

one pounds in goods, faithfully and honorably executed on the part of the Indian tribes. Governor Simcoe, with his accustomed promptitude and energy, at once wrote to Lord Dorchester, Governor General, describing the superior advantages of the bay for naval and military purposes, requesting a force of fifty or one hundred men to begin operations without delay. Governor Simcoe dwelt strongly on the necessity of placing Canada in a state of defence not only against foreign foes, but to keep the Indians in awe of British power as well. Lord Dorchester was not worrying about foreign invasion or the danger from want of protection from the native races, and politely but firmly refused to comply. Governors, at cross purposes, resulted in the early resignation of Governor Simcoe, and the project was deferred.

In the early years of the succeeding century the American war began to loom upon the horizon. Meantime Governor Simcoe, with his tireless energy, continued to advocate the interests and advantages of his beloved province, Upper Canada, without ceasing. In a letter to Portland, Secretary of State, dated June 18th, 1795, he says: "The proper support of the province would be a powerful addition to the British Empire by nursing up a great people," etc. In another, to the same, dated February 27th, he says: "Penetanguishene will take the place of Michillimackinac." Again, on December 20th, 1794, to the Lords of Trade, he says: "Penetanguishene bids fair to become the most considerable town in Upper Canada, as the passage to the Northwest will be established here." Governor Prevost wrote to Lord Bathurst on November 8th, 1814, saying: "If a Post be established at Penetanguishene many of the difficulties of transporting presents to the Indians will be removed." The fur-traders began to feel anxious about communication to the Northwest and their trade with the Indians should hostilities begin with the United States, and strong representations were made, urging the authorities to take steps to open this proposed new route.

The conclusion of the Treaty of Peace in 1783, commonly known as the Treaty of Versailles, had the effect of plunging the Canadian fur trade into a state of anxiety and unrest bordering on panic, arising from apprehended disturbances of traffic routes. There was just cause for alarm, the interests and operations being somewhat extensive for that period, involving, according to a statement by James McGill, a prominent merchant and trader of Montreal, to Governor Hamilton