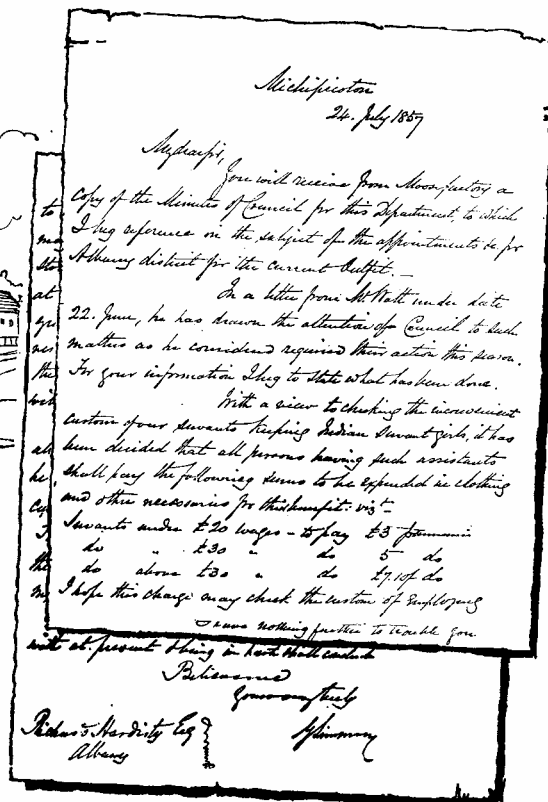


FAMOUS LETTERS IN CANADIAN HISTORY



Hudson's Bay Order

The skirl of his personal piper signalled his coming.

And it was heard many times at all the posts and forts of Hudson's Bay Company as Sir George Simpson traversed a vast area which made up almost one-third of the North American continent.

He was governor in chief of Rupert's Land for the company from 1826 until his death in 1860. He made several trips by land and water right across the continent

and in 1828 made the long journey from Moose Factory to the Columbia via the Thompson and Fraser Rivers in a single season.

In this letter to Richard Hardisty, who later became the first senator from Alberta, Sir George outlines steps to discourage company employees from keeping Indian girls as servants and presses for construction of schooners to serve the northern forts.

Simpson's Letter to Hardisty

Michipicoton, 24 July, 1857.

My dear sir:

You will receive from Moose Factory a copy of the minutes of council for this department to which I beg reference on the subject of appointments for Albany district for the current outfit.

In a letter from Mr. Watt under date 22 June he has drawn the attention of council to such matters as he considers requires their action this season. For your information I get to state what has been done.

With a view of checking the inconvenient custom of your servants keeping Indian servant girls

it has been decided all persons keeping such assistants shall pay sums to be expended in clothing and other necessities for their benefit . . .

We are present completing a schooner at Moose, which it is important to get afloat next year and as that is more necessary than the Albany vessel, the latter must be deferred until we get through the more pressing work; unless you can finish her with your own resources.

Believe me,
Yours very truly,
G. SIMPSON.