

the policy of the Government, and the steps taken by the Department to carry it out, Mr. Simpson's reports of the 30th July and 3rd November, 1871, are given below, together with the Accounts and Pay Lists, from which Your Excellency can ascertain the first cost of these diplomatic arrangements, and the extent of the annual payments which they involve.

*Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council on the 25th April, 1871.*

The Committee of Council have had under consideration the annexed Memo: dated 17th April, 1871, from the Hon. the Secretary of State for the Provinces, recommending the appointment of Wemyss McKenzie Simpson, Esq., as Indian Commissioner, and submitting certain suggestions in respect to his salary, duties, &c., and they respectfully advise, that Mr. Simpson be appointed as recommended, and that the suggestion contained in the said memorandum be approved and carried out.

Certified.

WM. H. LEE,  
Clerk, Privy Council.

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State  
for the Provinces,  
&c., &c., &c.

The Secretary of State for the Provinces calls the attention of the Privy Council to the Despatches laid from time to time before the Council from the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, having reference to Treaties and arrangements with the Indians in the North-West, and to his suggestion that a Commissioner should be appointed to conduct the necessary negotiations in the Spring.

He respectfully suggests that this branch of the Public Service should be confided to Mr. Wemyss McKenzie Simpson, who should be styled Indian Commissioner, receiving his instructions from, and reporting to this Department.

That the salary of this officer, should be fixed at \$2,000, with such reasonable allowance for travelling expenses as may hereafter be assigned by Order in Council.

That the Commissioner be instructed to confer, from time to time, with the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, who will consult and co-operate with him. Where they agree they will report jointly. Should they differ, the grounds of disagreement must be distinctly stated.

That the attention of the Commissioners be directed to the necessity of arranging with the Bands inhabiting the Tract of Country between Thunder Bay and the Stone Fort, for the cession (subject to certain reserves such as they should select) of the lands occupied by them.

The Secretary of State also suggests that as the Bands, lying along this route, conducted themselves peaceably, and offered no obstructions to the expeditionary force sent through their country last summer, the provisions promised them last year, should be sent to Fort Francis and the Lake of the Woods, early in the Spring, as an earnest of the friendly disposition of the Government,

It is also further submitted that it will add much to the usefulness of the Commissioner among the Indian Tribes, if he be allowed to wear an uniform, without which they are slow to believe that any one, having the Queen's authority, can be sent to treat with them.

17th April, 1871.

JOSEPH HOWE.