

such other terms as they may agree upon ; so is there not the least reason to doubt ; That under such Licences 1st of Fishing Trade & Navigation & 2nd of Transit, they would unite themselves & succeed equally to their own proper & to the public advantage.

LONDON 7th January 1802

ALEX. MACKENZIE.

No. 2.—SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE TO JOHN SULLIVAN.

(*Canadian Archives, Series Q., Vol. 293, p. 225.*)

MONTREAL 25th October, 1802.

SIR,—My Lord Hobart having done me the honour at parting, to express a wish of hearing from me, on this side the Atlantic, I take the liberty of addressing you, enclosing copies of two papers, which, on the substance of which, I presume will be transmitted through the Lieut. Governor, tho' not perhaps immediately, and which I beg leave to request, that you will please with this to lay before His Lordship. The papers will explain themselves, and I am sorry to say shew that I have not succeeded ; as also evince the improbability of my being able to succeed in bringing about the union between the two Fur Companies which my Lord Hobart so strongly recommended to me as the first step towards the accomplishment of my favourite project : Without the aid of Government, by granting the Licences (I had the honour of proposing) to one of the contending parties, with the condition that the other party should have the option of sharing, in the proportion of the Trade they might be carrying on, to that part of His Majesty's Dominions, I see no means of bringing about a coalition, for several years to come, by which time the Trade may be reduced if not ruined, and the opportunity of making the Western Establishment lost perhaps for ever.

I have conversed with General Hunter upon the subject and though averse to Monopolies of any kind, he agreed with me that no mode would answer to carry on that trade to advantage & to make the proposed Establishments, but through a Chartered Company. I had no promise from His Excellency that he would communicate this his opinion to His Majesty's Ministers.

As so little probability exists of bringing about in a reasonable time a Voluntary Coalition of the two Fur Companies, may I be permitted to submit to His Lordship's consideration, the expediency of securing at all events in a National point of view the means of hereafter giving efficiency to the favourite project alluded to, or any other which Government may think it eligible to countenance, by forming an immediate Military Establishment upon the Western Coast of North America, so as to prevent other nations anticipating us in an object, the importance of which cannot at present be foreseen in all its consequences.

And further I cannot too strongly entreat His Lordship's attention to the propriety & necessity of establishing as speedily as possible such a jurisdiction as shall prevent the contending Fur Companies from abusing any power which superiority of numbers or strength may accidentally confer, and which shall seem to each, the fruits of fair harvest and industrious exertion.

A jurisdiction possessing such efficient Judicial Control, besides having the most beneficial effects in general, might also be a means of promoting a speedier Voluntary Coalition of the Companies, by preventing a recurrence of those causes of increasing animosity which tend to keep them asunder.

It will not escape His Lordship's penetration, that in any Legislative interference upon the subject, it will be essential to avoid everything which could be