
REPORT
OF THE
INDIAN BRANCH
OF THE
DEPARTMENT
OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE PROVINCES.

*To His Excellency the Right Honorable Lord LISGAR, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., Governor
General of Canada, &c., &c., &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

The acquisition of the North-West Territories, the organization of the Province of Manitoba, and the admission of British Columbia into the Dominion, widely extend the sphere of operations of the Indian Branch of this Department, and must ultimately throw upon it a great increase of labour and responsibility. Before long the general system of management, tested by the experience of the two Canadas, must be, in whole or in part, extended to those Provinces ; but in the meantime my attention has been directed to such measures as appeared to press for immediate consideration and adjustment.

In anticipation of the movement of troops across the country lying between Thunder Bay and Manitoba, in 1870, agents were employed to visit the Indian Tribes along the route, to conciliate them by presents, and to assure them that while a peaceful right of way for troops and emigrants only was required, the Government would be prepared, at a convenient season, to compensate them for their friendly co-operation, and to cover by a Treaty any lands which they might be willing to part with and the Government deemed it politic to acquire.

These conciliatory measures were eminently successful, and the troops and employes of the Government passed to and fro without obstruction.

In the spring of 1871, Wemyss M. Simpson, Esq., was selected as General Indian Agent, to make Treaties with the Indian Tribes, and to represent the Government and this Department in the North-West. The Reports to, and Orders in Council, with the letters of instruction addressed to Mr. Simpson, which follow in their order, will explain