

Extract from Royal Instructions to Governor Carleton.

(Canadian Archives, M.230, p.116)

Given the 3rd of January, 1775.

Article 31. The institution of inferior Judicatures with limited Jurisdiction in Criminal and Civil matters for the Illinois, Poste St. Vincenne, the Detroit, Missilimackinac and Gaspee has been already pointed out, and the Appointment of a Superintendent at each of these Posts is all ~~that is further~~ that is further necessary for their Civil concerns; But it will be highly proper, that the Limits of each of these Posts and of every other in the interior Country should be fixed and ascertained; and that no settlement be allowed beyond these limits; seeing that such settlements must have the consequences to disgust the savages; to excite their Enmity; and at length totally to destroy the Peltry Trade which ought to be cherished and encouraged by every means in your Power.

Article 32. It is Our Royal Intention, that the Peltry Trade of the Interior Country should be free and open to all our Subjects, Inhabitants or any of Our Colonies, who shall, pursuant to what was directed by Our Royal Proclamation of 1763 obtain Licenses from the Governors of any of Our said Colonies for that Purpose, under Penalties to observe such Regulations as shall be made by our Legislature of Quebec for that purpose;

Those Regulations, thereof, when established, must be made public throughout all our American possessions, and they must have for their object the giving every possible facility to that Trade, which the nature of it will admit, and as may consist with fair and just dealing towards the Savages, with whom it is carried on. The fixing stated times and places for carrying on the Trade, and adjusting modes of settling Tariffs of the Prices of Goods and Furs, and above all the restraining the sale of Spiritual Liquors to the Indians will be the most probable and effectual means of answering the ends proposed. These and a variety of other Regulations, incident to the nature and purpose of the Peltry Trade in the Interior Country, are fully stated in a Plan proposed by Our Commissioners for Trade and Plantations in 1764, a Copy of which is hereunto annexed, and which will serve as a guide in a variety of cases, in which it may be necessary to make provision by Law for that Important Branch of the American Commerce.

Article 10. That the said Agent or Superintendant shall have the conduct of all public Affairs relative to the Indians; but that neither the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in America nor any of the Governors or Commanders in Chief of any of the Colonies, or persons having Military Commands in any of the Forts within each of the said Districts, do hold any general meetings with the Indians or send any public Talks to them without the Concurrence of the Agent or Superintendant unless in cases of great Exigency, or when the said Agent or Superintendant may be in some remote part of his District.

Article 11. That the said Agents or Superintendants do in all Affairs of political consideration, respecting peace and war with the Indians, purchases of Lands, or other Matters, on which it may be necessary to hold any general Meetings with the Indians, advise and act in concert with the Governors (or the Governors and Councils as the Occasion may require) of the several Colonies within their Respective Districts; And that the said Agents or Superintendants shall be Councillors extraordinary within each Colony in their Respective Districts in like manner as the Surveyors General of the Customs for the Northern and Southern Districts of America.

Article 14. That the said Agents or Superintendants shall by themselves, or sufficient Deputies, visit the several Posts or Tribes of Indians within their Respective Districts once in every year, or oftener, as Occasion may require, to enquire into, and take an Account of the Conduct and Behaviour of the subordinate Officers at the said Posts and in the country belonging to the said Tribes; to hear Appeals; and redress all