

commerce with the nations of Indians inhabiting those parts : and such settlements may likewise be a proper step towards disappointing the views, and checking the encroachments of the French ; as it will interrupt part of the communication by lodgments on the great lakes to the river Mississipi. Their lordships therefore were of opinion, that all due encouragement ought to be given to the extending the British settlements beyond the great mountains ; and submit, whether it may not be advisable to empower the lieutenant-governor to make the grants desired, upon condition—That four years be allowed them to survey, and pay rights for the lands, upon the return of the plans to the secretary's office ; and that a fort be built, and a garrison placed, at the expence of the grantees.

This report having been taken into consideration by the lords of the committee of council, they agreed in opinion with the board of trade ; and directed that board to prepare a draught of an instruction to the lieutenant-governor conformable to their report ; which was