

the western nations held at the river Au Glaize reported its proceedings and the Indians present declared that they would not attend the proposed council to be held at Sandusky next May, unless Butler and Simcoe would agree to be present and bring with them copies of the ancient treaties. Captain Littlehales announced that he would convey their invitation to the Lieutenant Governor and assured them of his interest in their welfare and desire to promote peace. Mr. Chapin stated that he would send an express to the Board of War, with an accurate report of the proceedings and their decision as to attending the meeting at Sandusky. Simcoe was evidently much pleased at the result and wrote to Mr. Hammond without delay, asking him what reply he should give "these people, our ancient allies and true friends, who have declared they shall construe a refusal on my part to be present at Sandusky as an evidence that the British do not wish for peace, a doctrine in direct contradiction to the views of the government, which self-interested traders may have taught them."*

The prolonged existence of the war between the western Indians and the United States had virtually ruined the fur trade at Detroit and its effects were generally disastrous to the commerce of the province, and the amount of goods and peltry conveyed over the Niagara portage dwindled to insignificant dimensions.

Some indication of the growth of the local settlements may be gained from a return of mills in the district of Nassau, dated November 7, 1792, made by D. W. Smith, the Surveyor General. The sites of several of these mills are still marked by ruins of buildings or remains of dams. A portion of No. 18 was in fair condition, not many years ago.

1. A Saw and Grist Mill near the falls of Niagara on the west side of the River Saint Lawrence in Township No. 2, on Lot No. 174, by John Burch, Esqr., in the year 1786, by permission of Major Campbell, then Commandant at Niagara. Mr. Burch says that he was bound in the sum of two hundred pounds currency to build in the term of two years

* Simcoe to Hammond, Nov. 17, 1792.