

and by the Esquimaux, and I am not certain if it would not prevent the few Natives who visit us now from bringing their Furs as they would wait till sent for.

It is singular that no Accounts have been procured of the Esquimaux who from all their Works appear to be the most enlightened and ingenious amongst the Indians.

I fear the old Hudson's Bay Servants are too fond of old Regulations to encourage a new Branch of Trade and Innovations.

New Branch of Trade towards the Sources of the Missouri and South Branch of the Saskatchewan.

I conceive that about 60 Men, Canadian Voyageurs, would be required for an Expedition towards the Sources of the Missouri, &c. Of these it would be necessary to leave about 30 to form a Settlement for the Blackfeet and Fall Indians near the Forks of the Red Deer River.

This Settlement would not require an expensive Outfit of Goods and Fox, Beaver and Buffalo Hides might be procured in sufficient Quantities to prevent any loss. To ensure Success in the principal Object of the Expedition about one Hundred Beaver Hunters say Illiquois Half Breeds and free Canadians would be necessary as little Dependance can be placed on the Industry of the Natives. A strong Party of these should proceed by Land with the Boats or Canoes as they ascend the River. The remaining Party might proceed by Land from Fort Augustus in Company with the Muddy River Indians or Piegans along the Borders of the Rocky Mountains.

I should conceive that the Nature of the Expedition should, before it is entered on, be explained to the Piegans and their Consent obtained and I should further think it necessary that a Party of the Hunters should be sent to prepare a kind of Fort or Store to put the Goods in when the Boats arrive.

Beaver are not I believe to be found in great Number at any great Distance north of the more northern Branches of the Missouri. A Settlement on the Waters of the South Branch [of the Saskatchewan] would not be advisable and I should recommend the Settlement to be formed on an Island in a Lake¹ which, if my Information is correct, lies between the Waters of the two rivers. Mr. Clarke and Mr. Heron would be well adapted for such an Expedition.

Expenses of a light Canoe from Montreal to Fort William :—

Canoe	500 Livres.
Assets	193
4 bags biscuits	57.16
2 bushels pease	12
250 lb. pork	125
2 bushels corn and bags	24
Equipment— 1 guide	145.12
“ —13 men	546
Pensions (expenses previous to departure), 10 days provisions	520
Wages— 1 Guide	800
“ — 1 Foreman	400
“ — 2 Steersmen	800
“ —10 Middlemen	2500
Engagements 14 Men	84
12 Gallons Spirits	72

In Halifax Currency, £282 7s 6d.

6774.8 Liv.

¹ Bad Water Lake