

311

Remarks on the Instructions and
Orders for the Government of the
Indian Department

15236

Article of the Instructions dated
Head Quarters Quebec 27th March 1799

When public conferences are held
at any of the Posts between the Agents
residing there and the Indians, the
Commanding Officer shall preside,
attended by all the Officers of the
Garrison, to whom due notice is
to be given on all such occasions.
But he is not under pretence of
this regulation to interfere with
the Agent in the management of
the Indian Department.

General Prescott's Orders dated
from the Deputy Superintending
General's Office, Sandwich
Upper Canada 5th January 1798

1st All the Officers of the
Indian Department at the several
Posts, are amenable to the Orders
of the several Commanding
Officers in the same manner
as the other Departments are,
and the independent conduct
they have lately arrogated
to themselves shall instantly
cease.

Remarks

The Commanding Officers
who change their commands
Annually, and perhaps some
who had never seen an Indian,
must consequently be perfectly
unacquainted with Indians and
their customs, and by their
Presiding will only tend to lessen
the influence the Superintendent
should have and cause them to
have less confidence in him
than they otherwise would.

The Indians have ever been
considered as an independent people
and I believe have been looked
upon as such by Government, placing
the Officers of that Department
in so subordinate a situation,
must defeat every purpose that
they are intended for, to attract
the Indians to them and gain
their confidence, they will be
looked upon by those people as not
deserving the confidence of their
Father, and of course they will not
trust them or believe what they
say, and will be held in contempt by them
as they have it not in their power to
say Yes or No, to any thing they
may ask them.

32