

Select Committee on the *Hudson's Bay Company*.
1857.

P A P E R S.

PAPERS delivered in by Mr. *A. Isbister*, 5 March 1857.

CORRESPONDENCE between Mr. *Abbott Lawrence* and Viscount *Palmerston*, Appendix, No. 1.
respecting a Complaint alleging that the *Hudson's Bay Company* furnish large Quantities of Spirits to the Indians on the North-Western Frontier of the United States.

No. 1.

Mr. *Lawrence* to Viscount *Palmerston*.

My Lord,

United States' Legation,

138, Piccadilly, 12 February 1850.

REPRESENTATIONS have been made to the Government of the United States, from reliable sources, that the *Hudson's Bay Company* annually furnish to the Indians on the north-western frontier of the United States large quantities of spirituous liquor, endangering thereby the peace of the border, as well as corrupting the Indians themselves. It has been the policy of the United States to prevent, as much as possible, the use of spirituous liquors among the natives. The interests of Her Majesty's Government are believed to be identical with those of the United States in this respect. As complaints of this nature have been frequently made to the Government of the United States, and it has become satisfied that they are well founded, I have been instructed to make this practice the subject of a friendly remonstrance to Her Majesty's Government, and request it to co-operate with the Government of the United States in the repression of the evil, by issuing suitable instructions to the *Hudson's Bay Company*, or in such other manner as may best accomplish the desired result. I have the honour, therefore, to ask your Lordship to lay this remonstrance before the proper department of Her Majesty's Government, and to request its co-operation in a measure dictated by policy, as well as demanded by humanity.

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Secretary of State of the United States, accompanying my instructions on this subject, and

I have, &c.
(signed) *Abbott Lawrence*.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Mr. *Sibley* to Mr. *Clayton*.

Sir,

House of Representatives,
Washington, 8 December 1849.

THERE exists on our north-western boundary a state of things which calls imperatively for the interference of the Government. I refer to the immense amount of spirituous liquor which is imported by the *Hudson's Bay Company* annually, not only for their trade in the British possessions, but which is furnished to the Indians who reside and hunt within the limits of the United States. That this evil exists to a very great extent, and renders null all the efforts of our Government to prevent the introduction of ardent spirits into the Indian country, is a fact which can be established by incontestable testimony, and has been already made the subject of memorials to the proper department. My object in making the communication which I have now the honour to address you is, to ascertain whether there would be any impropriety in having the matter brought to the notice of the British Government, in the shape of a friendly remonstrance from you to the Minister of that Power. I know of no other way to accomplish the proposed end, which is the repression of an evil of great magnitude, threatening the peace of our north-western frontier.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry W. Sibley*.