

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

31. The institution of inferior Judicatures with limited Jurisdiction in Criminal and Civil Matters for the Illinois, Poste S^t Vincenne, the Detroit, Missilimakinac, and Gaspée has been already pointed out, and the Appointment of a Superintendent at each of these Posts is all, that is further necessary for their Civil concerns ; But it will be highly proper, that the Limits of each of those Posts, and of every other in the interior Country should be fixed and ascertained ; and that no Settlement be allowed beyond those Limits ; seeing that such Settlements must have the consequence to disgust the Savages ; to excite their Enmity ; and at length totally to destroy the Peltry Trade, which ought to be cherished and encouraged by every means in your Power.

32. It is Our Royal Intention, that the Peltry Trade of the interior Country should be free and open to all Our Subjects, Inhabitants of any of Our Colonies, who shall, pursuant to what was directed by Our Royal Proclamation of 1763, obtain Licences from the Governors of any of Our said Colonies for that purpose, under penalties to observe such Regulations, as shall be made by Our Legislature of Quebec for that purpose ; Those Regulations therefore, when established, must be made public throughout all Our American possessions, and they must have for their object the giving every possible facility to that Trade, which the nature of it will admit, and as may consist with fair and just dealing towards the Savages, with whom it is carried on. The fixing stated times and places for carrying on the Trade, and adjusting modes of settling Tariffs of the prices of Goods and Furs, and above all the restraining the Sale of Spirituous Liquors to the Indians will be the most probable and effectual means of answering the ends proposed. These and a variety of other regulations, incident to the nature and purpose of the Peltry Trade in the interior Country, are fully stated in a Plan proposed by Our Commissioners for Trade and Plantations in 1764, a copy of which is hereunto annexed,¹ and which will serve as a Guide in a variety of cases, in which it may be necessary to make provision by Law for that important Branch of the American Commerce.

33. The Fisheries on the Coast of Labrador, and the Islands adjacent thereto are objects of the greatest Importance, not only on account of the Commodities they produce, but also as Nurseries of Seamen, upon whom the Strength and Security of Our Kingdom depend.

34. Justice and Equity demand, that the real and actual property and possession of the Canadian Subjects on that Coast should be preserved intirely ; and that they should not be molested or hindered in the exercise of any Sedentary Fisheries they may have established there.

35. Their Claims however extend to but a small District of the Coast, on the greatest part of which District a Cod Fishery is stated to be impracticable.

36. On all such parts of the Coast, where there are no Canadian Possessions, and more especially where a valuable Cod Fishery may be carried

¹ The plan is given below, following these Instructions; see p. 614.