

NAME

North West Company

DESCRIPTION

Doc. re Exchange

DATE

c. 1826

SOURCE

DATE RECEIVED

CLASSIFICATION

CH 367 . S 327

By the agreement of the North West Company entered into in 1804 it is stipulated among other things that the Agents of that Company shall furnish in Canada sufficient Capital for carrying on the Fur Trade without any reference to the Difference of Exchange.

From that Period until 1812 the Exchange was unvariably in favor of the Agents - Bills on London always bearing a Premium the profits arising from this Premium they always kept - i.e. they never put it to the Credit of the General Accounts Current of the North West Company.

In 1812 owing to the War with the United States of America the Course of Exchange was reversed and Bills on London could not be sold, but at a heavy discount, and the loss arising on such Bills as were drawn by the Agents of the North West Co. was then charged to the General Accounts of the Company furnished to the Wintering Partners - the first set of these accounts made up to the 30th Novr. 1812 were laid before the Wintering Partners in the Summer of 1813 when they ^{un}unanimously objected to the Charge & in July of that Year a Protest of which the following is a Copy, was drawn up and signed by all of the Wintering

Partners then Present at Fort William and delivered
to Mr. William M. Gillivray

"Whereas in Contradiction to the Letter and
Spirit of the North West Company's Agreement
a Charge has been introduced by the Agents
into the North West Accounts burthening the
Concern with large Sums of Monies on account
of a loss arising from the Difference of Exchange
between Great Britain and Canada and
Considering such Charges as illegal and
unprecedented, We the undersigned being
Wintering Partners of the North West Company
Protest and do Protest against such and
all other innovations of the same kind militating
against the Established Rights of the said
Wintering Partners

Fort William July 1813

Notwithstanding the above Protest the Agents continued the
system of charging the loss arising from the Exchange
to the North West Co. so long as the Difference of the
Exchange was unfavourable to them, but after the
Conclusion of the War, when Bills of Exchange again
bore a Premium the Agents did not allow the
Wintering Partners any benefit or Profit arising

from the same but kept it as their own Perquisite

The whole amount of the different Sums charged to the N.W. Company, to the best of my Recollection amounted to about £80,000 & my share of which is $\frac{1}{100}$ or £800

In 1821 when the Agreement between the Hudson Bay Company & N.W.C. took place it was necessary that the Wintering Partners should sign a deed of release to the former Capitalists or Agents of the N.W.C. in explanation of which deed Mr. William M. Gillivray wrote to the Wintering Partners as follows, the Original of which is in my possession -

1. The 12th and part of the 13th pages release
1. W^m M^r J. M^r G. & Edward Ellice and the former Capitalists or Agents of the N.W.C.
1. from all Claims on the part of the Wintering Partners
1. Settlement of accounts of the Year 1820
1. from any Claim that the Wintering Partners may previously had against them
1. The 13th, 14th, 15th & 16th pages bind the Wintering Partners (each for himself and his Agents) to abide by all the articles of the said recited deeds and in consequence of their acceptance

of these deeds and the advantages to be
derived under their relinquishing, sell
claims on the last NWC^o (Established
by agreement of 1804) and all the parties
composing it still subsequent to their
oufit of the year 1820

From the above & foregoing it appears that all
William M. Gillivray was aware that the
Wintering Partners would never give up their
claims to be reimbursed for the loss charged in
the Accounts for Exchange

On the 30th Nov^r 1825 there appears by the Accounts
of Mr. Gillivray's Train Co. to be a balance
against me of £3277. 12. 12

To be deducted from the above there is my
leaving me apparently due them £2200
£1077. 12. 2

But to the above statement I never can
subscribe - and am sorry that I cannot
have access to the General Accounts
furnished the Wintering Partners of the
NWC^o to Extract the different items
charged therein as last by Exchange but
wintering...

Cont^d

Apparent balance against me £1077.12.2

but from memory Seeleir I am pretty

Correct in stating the amount of

my Share at £800

Now Calculating the Interest

from 20th Nov. 1816 on

round Sum as Charged me

Compound Interest - it will

amount to

557.11.4

1357.11.4

So that instead of a D^y of

£ 293.19.2

£1077.12.2 I am still a Creditor of

the above firm to the above amount of £293.19.2

Whitcomb Boy Co Fur Traders