

that when the Indian is approached and engaged, his time starts immediately; his rate of wages must be settled and an advance on same given him. He states that we cannot engage men and take them to Hudson and then run the risk of having Mr. Awrey refuse some of them and engage others who may have come into Hudson in the meantime from other points. I think perhaps Mr. McKenzie has misunderstood Mr. Awrey's proposal, which I gathered was that the Company should engage the men on behalf of the Indian Department, the Department agreeing to accept such men as we engage. It stands to reason that if there is likely to be any disagreement regarding the men engaged, no useful purpose would be served by the Company doing this work. Mr. McKenzie makes the following suggestion, which he thinks will prove more satisfactory to the Department, and I quote from his letter as under:

"I think the most satisfactory way will be for the Indian Department to buy their own canoes, equipment and provisions complete in the East, ship them to their order at Hudson, Mr. Awrey come up two days earlier, hire his own men, make a cash deposit with the Company at Hudson to the credit of each man's account, to provide for their families during their absence, and then pay them off the balance of their wages in cash at Martens Falls, and arrange with the head man to pack the equipment and we will ship together with the canoes to the Indian Department's warehouse at Winnipeg for storage."

I shall be glad to learn in due course which method you propose to follow.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. D. Maclean
Fur Trade Commissioner

J. D. McLean, Esq.,
Asst. Deputy and Secretary,
Dept. of Indian Affairs,
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