

of \$5,000. The officer in charge of the District appears to have misunderstood the instructions sent to him last winter to reduce his trading tariff, which he applied to all Furs coming in, while it was not intended to apply to Furs to be delivered by Indians in payment of advances given to them in the previous autumn. Many of the Indians indebted to the Company refused to give in their hunts, which were secured by petty traders. It appears, however, that upon further representations which have been made to the Indians, there is some hope of recovering from them a portion of the advances remaining unpaid.

At Temiscamisque, also, a portion of the loss is due to unpaid advances to Indians—the amount of these advances being about \$2,000.

Mr. Rankin, the officer of this District, is making every effort to thwart opposition traders and to conciliate the Indians, while at the same time he is endeavouring to restrict advances to them, and if possible put a stop to them altogether.

This District is defending the frontier of the Southern Department, and it is represented that any relaxation of the efforts of the officer in charge would have an injurious effect on the trade of that Department.

St. Maurice District shows an apparent loss of \$6,500 in Outfit 1877 and \$3,700 in 1876.

Mr. Bissett remarks :—

“There has been in this District also a large loss from unpaid Indian advances, principally at the Posts of Coccoacache, where Mr. Robert Skene, the clerk in charge, gave very large credits of which about \$3,500 were not paid, and there was also a loss of about \$1,000 from the same source at the post of Manawan, making together \$4,500. At both these places the persons in charge exceeded their authority in giving such large advances. Mr. Skene's conduct being otherwise unsatisfactory, has been dismissed from the service.”

As regards St. Maurice, the Chief Commissioner remarks :—

“Our greatest danger in this quarter is that of intercourse being opened up with the Indians of Rupert's River, and we must either maintain St. Maurice or resign ourselves to that being accomplished.”

SAGUENAY, BERSAMIS AND MINGAN.

The losses at these posts during the last three Outfits have reached a large amount; they are due to mismanagement and disobedience of instructions on the part of Clerks in charge of the posts who have been dismissed from the service.

Unauthorised advances to the amount of about \$16,000 were made during the last Outfit to Indians, who ultimately refused to give up their hunts, when they found that the Company decided upon discontinuing advances to them.

The business at the Gulf posts of Bersamis and Mingan is now confined to prompt transactions. Mr. Hardisty will take charge of the posts as soon as he can be relieved from Fort William. If the result of the trade proves unsatisfactory after a fair trial, the posts will have to be closed.

The losses of the last few years at the Gulf posts have exceeded the profits derived from the Districts which they have protected in the Southern Department.

Two Districts, New Brunswick and Abitibi, which formerly belonged to the Southern Department, appear in the books of the Montreal Department with apparent profits amounting to \$4,000, which will be considerably augmented by the increase in the sale price of the Returns.

HUDSON'S BAY HOUSE,

April, 1879.

We proceed to notice the general results of the trade of the different Departments for Outfits 1874, 1875 and 1876.