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SECTION B

CLASS 45

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PIECE 3

DESCRIPTION COLVILE, FORT
REPORT on DISTRICT

1830

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B 45 C

COLVILE ^{FORT} ~~HOUSE~~ (COLUMBIAN)

REPORT, 1830.



Some information relative to
Colville District

6.15/2/3 1
1830
J.C. 14
By J. Hook
Apr. 1830

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Like most divisions of the Indian Country, the exact extent and boundaries of Colville District, are difficult to determine. It may however, be considered as extending from the Rocky Mountains at the Athabasca & Kootany passes, which form its Northern extremity, to towards the Western sources of the Stikwicia and the upper part of the Salmon River which may be taken its East & Southern limits, a distance in length of probably not less than 300 miles. And from the high grounds that separate the rivulets which fall into the Okanogan river and upper parts of Thompsons River, from the streams which discharge themselves into the upper parts of the Columbia river which form its Western boundary to the borders of the Blackfoot lands where it terminates to the East and N.E. Making it in breadth perhaps about 200 miles.

The Columbia, the Kootany or Stikwicia, the Carving or Flat Head River, with their branches, and the Spokane River, with some smaller streams are the rivers which water this tract of Country. This branch of the Columbia is navigable to its sources for such craft as are used for the trade. The Kootany river is also navigable to near its sources, but in the lower part much obstructed by falls and rapids. The lower part of the Carving River is impassable for craft but it afterwards becomes navigable to near its head. Craft have also been taken up the Spokane river to the old Fort but the passage is difficult.



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There are several lakes but of little note.
The accompanying and sketch of the district
may give some idea of the situation of the
lakes, the situations and courses of the rivers,
and the portions of the country belonging to
the different tribes.

This extensive tract of country is inhabited
and frequented by the following tribes of Indians:
1. The Lake Indians or Sinacthts, 2. Kettle Falls Indians
or Whyelpie, 3. Sinapsilish, 4. Spokans, 5. Flatheads,
or Scheechew, 6. Carney Indians or Callespellum,
7. Flat Heads or Aslilish, 8. Kootenies or Callesauils.

The Lake Indians inhabit the Columbia from
or above the Athabasca portage to the Whitefoot
river or little Falls not far above Kettle Falls, and
the small streams that fall into it. This is
generally a rugged hilly country, covered with
woods. Black tail & common long tail Chisquam,
Beaver deer, White mountain goats, & some Elk,
with several smaller animals are found
here. The river in the summer season abounds
with salmon & trout, Sturgeon and other fish
of a small size are also found in it but the
latter are little sought after by the natives.
Beaver are still pretty numerous in this
part of the country.

The Kettle Falls Indians are divided into
two tribes, the Whyelpie and Ineelameen,
they occupy the Columbia from the little
Falls above mentioned, to near the junction
of the Spokane with the Spokane and a little
river, Whyelpshet, that falls into the Columbia
from the N.W. just above the Kettle Falls. The
description of the Lake Indian country is
applicable to this except that as we

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around the Columbia the hills become less
abrupt and are in places free of woods,
No rein deer, Elk, or Mountain goats are to be
found here, Beaver are also less numerous
than near the Rocky mountains, owing
to the country having been more settled.

The Sinapsilish reside about the mouth
of the Spokane River and down along the
Columbia to below a little River falling
in from the North which bears their name.
These lands still continue hilly but
towards the lower part wood is very
thinly scattered over the country, as some
parts both of the high and low ground
very little is to be seen. This is the boundary
of the District in this direction. Few or
no beaver are to be found in this part
of the country, they have the Plank tent &
common Chisquam, and the prong horn tent
or cabin, and salmon & trout abundant.

The Spokans possess the lands on the river
that bears their name from near its dis-
charge to above the upper falls near the
Aval heart country. They consist of three
tribes the Scitsoctherish who live at
the lower falls, the Sinohamenish who
remain about the Fork at the old
Spokan Fort, and the Sentotoluk who
dwell at the upper falls. This part of
the country is less rugged than that we
have passed, towards the southward
there are some pretty extensive plains
and also tracts of high ground without
wood. Chisquam are in some parts
pretty numerous. great numbers of salmon

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and trout ascend the river most seasons
Beaver are become very scarce.

The country from above the upper falls
of Spokan river to its source, and thence
along the south side of the Carving river
to the borders of the Flat Head country
belongs to the Flat Head Indians. They are
also divided into three tribes, The Paikhumiles,
The Simchinkinequech, and The Schuckies. To
the Northward and Eastward this is a hilly
craggy country, but to the Southward there
are large plains and some extensive hills
nearly destitute of wood. Chivernan are
plentiful and towards the upper part
of the country some Elk. Beaver are
still pretty numerous particularly towards
the Flat Head lands. No Salmon ascend this far.

To the Carving Indians, who consist of two tribes,
The Sinahaughquin, & the Callespelleum, appertain
the lands on the Carving River from near its
discharge to above the present Flat Head trading
establishment. The river all this way is
enclosed by ranges of steep hills on both
sides mostly thickly wooded except when
the black rocks are so bare of soil that
scarcely anything can grow. There are
mount with Chivernan pretty numerous,
grey mountain sheep, Mountain goats,
and some Elk. The falls in the lower
part of the river prevent Salmon from as-
cending, but it yields trout and other
small fish. A good many beaver are
still to be found scattered through the country.

The Flat Head Indians are the proprietors
of the above river with ^{the} different branches

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and the country in its vicinity from above the
Flat Head house to its source and thence
SouthEast on to towards the Western source
of the Chivernan and Southward to towards the
Salmon River. This stream is in common with
the Flat Heads and Callespelleum tribes of Car-
ving Indians and both tribes are almost
constantly seeing through the plains in quest
of buffalo &c. The lower part of this country
is hilly but with level valleys of considerable
extent intersecting. Many parts of which as
well as some of the high grounds are free of
wood; towards the Eastward the country opens
a more level appearance and wood becomes
very scarce. This extensive country is stocked
with Chivernan, Mountain sheep, and goats, Moose,
Elk, Buffalo, and Antelope, the two latter
are found in the plains. There are also in
some parts a good many horses that run
wild. Notwithstanding this country has
been frequently hunted by persons there
are still in many places plenty of beaver,
particularly to the Northward of the Flint,
and Blackfoot Rivers they are said to be
very numerous; but the country is very
dangerous on account of the Blackfoot Indians,
so that a small party cannot venture to
hunt it.

The Kootany is of two tribes The Sitaquilegum, by the Whites
called the Flat Bows, and the Callesawilk. This country
lies on the Kootany river from near its discharge to its
source, and on the head of the Columbia river, to the
Westward this country is mountainous, but to the
Eastward there are fine plains with little wood.
There Chivernan & Elk abound, there are also, near

Mountain sheep & goats, and by passing the highest land to the westward they find plenty of buffaloes. The falls near the entrance of the river stop the salmon from ascending, but they have Sturgeon, and some other kind of fish. Most part of this country are still considered rich in beaver.

The following table shows the numbers of these tribes as obtained from the Chieftains within three last three years.

The Names by which the Whites know them	No. of Tribes	The Names by which they are known among the Natives	Children				Total				Principal Chiefs
			Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	
Lake Indians	1	Sinactcht					34	38	25	41	Quilischunshue
Kettle Falls	2	1 Whyelpie	54	51	31	35					Hohome
		2 Ineelamcen	42	59	30	39	96	110	61	74	Quilquiltseeemita
Sinapaitish	1	Sinapaitish					91	77	24	26	Chloposelickie
Spokane	3	1 Scatecuthanish	66	70	49	52					Chitellimalakalt
		2 Sinohomenish	94	95	43	54					Celimechspuckaney
		3 Sintatoluk	62	76	19	24	222	241	111	130	Tuwewilichkin
Newbeats	3	1 Pachhummitco	20	10	5	4					Spaighummitco
		2 Sinchinkineguyh	33	34	13	20					Stelawim
		3 Scheschues	104	68	42	51	157	112	60	75	Whiskhonenusa
Canning Ind	2	1 Callespellum					213	218	207	115	Quilquiltkaimen
		2 Sinahaughquin									
Flathead	1	Aselick					114	128	61	59	Chitchichentidimaha
Kootanics	2	1 Callesquilk	91	121	65	72					Inishinamis can
		2 Silaquitague	91	94	53	43	182	215	118	115	Calsonstanic
							1099	1169	667	705	

a Both tribes are generally termed Whyelpie by their neighbors.

b They are termed Spokane in general by the neighboring tribes.

c Scheschues are their general name among the Indians.

d They are both termed Callespellum by their neighbors.

e The Silaquitague, are called Flatheads by the Whites.

Of the aboriginal the Kootany and Colchont languages are totally different from each other and from that spoken by the other tribes, All the others speak the same language at least there is so little difference in it that it can only be considered as provincial.

There is such a similarity of manners and customs through the District notwithstanding the difference of language, that the difference may be considered to arise from the difference of situation.

The Lake Indians, Kettle Falls, Lem Lake or Flatland Kootanics, and the Canning Sinahaughquin, have few or no horses and travel either in canoes or by land, in the latter case carrying their baggage on their backs. All the others are well stocked with horses with which they perform their journeys. The Flatheads, Upper Callespellum and Upper Kootanics, seldom know the want of provisions at least if they do fall short it is only temporary; but then they are continually exposed to danger particularly the Flatheads from the incursions of their treacherous neighbors the Blackfeet. Scarcity of provisions is often experienced by most of the other tribes especially those that have no horses, particularly the Kettle Falls. They are frequently reduced to the utmost degree of wretchedness in the winter season and the small quantity and bad quality of what they often subsist on is almost incredible. This scarcity does not arise from the want of resources in the country, but

but is chiefly occasioned by their indolence and imprudences which appear to be unconquerable. They seldom think of tomorrow, indeed this observation may be applied to the most of the Indians in the District, as well as the passion for ^{the} gambling which often absorbs every other consideration.

The Nezperce Indians in Schaptonish inhabit part of the Country on Lewis & Clark's river to the Southward of the District and are considered as belonging to the establishment at Wallawalla which bears their name. They nevertheless have always visited Spokane or Colville and the Flat Head post in this District as frequently as the sun sets. Their language is different from any of the others spoken in this District. Their manners and customs are nearly similar. They are generally denominated Schaptonish, but are divided into a number of small tribes that bear different names. Their numbers are 440 Men 495 Women 255 Boys, and 360 Girls. This does not include the Pelushes a band of the same nation that inhabit Lewis river from Flag River to its junction with the Columbia.

There are three establishments in the District. Colville House and the Flat Head & Kootenay posts, the two latter are only kept up in the winter, but the former is permanent and is the head quarters.

The following view of the returns for the last seven years will give some

some idea of the state of the Trade

Colville or Spokane District Returns for the last seven years. that is for the Outfit 1823. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29

	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829
Beaver skins N ^o	4220	3469	3304	3088	3740	2798	3297
Cuttings lb	"	"	"	"	"	36	20
Beaver Black N ^o	"	"	"	4	18	20	34
Brown	"	"	"	10	25	12	25
Gizzles	"	"	"	"	10	6	18
Badgers	"	"	"	"	"	3	"
Castoreum lb	44 1/2	60	48	44	73	48	64 1/2
Fishes N ^o	134	189	147	76	108	147	305
Foxes	60	87	83	14	48	48	107
Lynx	"	"	2	"	1	1	19
Marten	12	42	135	141	190	336	391
Minks	241	490	385	190	230	299	330
Musquash	2963	7509	6635	5518	5691	7157	5592
Otter	186	167	177	107	142	199	217
Holoes	"	"	"	2	5	1	7
Holucuses	"	"	"	3	2	4	12



But few Beavers appear on the above list, they are nevertheless pretty numerous through many parts of the District, the same is the case with Wolves and some other Animals. Formerly the Indians were not encouraged to hunt any Animals but Beavers and Otters.

Previous to 1823 the furs of the District and that of the Snake Country were so blended together that the quantity of furs procured in each cannot be ascertained.

The following tables show the proportions of the Returns obtained at the respective Post.

Spokane & Colville Houses Returns for the following Outfits viz.

	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829
Beaver Skins N ^o	1609	1462	886	1100	1143	1034	849
- Cutting	"	"	"	"	"	32	"
Bears Black N ^o	"	"	"	4	14	14	17
- Brown	"	"	"	10	20	10	19
- Gizzle	"	"	"	"	10	6	12
Badgers	"	"	"	"	"	3	"
Castoreum	4	20	"	9	14	22	24
Fishes N ^o	116	181	110	52	86	89	207
Foxes	58	78	83	11	48	45	90
Lynx	"	"	2	"	1	"	13
Martens	12	42	109	119	127	250	291
Minks	241	476	374	182	207	254	268
Musquash	2811	7013	3818	4702	4484	4692	3861
Otters	140	136	141	76	107	139	164
Wolver	"	"	"	2	5	6	7
Wolverines	"	"	"	2	2	3	4

Flat Head Post returns for the following Outfits viz.

	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829
Beaver Skins N ^o	1472	2009	1468	960	1400	928	1621
- Cutting	"	"	"	"	"	3	20
Bears Black N ^o	"	"	"	"	"	"	2
- Brown	"	"	"	"	1	"	1
- Gizzle	"	"	"	"	"	"	2
Castoreum	10	21	"	24	15	30	11
Fishes N ^o	4	8	16	17	11	19	20
Foxes	"	9	"	3	"	2	6
Martens	"	"	2	9	3	21	8
Minks	4	14	"	2	6	13	15
Musquash	96	775	99	87	427	281	347
Otters	23	32	22	10	22	31	27

In 1824 the Kastans traded at the Flat Head post and no separate account being kept of the furs received from them they are included with those of the Flat Head.

Since 1826 to the present year the Flat Head trade has been materially injured by the intrusion of the Americans and had not their own necessities compelled them to retreat a good many more in 1827 & 1828 the returns would have been very low indeed.

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Hastany Post Returns for the following
Outfits are

	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829
Beaver Skins	1139	"	930	1028	1198	836	827
" cuttings	"	"	"	"	"	1	"
Bears Black	"	"	"	"	4	2	15
" Brown	"	"	"	"	4	3	5
" Guzzle	"	"	"	"	"	"	4
Castoreum	lb	"	"	20	29	26	29 1/2
Fishes	N ^o	14	21	7	11	35	78
Foxes	"	2	"	"	"	1	11
Marten	"	"	24	13	60	66	92
Minks	"	3	11	6	17	30	47
Musquash	56	"	2718	729	780	2182	1384
Others	23	"	14	21	13	29	26
Wolverines	"	"	"	1	"	"	8
Skins	"	"	"	"	"	"	5

In 1824 the Kootanians traded at the Flat River Post in the returns of which the trade is included no separate account being kept of the.

The decline in the trade of this post for the last two years may be chiefly attributed to the intercourse of the Natives with the Crow and Pigeon from the East side of the Mountains. So much of their time is occupied attending to meetings, negotiating peace, hunting & that sufficient is not left to attend to their hunting in the proper season. Beavers are still numerous in their country.

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The Lake Indians, Kettle Falls, Sinapsilich, Spokan, Seal Heart, and occasionally the Carney Indians, Nespeles, and Kootanians, the latter only sometimes in the summer season, trade at Colville. The following is an account of the whole trade of the Post for two years shewing the proportion obtained from each tribe.

	Lake Indian		Kettle Falls Indian		Sinapsilich		Spokan		Seal Heart		Carney		Flat River		Kootan		Nespeles		Summer		Total		
	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	
Beaver Skin	281	336	192	169	7	4	68	88	171	105	257	215	79	16	25	63	3	18	15	30	1139	1036	
" cuttings	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Bears Black	5	3	2	4	"	"	"	1	2	3	"	1	"	1	"	1	"	"	"	"	9	14	
" Brown	2	5	5	3	"	"	1	"	3	2	2	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	14	10	
" Guzzle	5	1	4	1	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	1	"	1	"	1	"	"	"	9	6	
Badgers	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	
Castoreum	lb	60	107 1/2	2	64 1/2	"	"	18	"	12	17	"	"	13	"	"	"	"	"	"	74	22 1/4	
Fishes	N ^o	13	9	17	16	1	"	14	24	9	28	4	6	29	"	1	"	2	"	"	88	85	
Foxes	"	1	5	27	32	4	2	8	5	2	"	6	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	48	45	
Skins	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	
Marten	"	72	157	34	45	1	"	9	7	4	13	4	25	5	"	3	2	"	"	"	132	250	
Minks	"	13	33	40	30	"	1	73	48	76	76	22	46	10	"	6	12	"	7	"	240	254	
Musquash	"	76	188	913	846	42	11	746	785	1050	1002	577	971	626	29	204	46	"	211	"	3	3238	4692
Others	"	15	28	17	17	3	"	15	27	26	26	18	34	6	3	"	1	"	1	"	2	182	139
Wolver	"	"	"	5	6	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	5	6
Wolverines	"	"	1	2	1	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2	3
Horses	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	27	24	10	16	"	"	"	"	"	"	5	22	"	"	42	62
Catts	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	4	2	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	5	3
Appachians	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	5	"	6	24	32	"	"	"	1	"	6	"	"	25	50
Buffalo Robe	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	5	1	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	5	2
Prin Deer	"	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	"
Elk Skins	"	5	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3	2	32 1/2	1	14	12	1	1	"	"	"	55 1/2	16
Chives	"	22	8	13	20	1	"	"	2	"	4	3	553	9	16	31	"	"	"	"	"	609	73

	Indian		Kootenai		Flathead		Kootenai		Flathead		Kootenai		Flathead		Kootenai		Flathead		Kootenai		Total									
	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828	1827	1828								
Rein Deer Skin	2	2																				4	2							
Lodges							5	5															5							
Ind. Leath. Suit							1	1		2	1	8	2											11	3					
- Soffins	2	1					1		1	5	3													9	4					
Chin. Shampant	1	2																							3					
Panflecks		1					2	8		13	25	10	4												32	35				
Park Cards <i>set</i>							10		10	104	6															104	26			
- Saddles		1		1			11		14	2	6																2	33		
Horn Binds			2					2	2																		4	4		
Indian Bags							6		5	3	2																3	18		
Mats			73	52																								73	52	
Bark			26	14																								26	14	
Soy Canvas			1																									1		
Gum Raw			123	134																									123	134
Venison dry <i>lb</i>			88	96			15	18																				88	129	
- fresh			235	94	140	37		22	106	9		63																	1709	914
Beaver feet <i>sk</i>	2	5	8																										10	5
- Tails	8	6	3																										8	9
Salmon dry <i>lb</i>			870	793	157		614	892																					1531	1685
- fresh <i>lb</i>			687	310																									687	310
Traut			80	46																									80	46
Small fish			119	200																									119	200
Deer	1		26	64					15	2																			42	66
Geese			4	4			2			28	1																		34	5
Phasant & long France } Swans			16	55																									16	55
Cranes									2	1																			2	1
Roast & Remo <i>kg</i>	34	2	84	374			140	364	74	176	46	374																	1035	115
Boys			4	2			1																						4	3

At the Flat Head Post the trade is obtained from the Flat Heads, Carrying Indians and occasionally some Nezperces. Several of the lower tribes that have horses frequently visit here to accompany the Flat Heads to the plains to hunt buffaloes, but seldom any thing in the way of trade is obtained for them.

The following is an account of the trade of the post for three years, that is for the years 1825. 1828. & 1829

	1825	1828	1829
Beaver Skins	1468	928	1621
- Cuttings		3	20
Beaver Black			2
- Brown			1
- Gizzards			2
Castoreum	24		11
Fishes	16	19	20
Foxes		2	6
Martens	2	21	8
Mink		13	15
Musquash	99	281	347
Others	22	31	27
Appachimons	647	200	333
Buffalar Robes	64	27	12
Elk Skins	77	274	32
Chisena <i>sk</i>	115	76	54
- <i>sk</i> <i>sk</i> <i>sk</i>	20		12
Lodges	74	6	7
Panflectus	40	27	60
Park Saddles	159	123	205
Park Cards <i>set</i>	754	340	940
Buffala Skin dust		2	



	1825	1828	1829
Hair Buds	9	7	16
Buffalo Horn	15	-	21
- Sinews	184	-	155
Indian leather shoes	3	-	-
Dry Buffalo Meat	22152	2040	11146
Tongues fresh	947	117	516
" dry split	211	-	108
Bones fresh	22	"	25
Beaver -	3	-	1
Venison -	2816	-	4198
Mutton	360	-	51
Porcism	-	-	210
Tallow or Goose	-	-	44
Mats	26	-	30
Gun	9	-	8

The middle column does not include the provisions and other articles expended at the post in the winter. The other two columns contain every thing that was traded during the respective years.

The Factory Post may be said to be exclusively for themselves, a few bees sometimes visit it but seldom have any thing to trade. Some Ojibwas used formerly to come occasionally but they have not been there for some years.

The following is the trade of the different articles obtained for three years separately that is for the Outfits 1825, 1828 & 1829

	1825	1828	1829
Beaver Skins	950	836	827
- Cuttings	-	1	-
Bears Black	-	2	15
- Brown	-	3	5
- Grizzle	-	-	4
Castoreum	-	26	29 1/2
Fishes	21	35	78
Foxes	-	1	11
Martens	26	66	92
Minks	11	30	117
Musquash	2718	2182	1384
Otter	14	29	26
Robberies	"	"	8
Skins	"	"	5
Apprehensions	16	"	23
Buffalo Ropes	"	"	1
Red Deer Skins	91	139	308
- parts	17	7	13
Whitens shot	404	655	1284
Ledges	4	17	7
Panfleets	32	45	108
Pack Saddles	2	5	5
Pack Cords	104	-	100
Hair Buds	"	"	"

	1825	1828	1829
Indian leather shoes	-	17	18
- - - Leggings	-	11	27
- - - Gowns	-	1	1
Horses	4	-	"
Linens	"	"	170
Dry Buffalo Meat	-	188	748
Venison fresh	"	"	7097
Grease	"	"	200

The column under 1829 contains every thing traded that year, the other two columns do not include what provisions and other articles were consumed at the establishment during the winter.

The quantity of fresh meat and wild fowl that can be obtained from the Indians at Colville seldom more than barely suffices for the Officers mess and is frequently not enough. As the Indians mostly depend themselves to give it they are paid a little dearer for it than at the other posts. During the salmon season a sufficiency of fresh fish may be obtained to maintain all the people of the establishment. The price they cost varies according to the articles with which they are traded when they are paid for principally with leather they come cheap but when dry goods have to be given they cost higher. In the articles paid mostly has great influence. In 1828 they cost on an average $2\frac{3}{4}$ each but the year before they did not amount to over 2 each. They average about 16^{lb} weight, or is sufficient without any thing else for a mans rations for two days. The only resources of the place for the winter season are dried Salmon, and dried roots & berries, (namely the Lemniberry) which are far from being adequate in quantity, the drying used sometimes to be made up with dried buffalo meat obtained from the Flat heads; this also is precarious, so much so that they have frequently been necessitated to live upon horses. The farm which was commenced three years ago is now become so productive as to render the place nearly independent of any other means of subsistence whatever. - The dry salmon cost something less than 7[¢] per pound three pounds are a mans rations for a day. The roots and berries cost nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ per bushel.

of 32 quarts, they dont do for the people to subsist on alone but are generally mixed with the dry salmon. 2 pieces of salmon & a quart of roots or berries are sufficient for a man for a day.

At the Flat Head Establishment the people subsist on dry buffalo meat obtained from the Indians that frequent the plains, and fresh venison from those that winter about the post. The dry meat costs little over 7^{cts} per pound, 2^{1/2} lbs in the proportion of 3/4 of lean and 1/4 of back fat is a man's ration per day. The meat obtained from the Indians in the fall is mixed lean and fat in about the proportion of 4/5 of lean and 1/5 of fat nearly the 3/4 of which is back fat. In the Spring and summer ^{the animals} are not in such good order and the proportion may be about 2/3 of lean and 1/3 of fat.

The fresh Venison costs about 7^{cts} for 9 or 10 lbs, a man's rations are 8^{cts} for a day. There is much likelihood of there being a want of provisions for the people at this post, the supply is nevertheless, pecanians, Chisena are numerous but the Indians are often unsuccessful in their hunting, besides there are so many of themselves that it takes a wide range of country to furnish enough for them. In the plains buffaloes are seldom seen but sometimes they have far to be gone for, the supply is nevertheless uncertain, the Indians horses may be carried off by their enemies, or they may lose them in heavy snows, or have them so infested that they are unable to carry loads, so that the meat must be left ^{behind}.

As the produce of the farm and quantity of live stock at Colville will render any supplies of provisions to that place in future unnecessary I have requested the Indians, after this Spring, to bring only fat, except a small quantity of lean to serve the people at the post, and that they would be paid a high price for it. It was pointed out to them the advantage to themselves of adopting this plan, they will have to kill more buffaloes, but that they will have a great saving in carriage which is of importance to them. I follow is an article ^{of fat} much wanted and as it can be obtained much perhaps at so cheap a rate as here, encouraging the Indians to follow the above plan merits attention, I think with little trouble it would succeed. It is difficult to say what quantity might be procured.

At the Flat Head post the people subsist chiefly on fresh venison Chisena & Elk, there is still a sufficiency obtained, but within three few years the animals are becoming scarcer than formerly. By an account kept by Mr. Kirtson two or three years ago the Chisena then averaged 5 1/2 lbs weight and cost only 3 3/4 cts. 8^{cts} are a man's daily ration. In making the above calculation the article paid an average at prime cost with the ^{weight} ~~price~~ laid upon it.

The present mode of conducting the trade of these two posts is to make a trip in the summer, about the latter end of July or beginning of August.

of August to meet each of the tribes at a trading rendezvous when the business is soon completed. The trip generally occupies about twenty days. In the fall towards the close of October or beginning of Nov. the people of the northern part proceed to their winter establishments, settle with the Indians, and wait their return in the Spring when the yearling is completed, and the parties return to Colville about the close of March or beginning of April. It is generally towards the end of December before the Flathead all arrive. In Spring they commonly return towards the close of March. A trip is generally made to Colville from the F. Head with the produce of the fall trade immediately after its completion if the season will admit, this trip is absolutely necessary if the trade is any way good because horse tackling such as saddles, Apukimons & and provisions are so very bulky that the canoes, with even only two men each which are too few, are not able to take out the whole of the returns in the Spring. There is so little to do at the Flatheads during the winter, that, for that matter, the people might as well be at Colville, but the uncertainty of the season induces the present plan, of wintering at the place, being adhered to. The river frequently freezes in the winter and the navigation is sometimes ^{not} open before the end of March; and seldom, or ancient of the snow, is the portage from Colville to Leming river practicable for horses before that time, so that

that in either case supplies could not be got back in time for the Spring trade. While there is not of opposition which will always be the case so long as the American hunters are in the country, it is indispensable to have the Indians regularly furnished with supplies. Indeed all the work that the people could do during the short period of the dead winter season that they could remain at Colville would be of very little importance. The Kootany summer trip is performed by land with horses. In the fall they go by water, the voyage occupies about twenty days going in. The Flat Head people at both seasons make a portage of their goods march to the Leming River where they embark in canoes. When it met for drawing the Kootany in the way of the Americans they might be induced to trade at the Flathead port with perhaps meet the same advantage as at present, and a little saving in men would be effected.



Scarcely the two thirds of the annual expenditure of the District goes for fur all the rest is consumed in the trade of what is denominated Country produce, provisions and other expenses. The raising grain at Colville was deemed with the expenses for provisions to a trifling amount. A sufficiency of Country produce to supply other places can seldom be procured. Were the demand for these articles to be done away with or lessened, it would be the means of diminishing the expenses and

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increasing the Returns of Furs. When other means
of procuring supplies would discontinue the
Natives would be obliged to exert themselves
more hunting beaver to procure their wants.
But doing away with the trade of these
Articles should be by degrees so that the
Indians might not all at once feel
the effects of the want of these means
of obtaining supplies that they have
long possessed. So long as the great demand
for skins continues, notwithstanding the expense,
this trade should be encouraged at Colville.
Want of repairs, the houses being low, with the
caves often induce the Natives to resort
to the to displace of them when they would
otherwise not be inclined, and when
there is a proper assortment of trading
goods they are obtained at a cheaper rate
than when gone for to the Stikine Country
or perhaps to Fort Stikine. So long as the
trapping parties don't endeavor to procure
hairs, tacks, lads, & for themselves Colville
District is the only place where these things
can be obtained in any thing like sufficient
quantities. Except lads these articles don't
cost very high, it is worth sending quantities
of them down of a considerable part
of the outfit.

The American opposition materially impedes
the trade of the Flat Heads there there a few
years past and had not their arms might
compelled them to retreat part of their
furs at the Flat Head post, this would
have been a great diminution in the
returns. Last summer they suffered falling

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in with the Flat Heads though both parties
were seeking each other. The American has
given out to the Indians that the will return
again. While the fellow this present plan
of making trapping their primary object
and the trade with Indians a secondary
consideration, the most effectual means
of opposing the and counteracting this
view is by a party of hunters like
themselves. The dangers of the Country
will not admit of small parties
of men being sent on trading excursions
to the Indians as in some other parts.

The expenditure of the District is heavy
this season than usual. This arises chiefly
from the reductions in the Tariffs, but is also
in part occasioned by the loss of some furs
by the swamping of a boat on the way for
Vancouver with the outfit. There has also
been considerable advances to furs at
a low rate than usual.

At the Flat Heads and Kootanie
the houses being inhabited but a few
months during the winter are very temporary.
At Colville, though established some years,
the buildings are still backward, the
limited number of men and the various
duties to be attended to, particularly boat
building and getting the farming establish-
ment fairly under way preclude the
possibility of getting them completed; but
an additional number of men having
been obtained for the purpose that dis-
sirable object is being carried on to
effect. A plan will to go by ground has
been

constructed, and the establishment enclosed with stockades during the last season.

By arrangements made four or five years ago 16 men were the complement allowed for the District, this number is inadequate at present, at that time the duty of boat building was ~~not~~ considered, nor was there any farms. Then two last years there has been a few more than the above number on the establishment. I should think 30 men would be required to do the duty of the District, 6 for Colville, 8 for the Flat Head and 6 for the Kootenais, but with the number some assistance will be required to bring up part of the outfit as far as Fort St. James or Okanogan. The six men for Colville require to both summer and winter at the place in order to attend to the various duties to be performed. When the spring trade is good at the Flat Head there are generally three canoes to take out and 8 men are rather few, but some assistance might be spared from Colville for this trip. While the Flat Head men are employed in the work taking down the fall cuttings, should danger be apprehended from the Blackfoot, some extra hands might be obtained from the Kootenais for a short time. There are generally two canoes coming out from the Kootenais in spring and three men each are few enough as that navigation is reported to be. Until the building at Colville be completed or partly well advanced a few additional hands would be necessary at that place. The Flat Head and Kootenay men should

enjoyed

enjoyed in the voyage to Vancouver and making the summer trading trip, are employed during the summer forwarding the Colville work, there has however been a heavy draw back upon it lately by a few of them having to go to the Mountains every fall with the Express.

The farms at Colville merit particular attention. At a very trifling additional expense and without interfering with the trade, I have little doubt, it may not only render the place independent of the stores for provisions, but furnish a sufficient quantity of grain and pork for the other establishments in the Columbian above Vancouver, and for the Colville.

John Work

April 1830