

the subscribers having fully secured themselves in the portage of double the quantity daily required by the advertisement, now make the following offer:—

"We will adopt a similar plan to the one at present established of employing every inhabitant of a fair character, who shall offer his services regularly in their turn. To render the good as general as possible, we will not permit any person to employ more than two teams at any one time, unless the hurry of business shall absolutely require it."

For the transportation of government stores over the portage for a term of three years, they asked a rate of one shilling and nine pence, New York currency, per gross quintal of 112 pounds, subject to a reduction of two pence per quintal for repair of the roads.

On the 20th of June of the same year, a petition signed by Adam Vrooman, Thomas Cummings, James Forsythe, Timothy Skinner, Charles Wilson, Henry Weishuhn, John McEwan, Benjamin Canby, David Secord, Irish John Wilson and Adam Kreisler, "inhabitants of the Niagara District, situated near the portage," was presented to the Land Board, praying that body to support the latter tender because of "the essential advantages that will arise to the settlement from having this business made a general and public good compared with having it monopolized by any individual or even by a set of men." The Board received the petition and examined several witnesses, after which they unanimously concurred in a recommendation to the Governor General "to grant the preference to the settlement over any individual or set of men on the same terms and the performance equally well secured."

The committee reported that they were unanimously of the opinion that the proposal made by Hamilton and his associates was more in the public interest than that received from Stedman and the contract was subsequently let to them at a rate of one shilling and eight pence, New York currency, per quintal of 112 pounds.

A comparatively rare volume, entitled "Travels in the interior inhabited parts of North America in the years 1791