

veying all rights of sovereignty, in fact full military and civic power. A remarkable phase of the company's story is the zeal and loyalty given to its service by employees, who often in remote savage surroundings spent the best years of their lives, their brown locks tinged with gray before a tardy promotion giving the status and position with perhaps a few shares of company stock and a location nearer civilization, but "always a Hudson Bay man." Mostly Scotch, they brought their youth and hardy honesty of their fathers, patience and industry and above all a high regard—almost a reverence—for the company's authority.

Only one American—"Captain McNeil" of Boston—ever took service in the Hudson Bay Co. Coming to the Coast in his brig "Llama" (if we mistake not), making such inroads into company's trade that his vessel, and furs were taken over by them, he probably accepting some "company stock" and becoming a "chief factor"—a term of rank, 'twould seem, for subordinates do the trading, but a "chief trader" in command of some far away post has supreme authority—his word is law. It's a great position, the highest in an employee's estimation.

We speak of this great organization, as its existence here before any other, except a nomadic trader occasionally, formed a part of local story and at times a factor of political importance.

In 1670 the company got its Charter giving control of all northern America not directly under any governmental supervision. A Montreal trading firm known as the "North West Co." was the first to