

NOTE F.

PROPOSED GENERAL FISHERY AND FUR COMPANY.

No. 1.—SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE TO LORD HOBART.

(*Canadian Archives, Series Q., Vol. 90, p. 37.*)

NORFOLK STREET 7th Jan. 1802.

MY LORD,—In obedience to Command, I have now the honour of transmitting to Your Lordship, inclosed, a Project of "Preliminaries to the establishment of a permanent Fishery & Trade in Furs &c in the interior & on the West Coast of "North America"—expressive of the result of my experience & deliberation on that great National object.

It will require some management to mediate the Coalition of the two Companies at Montreal in such a manner as to fix the System of Enterprise necessary for carrying the combination of the Fishery and Fur Trade into effect, as some of the oldest members are likely to prefer continuing in the Beaten track. Let *such* be at full liberty to do as they please; but if Government should think fit to confide to me the *licences* in question for the behoof of such as shall accede, & at the same time to recommend it to the Governor of Canada to countenance me in my endeavours to bring it about, as a measure which has the sanction of, & will be protected by Government; I have not the least doubt of succeeding with all those, whose *personal* exertions are essential; indeed, infinitely more essential than the Capital of the others, since the former can only be replaced by Juniors successively growing up in the Service, during a period of six to ten years; whereas the latter, and any larger sum that may be found to be necessary or employed to advantage, can be raised at any time by recurring to London, and might be raised in London before my departure, were it not thought that those already in trade at Montreal ought to have the preference, and others only the accession to it.

I intend to embark on my return to America, towards the end of the Month; and if there is any service, which I may be deemed capable of there performing, it will give me pleasure to take charge of it.

I have the honour to be, My Lord,

Your Lordship's Devoted & most faithfull Hble Servant

ALEX. MACKENZIE.

*Enclosed.*

PRELIMINARIES

to the Establishment of a permanent British Fishery & trade in Furs &c. on the Continent & West Coast of North America.

(p. 39.)

*Articles*

1.

To form a supreme Civil & Military Establishment, on the centrally situated and Navally defensible Island of Nootka, at King George's Sound Lat. 50° North, with two subordinates, one in the River Columbia late 46° & the other on *Sea Otter Harbour* Lat. 55 North.

*Observations*

1.

Priority of occupation vesting sovereignty in the possessor, no time to be lost.

*Vide Treaty with Spain of 1790.*