

1823.

majority having been against it in February, but they have since been worked upon. Seven trustees have been nominated in the deed. The military should attend at all meetings held at a distance from the post and in a matter of such importance to the Indians and to the women and children, the military officers should be present, and the papers might be laid before them at the general delivery of presents when the military attend. The deed is to trustees, not one of whom has signed his name, and to their successors in office. Page 332

Claus to ———. Account of the Council meeting given by the eldest son of the late Onondaga chief, Clear Sky, with the numbers voting for and against the acceptance of the grant in fee simple. 336

Indians who are named as trustees to receive a deed in fee simple for the lands on the Grand River. The names are given with a sketch of each of the trustees. A note says: "It will be observed that not one of the "trustees write their names, and but one man can be called sober, all the others are drunkards." 339

Hillier to Claus. The Lieut.-Governor will not refuse to transmit the paper purporting to express the wishes of the chiefs of the Five Nations, but he cannot expect it will be received as official not being authenticated either by an officer of the Indian department or of the troops, which is a precaution always observed. Nor is he aware that His Majesty's government intends to permit the Five Nations to name the trustees. Circumstances lead to a doubt if the chiefs have collected or understand the opinions of the Five Nations which they believed themselves authorized to bring before the government. The chiefs and warriors are to be informed that the document has been forwarded, and they are to be afforded an early opportunity of delivering in the regular manner the sentiments they may wish to express. The apprehensions of those whose fears have been excited as to the security of their farms are to be set at rest. 342

Maitland to Bathurst, 29th November, 1821. Sends details of a plan for the amelioration of the Indian tribes, which will diminish expense and reserve a sufficient supply of land for the Indians. If the plan should be adopted, suggests that the lands for sale should be advertised at home, as more than one society and individual in England are desirous of attaining tracts in that particular part of the country. Has suggested in the plan that the trusteeship should be vested in the society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and that no person connected with the Indians should be employed in such a trust. Learns that no reliance is to be placed on the authenticity of the signatures to a petition lately forwarded by the Indians. 345

Plan proposed for the amelioration of the Indians, showing the result of the sales under trustees for the benefit of the Indians after deducting lands for the chiefs and for the heads of families. 347

Number of Six Nations living on the Grand River, winter, 1823. 355
Petition for deed in fee simple with signatures and certificate. 357, 363

November 20,
York.

Maitland to Wilmot Horton. Has learned that information is wanted respecting the expense for Indians, and what saving, if any, could be effected. The difficulty, as Indian affairs are in the hands of the military. The value of the goods is about £23,500 annually issued to the Indians, about £4,500 being for cessions of land, which cannot be reduced without a breach of faith. If the purchase had not been made, most of the province would have remained a wilderness and the emigrants from Great Britain must have been expelled. The increase of population and strength and the consumption of British manufactures are national benefits cheaply purchased by the charges they have entailed upon the Treasury. At all events, under the circumstances, the measures were