active exertions of Clerk Peter McKenzie and Post Master Thomas Taylor —

Remarkable circumstances —

Under this head I lament to record the accidental decease, by drowning of two of our able and experienced Voyageurs — namely Jean Bapt La Vallé who most imprudently precipitated his untimely fate on the 29th Decr and William Cromartie who perished during the progress of a Voyage in Canoe from the Long Portage about the commencement of this Month — Two other Servants (attached to the Ungava Expedition and Moose Factory) also were drowned in this River this Spring when on their Way hither with Despatches (which were also lost) for the Governor — Their names are Richard Prince and Francois Sossier —

Michipicoton
24th June 1831

Geo Keith C F

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
B 129 e

Lake Sup: Dist
Report Outfit 1830

No. 2

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

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1830-31

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