

extending from the source of the Winnipeg to Lake Winnipegosis and stretching from Lake Winnipeg far beyond the United States boundary was purchased from the Hudson Bay Company by Lord Selkirk in 1811 for the establishment of his contemplated colony. The colonists consisted of several Scotch families who, after they had reached the spot which was to be their future home, were met by a large party of half-breeds and Indians in the service of the Northwest Company and warned not to attempt to establish a permanent settlement. They were conducted by a number of these wild and reckless children of the prairies to Fort Pembina, a post of the Hudson Bay Company where they passed the winter in buffalo-skin tents and soon adopted the habits of life belonging to the savage or half-savage natives by whom they were surrounded. In May, 1813, the emigrants returned to the neighborhood of Fort Douglas, about two miles from the present site of Fort Garry, and here commenced their agricultural labours. In the fall of the year they again sought refuge at Fort Pembina and, after a winter of much suffering, revisited in the spring of 1814 the scene of the previous year's attempt to plant themselves on the banks of Red River with a determination to make it a permanent resting place. During the summer, however, their houses were destroyed by the wandering half-breeds who were opposed to the establishment of a colony; and when in October, 1815, the main body of emigrants arrived from Scotland, they found poverty, ruin and despondency

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers

Memoranda & Notes

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