

the conquest, and from traders in the United States after the close of the Revolutionary War. Of rival associations it is only necessary to refer to the North-West Company, as it was it alone which came in contact with Selkirk's undertaking. It was organized in 1783-84 by Montreal merchants, but broken up in 1798, in consequence of differences which had existed from the beginning. At this date (1798) the X. Y. Company was formed, composed of partners who had broken off from the old N. W. Company. The name X. Y. Company, appears to have been that by which it was popularly known, from these letters following the W. in the title of the original company. In 1799 and for some years after, applications were made by both companies for land at Sault Ste. Marie, the correspondence on this subject being among the Archives, in the Military Correspondence, series C. These applications will, however, be dealt with in a subsequent part of this report in discussing the question of the existence of a canal on the Canadian side of the Sault Ste. Marie. In September, 1802, in answer to a representation from Lord Selkirk respecting land in the same district as that over which the two companies were disputing, Lord Hobart wrote to Lieut.-General Hunter, that Lord Selkirk proposed to settle a number of families in Upper Canada, provided he received a grant of land "the district near the fall of St. Mary seems," says his Lordship, "to be the spot he has selected." Lord Hobart gives directions that the officers commanding at the military posts at Niagara, Detroit,* and particularly at the Island of St. Joseph, are to give his agent "every assistance in the execution of the commission with which he is entrusted by Lord Selkirk, whose plans if attended with success may prove of great advantage to the country." (C. 363 p. 16.)

Various circumstances combine to show the influence possessed by the North-West Company. The change of plans by Lord Selkirk is by no means the least of these. His Lordship's first proposal to settle at Sault Ste. Marie, was, as shown, sanctioned by Lord Hobart, the Colonial Secretary. But two changes took place in his plans. On the 28th of February, 1803, Lord Hobart instructed Lieut.-General Hunter, that a grant of 1,200 acres was to be made to Lord Selkirk in Upper Canada, in any township not already appropriated, and that the rest of such township was to be reserved for five years, to be appropriated to him at the rate of 200 acres for each family settled, provided he shall have transferred 50 acres to each such family, which must be in possession when Lord Selkirk claimed the extended grant of 200 acres (C. 363, p. 27).

On these terms Lord Selkirk instead of effecting a settlement at Sault Ste. Marie, as originally projected, changed the scene of his operations to Lake St. Clair, where he founded a colony at a place he called Baldoon, in the Township of Dover, in a most unsuitable spot, the situation being then, very unhealthy, in common with

*Probably a mistake for Fort Malden at Amherstburg, Detroit having been transferred to the United States in 1796.