

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

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# Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 1670.

SECTION

B

CLASS

45

SUB-DIVISION

e

PIECE

1

DESCRIPTION

COLVILLE FORT

REPORT on DISTRICT

1827

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FORT  
COLVILLE HOUSE (COLUMBIAR)

REPORT 1827.



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Report of Collville District  
Limits of the Depart<sup>ment</sup>

1857

1857

Navigable Rivers



Nature of the Country, Soil  
and Vegetable Productions

Animals for bearing  
Climate

The living mode of life the Natives of this district  
least renders it impossible to depict exactly their  
Limits, however to give a tolerable Idea of it, they  
thrust or go about, from the Saint Pierre river which  
is a small distance below Spolian River where it empties  
into the Columbia to the Rocky Mountain and from  
thence Eastward to the Oregon Coast, on the Indian  
Southward as far as Henry's Fork in the Snake  
Country, the Columbia below this forming a kind of  
Boundary line between the Indians hereabout and  
those of Michigan.

The Selkirk river which empties above this into  
the Columbia is navigable to a considerable distance  
above our present Establishment which is on its  
North Bank.

The Flat Head river which takes its waters from a  
considerable Lake of that name is only in part  
navigable, for a considerable distance below it  
falls into the Columbia. The numerous Cataracts  
Water Falls & Rapids it is impracticable in the  
lower parts, the Spolian River is not navigable  
for loaded craft except in spring & then only up as  
far as the old Establishment. Between this and  
the Flat Head there are upwards of thirty  
streams that fall into the Columbia but none of  
any note.

The nature of the Country is generally speaking  
Woody however here and there fine Plains & rolling  
the little Rivers in low grounds here & there  
The Timber is of different kinds, White & Red Pine  
Cedar, Larch, Birch, soft Maple &c. some of which  
grow to a very large size. The soil in many places  
fit for cultivation. Nuttative roots and fruits of  
different kinds grow spontaneously. Considerable  
Mountains and High Hills line the Columbia &  
Flat Head rivers. The Animals hunted for Food are  
Deer of different species, Mountain goat, & Buffalo  
Beaver, Otter, Mink, Fisher, Muskrat &c.  
Bears a good deal. Great Heat in summer and little  
Rain, coming & night's cool & pleasant. Winter severe  
Moderate. Snow some years Deer. Winter falls on  
Latter end of Nov. March pretty free weather.

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Report of Collville District  
Limits of the Depar<sup>ts</sup>

pc 87

13

Navigable Rivers



Nature of the Country, Soil  
and Vegetable Productions

Animals fur bearing  
Climate

The living mode of life the Natives of this district  
least when it is possible to depue exactly their  
Limits, however to give a tolerable Idea of it, they  
Thougt or go about from the Saint Belch river which  
is a small distance below Spolian river where it empties  
into the Columbia to the Rocky Mountain and from  
thence Eastward to the Oregon Sound, on the Mountains  
Southward as far as Henry's Fork in the Snake  
Country, the Columbia below this forming a kind of  
Boundary line between the Indians hereabout and  
those of Okanagan.

The Selkwyck river which empties above this into  
the Columbia is Navigable to a considerable distance  
above our present Establishment which is on its  
North bank.

The Flat Head river which takes its waters from a  
considerable Lake of that name is only in part  
Navigable, for a considerable distance before it  
falls into the Columbia. Its numerous Cataracts  
Water Falls & Rapids it impracticable in the  
Lower parts, the Spolian river is not navigable  
for loaded craft except in spring & then only up as  
far as the old Establishment. Between this and  
Whitaker's Passage there are several of thirty  
Streams that fall into the Columbia but none of  
any note.

The nature of the Country is generally speaking  
Woody, however here and there fine Plains extend  
The little Rivers in low grounds here are shallow  
The Timber is of different kinds, White & Red Pine  
Cedar, Larch, Birch, soft Maple &c. Some of which  
grow to a very large size. The soil in many places  
fit for Cultivation. Nuttative roots and fruits of  
different kinds grow spontaneously. Considerable  
Mountains and High Hills line the Columbia &  
Flat Head rivers. The Animals hunted for Food are  
Deer of different species, Mountain goat, & Squirrel  
Beaver, Otter, Marten, Fishers, Muskrats &c.  
Wolves a good deal. Great Heat in summer and little  
Rain, snow & Nights cool & pleasant. Weather here  
Moderate. Snow some years Deep. Winter falls in  
Latter end of Nov. March pretty far back.

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*Advantages of the Dept. Conts.*

*Disadvantages of Dept.*

*Ports occupied  
Manner of Disbanding*

*Expenses of Provisions*

*Speech, Black and Grey  
Number of Men & Children  
Number of Indians  
Distances among Tribes*

Trade cheap. No credits given out, and our outposts have for these few years back enabled us to get in those furs which would in our absence have fallen into the hands of the Americans who hunt about the Snake Country not very far from the Flat Head & Kootenai R. Our intercourse with the surrounding Tribes by supplying them with their principal wants had attached themselves and in case of opposition will give us an advantage over them, providing they don't undersell us.

Indian Law, subjected to granting their wants, and those they will hardly catch the Dept's for some time.

Which, Collette, Flat Head & Kootenai, Fish, Deer, Mice, Roots, berries and in cases of starvation.

It is impossible for the Post year to give us an exact return to the distance we were obliged to traverse, the waste and damage in consequence thereof, besides perhaps a number of Indians who have a distance which would be no return to go by, hereafter.

15 Men, 2 Children, 16 Men, 11 Women, and 22 Children.

The Columbia Lake Indians 54, Kootenai Indians 54, Grand Island Indians 42, Chin R. 41. These 4 Tribes inhabit the Country from above Col-Lakes to the Flat River below which is called Spoken Forks. The Spokane Indians dependent on 3 more Tribes amounting to 222 Men inhabit the Country along the River of that Name. The Pendout Deruelled are at a Bay of that Name and along Flat Head River, they may be in Number 250 Men. The Flat Heads another Tribe of about 150 claim the lands about Cotton-wood River and hunt between that and the Snake Country as far as Thompson Forks. All these Tribes are part of one Nation, the rest of them are about Shingagan. The Kootenai Nation are divided in two Tribes, call Kootenai & Flat River. Their Hunting Grounds are 400 Miles or more to the West and East. And Dalweg another Nation divided into several Tribes in Number about 100 Men. Hunt South of Spoken. The Kootenai whose Number I report to Mackon may be 100. So that the 3 Nations who occasionally visit our District Establishments may amount to about 1200 Men.

*Trade*

The following Prices were put to Me by Chief Factor at Longlin.

- 1<sup>st</sup> What are the average Returns of Collette District
- 2<sup>d</sup> What Boundary Line runs by Lewis and Clark's Track here, will it affect the Trade of this District
- 3<sup>rd</sup> If the Boundary Line runs West in the Direction of 44 till it reaches Flat Head River, will it affect the Trade of the District

The Trade should much on a par for these few years back.

About 3000 Beaver besides Small Furs

A Post established about the Head Waters of the Missourie would almost cut off our Flat Head Trade amounting yearly to upwards of a 1000 Beaver. Besides supplanting the Kootenai Trade as that of those Indians occasionally go with the Flat Heads to the Buffalo Country where they hold Beaver.

Why it would not leave us any Trade, except that of the Kootenai which if alone would not repay the expenses we would incur.

*W. Dease*

*Remarks*

The Flat Head Indians complain of the high Prices of several of our Indian Articles Gun, Tobacco in Particular. The cheap rate at which they sell gunpowder articles from an American Ship last summer with whom they traded most of their Furs has displeas'd them with our Prices. I am aware will be a bad precedent and will affect the Nez Percé and Kootenai R. But most probably the Indians all ready mentioned may agree with the Americans we cannot expect to get their Furs if those they may find have where with to supply them with at a cheaper rate.

April 16<sup>th</sup> 1827

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*John Langdon*

*James Fort by*

*Mr Green's Review*

*Report*  
*and*

*Victoria District*

*No. 10 188*

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THE END.