

Fort William, the starting point of the long journey into the great interior valleys of Red River, the Saskatchewan and the McKenzie. In these days ships can sail from European Atlantic ports and, without breaking bulk, land their cargoes at Fort William for less than one-fiftieth part of the cost involved during the period when the Northwest Company became a powerful, wealthy and influential body. The completion of the Sault Ste Marie Canal in May, 1855, established an uninterrupted water communication for sea going vessels between Lake Superior and the ocean.

In 1850 a treaty was concluded between the Honourable W. B. Robinson, on behalf of Her Majesty and the government of the Province, with the chiefs of the Ojibway inhabiting the Northern shore of Lake Superior from Batchewanaung Bay to Pigeon River and inland to the height of land between Canada and the territories in the occupation of the Hudson Bay Company for the sum of two thousand pounds currency and an annual payment of two hundred pounds to be paid at Fort William and Michipicoten. The chiefs surrendered all their rights and title to the above territory with the exception of three reserves made over to them for the purpose of residence and cultivation.

The first attempt to found a colony in the country now occupied by the Red River settlements was made in the year 1812 under the patronage of Lord Selkirk. A large tract of country

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers

Memoranda & Notes

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