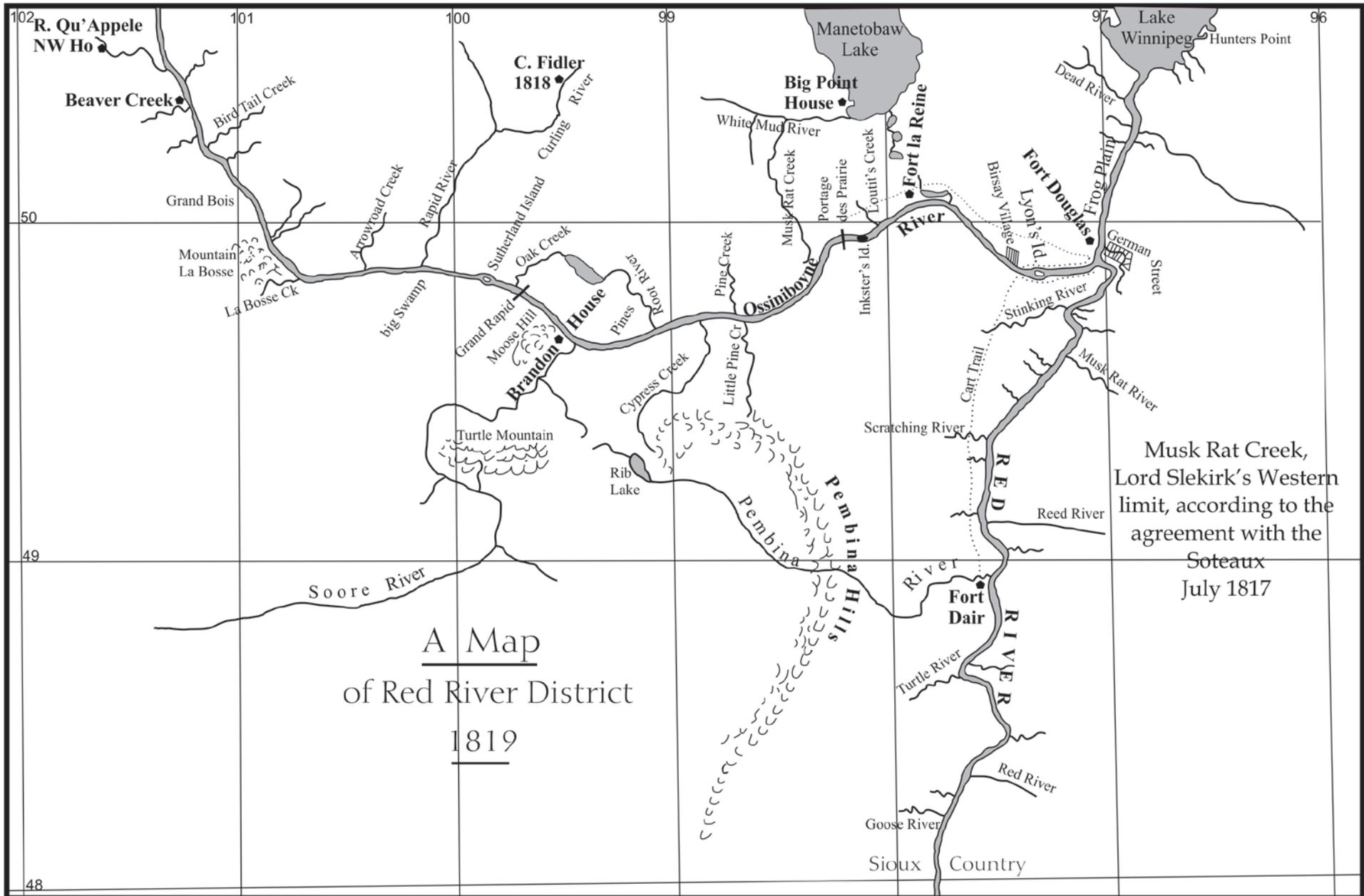


HBCA B.22/e/1 General Report of Red River District, By Peter Fidler , 1819 May



A Map
of Red River District
1819

II Extent of the District &c

From the mouth of Red River along its banks to the entrance of Red Lake River; also from Fort Douglas up the North Branch or Assiniboyne river to Riviere Qui' appelle where the Red River district joins to the Swan River several small rivers or creeks fall into this extent from either side; but no one navigable any distance from their mouths, in loaded Canoes excepting the Reed river or River Roseaux on the Eastern bank 12 miles below Fort Dair which communicates with the Woody Lake over a height of land about one mile very swampy. The other most considerable stream is the Saskatchewan or Rapid river which falls in on the North Side about 30 miles above Brandon House but this is only navigable for Indian Canoes but choaked up by numerous rapids it comes from the Fort Dauphin Mountain. Several other Rivulets joining it before it empties itself into the Assiniboyne river.

Riviere Qui'Appelle is very circuitous and narrow and only passable just when the Ice breaks up, about the 25th april in Batteauxs from the Trading Houses to its Mouth. The Trading Establishment is at present 18 miles by land from its mouth, it has a water communication almost the whole way with the south Branch of the Saskatchewan at the Moose Woods the Height of land is within 20 miles of that place many small lakes & a few of some considerable size intervene.

Dead river 5 miles from the entrance of Lake Winipee on the west side navigable for Indian canoes only about 14 Miles from its mouth, where it is ____?

[Fo. 2]

These are the only considerable streams within this district excepting the Souris which falls into the Assiniboyne about six miles below Brandon House. It is not navigable especially the lower part on account of the shoals (and rapids). The middle part is deeper and calmer. It extends to within about 18 miles of the head of the south branch River a considerable distance above the Moose Woods and its being between the Indians of this & the Missouri there are many Beaver in it particularly near the upper parts where the natives are afraid to hunt for fear of being killed by their Enemies

III Nature of the Country Soil Trees &c

The country near Lake Winipeg to 10 miles at the banks are low and swampy in many places higher up the banks are balder to the entrance of the Red Lake River & well timbered in many places with Oak, Ash, Elm, White wood, or Liard, & Poplars and also several extensive hummocks of Mapple of a small kind where a considerable quantity of sugar might be made annually every april 3 Gall^s of the Juice on an average making one pound of sugar. There are a considerable quantity of smaller woods which produces Saskattem berries when dry they much resemble currants in external appearance; Cherries, Plumbs, Hazel nut &c &c besides Strawberries, Cranberries, Hipps, Gooseberries, Currants Red, White & Black (the latter of a purgative quality) Haws &c &c. Some oaks and more especially the whitewood attain a very considerable size many of them being 5 feet in diameter There is a drift stick of this latter class embedded in the muddy parts near the entrance of the Lake that are more than 26 feet ~~diameter~~ in circumference. The woods attain a more considerable size up the south than the N Branch or the assiniboyne. The soil being more moldy and of a better quality.

Almost an entire plain from Dead River to Charlton House on either side & above up the Red River, except near the banks of the rivers and creeks where a belt of woods is generally found extending in depth in some places 2 or 3 miles but commonly not more than from 100 to 300 yards the rest is in general denuded of woods to the very brink of the River.

[Fo. 2d]

A considerable root called by the Crees mes tes es se mon grows like a small carrot called the wild Turnip from 3 to 5 Inches long and about one Inch in diameter which the natives pound into a coarse meat like substance which they use as substitute to make soup, another smaller (which is entirely confined to wet places, whereas the former is always found in dry ground) it is called by the natives Aotas about the size of a goose quill great numbers of roots of this kind grow to a single stalk – It is called also the wild parsnip and is both nourishing and palatable

The country is level on the north side to 14 miles above Portage De Prairie from Lake Winipeg where a constant succession of small sandy hills slightly covered with herbage and shrubs and some stunted oaks and intersected with numerous valleys or rather hollows all the way to Brandon House bellow which Some stunted Pines are found which ledge of woods Crosses the Assiniboyne about 30 miles below Brandon House at which it verges from the river 10 miles on the North side &

extends a considerable distance to the NWestard. The Southern end extends only about 5 miles on the south side the assiniboyne where they terminate in dry sandy ridges. About 30 miles from Brandon House in the direct route to Fort Dair a chain of hills commence. their N. Eastern side is pretty steep & in some places more than 360 feet above the level of the adjacent plains but intersected with many vallies where flow some small Rivulets of pure water Several small lakes are also found among these hills but few if any fish in them except where a stream of any magnitude issues from them. No large timber growing among these hills only some small oaks but in general Small ash.

There are several salt springs above Fort Dair where a great quantity of salt is made by concentrating it of a very good quality. A salt spring has lately been discovered 2/3 of the way from the Forks to Pambina. One also was discovered near Brandon House a few years back by a Canadian freeman but he refused to discover the spot

[Fo. 3]

he got the reward of an 100 skins value in goods which he found none offered him. And the place is still unknown by any other. But near Swan river the best & most copious springs are found which yield the greatest proportion of salt. The soil above Portage De Prairie is in general too porous and Sandy, but will yield good crops of all the kinds tryed but it requires a rainy or very frequent showery summer. Hops grow ~~along all~~ in considerable quantities all along the banks of the Rivers & Creeks & are to be found as well as the Oak as far north as swan river House. Some wild flax grows near Fort Douglas. And the black root about Brandon House about the size of a mans finger which runs straight down into the ground like a rope no person has ever it is said dug so low down as come to the extremity of it it is of hot pungent aromatic & rather astringent taste promoting an effusion of saliva it is also applied as a cataplasms in bruises Burns scalds or other inflammatory eruptions & generally proves of great efficacy it is much valued by the Indians. Very little of it is to be found but near Brandon House it flowers early the stem forms nearly similar to part of a bullrush full of black triangular seeds about 14 Inches above the ground.

There are also a great variety of medicinal roots whose specific qualities are well known to a select few of those natives & especially to a few old men who value themselves upon their Botanica medical knowledge.

III Productions Provisions Animals & Trade

The Buffalo are generally abundant above Brandon House (Tho' in some seasons as 1814=15 there were none particularly come within 40 miles of that House) and will afford excellent subsistence for a great number of people. Few are seldom ~~howe~~ found below Portage De Prairie half way between Brandon House & the Forks of the Red & assiniboyne rivers There are many of these

[Fo. 3d]

animals along the banks of the river above Pambina all the way to the Missouri & beyond few are seldom lower than Pambina, The cows generally take the bull from the middle of aug^t to the middle of September at which time the bulls are very vicious especially when wounded and several fatal accidents have then occurred. The Cows go nine months with young as in Europe and have in general only one at a time In April & may the under hair or rather a very fine soft fur or wool for it seems to partake of all these qualities has been frequently made into good warm stockings & mittens, which look and wear well more especially the fine down rubbed off by the animals against trees and bleached all winter is remarkably fine and silky and I have little doubt but that a good lasting cloth might be made of the under wool, as well as hats. The whole is of a dark grey colour and perhaps could be dyed to no other The bulls are fat in summer the cows in winter after the month of September the males collect in separate bands sometimes to about an hundred, The whole of the fresh meat of a good cow as we receive it from Indians or European hunters, are nine pieces consisting of 2 thighs 2 shoulders one Rump one Brisket 2 ribs & Ridge bone the whole weighing on an average from 330 to 420 lb but in general about 360 lb. The ridge bone above the shoulders is esteemed the most delicate part Those cows who have no calf are generally fat the whole year. The flesh of the buffalo killed in summer is generally made into Dry Meat for Trade tho' consisting only of the choice pieces as the ribs briskets &c. The beat or pounded meat is generally made after Christmas when the animals are becoming leaner 80 to an 100 lb generally afforded from one Cow of dry provisions exclusive of fat. The natives melt the fat & put it into bladders

[Fo. 4]

for convenience & carriage which on an average requiring 15 Bladders to every 100 lb. The prices generally given to Hunters in the district is 2 skins p. cow & one for a bull on an average the skin with the Indians may be valued at the Invoice price of goods at less than one shilling but with Freemen at above 2 to 3 shillings & they generally take the greatest of their payment in dry goods as cloth Blankets shirts Kettles Guns axes

&c whereas the Indians generally take at least one half in mixed Rum, Three balls & 3 loads of powder is promised gratis by the Traders for every animal if they expend more it is charged to the Hunters account

The allowance of fresh meat for one man exclusive of Bone is 5 lb a Woman half that & for every child 1 to 1 ½ lb p[er] Day of dry provisions 2 lb 1 & ¾ respectively the same allowance of any other kind of provisions Fish 7 ½ lb p[er] day p[er] man but in general they have more when they can be got. The natives particularly the Stone Indians or Assiniboyne every winter when the Buffalo are plentiful make ponds or strong fences of wood 6 feet high from 20 to 80 yds and square in each of the 4 sides into which the Buffalo are driven in droves sometimes as many as above 200 at one time they must then be every one killed before any one dares venture within the enclosure to cut the best of the animals in pieces for present use: make dry provisions for the trade with us when the Pond is so choked up with carcuses that those who enter in jump over the fence & escape the Indians leave it and move some little distance where they erect another

The horns of the young bulls very probably might be valuable when made into drinking cups &c as they take a very fine polish and are all got black, and may be purchased from the Indians

[Fo. 4d]

in considerable quantities and at a small expense as 2 horns for one pint of Indian Rum which is Leward Island rum mixed with 3 or 4 times the same quantity of water Some Red Deers horns might be collected but they are so bulky & unwieldy for carriage that they would not pay the expense of carriage to the sea coast. The furs traded in this district 1813 to 1816 were generally rats (now 1819) there is scarcely one to be seen. Wolves also abound but they have been of in no repute these several years past so that the Indian are not desired to killed them in great numbers Red Foxes are tolerably plenty as also Kitt Foxes Beavers & Bears formerly plentiful now scarce the former owing to some disease coming among them about the beggining of this century extended its baneful influence thro' this entire country we are acquainted with but about Moose and East Main Inland that contagion seems not to have extended its baneful effects as in all other parts the Traders from Hudsons Bay frequent — Indeed this district has now very few valuable furs in it so that it will not cover its own expences but on account of the Atabasca being Settled dry provisions must be had and this and the Saskatchewan are the two principal places where every spring near 1000 bags of Pimigan of 80 lb each is traded from the Indians: besides a very

considerable quantity of dry meat. The price we give to the Indians generally is for 20 lb dry provisions in knives, Tobacco, Amunition & all the other small articles may average $\frac{1}{2}^d$ per lb in Trade but several presents are always given such as near $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Lew^d Is^d Rum & one foot Tobacco each man and those who bring in considerable quantities a knife or two

[Fo. 5]

awl steel gun worm &c a longer piece of Tobacco & more Rum.

The Red Dear is the most numerous & large animal & constitutes in some seasons the principal part of the subsistence of Trader & Natives when the Buffalo is scarce they generally keep near woods a few grown Buck will weigh equal to a cow buffalo & they commonly keep in herds from 10 to above one hundred The females generally bring forth two at a time in spring. The meat is tender but the fat hard the next animal which sometimes are numerous is the Jumping Deer not above $\frac{1}{3}$ the weight of the Red Deer they frequent the Plains in large bands in summer (here) in winter they are much scarcer migrating to the Southward towards the Missouri & beyond Their flesh & fat is nearly similar to the Red Deer

Sturgeon ascend the Red & Assiniboyne Rivers every spring and pass Brandon House on their way up about 10 or 14 days after the Ice breaks up which is about 23^d april some of them ascend as high as Shell River they return about the middle of June towards Lake Winipeg & the natives generally make fences across the river to prevent their descent when they reserve and kill them when required the greatest part of the Summer for their subsistence they in general weight from 30 to one hundred lbs. The wild Turnip is plentiful thro' the plains & frequently used by the natives both as a delicacy & means of subsistence

V. On the Climate Vegetation &c

The climate of this district is much milder than towards the north The winter commences or rather the river freezes over at Brandon House generally the first week in November last year 1817 which was very early the river froze over here

[Fo. 5d]

23^d oct^r some seasons it keeps open till the beginning of Dec^r the difference between winter & Summer in the extreme in the extreme [sic] heats & colds is between 130° tp 140 on the Farenheit scale descending to 44 below zero & rising to upwards of 94 above but the winter on average in general is seldom lower than 10 below the cypher & some few days in this period a slight thaw. The snow generally falls & remains in

the month of December what falls before generally melts away. Rain sometimes fall in the winter which includes Dec^r & the three following months & the regular thaw generally commences about the 20th march and in less than 10 days all the snow is melted except in the thickets and deep vallies but the whole is off by the first may even in those places. The depth of snow that fell during the whole season from the first to the last average between 20 & 30 Inches but on level in the month of march it is generally from 10 to 18 Inches. The spring months have sometimes storms of wind & thunder even so early as march within these last 3 years the climate seems to be greatly Changed the summers being so backward with very little rain & even snow in Winter much less than usual and the ground parched up that all kinds of grass is very thin & short & most all the small creeks that flowed with plentiful streams all summer have entirely dried up after the snow melted away in the spring for these several years loaded craft could ascend up as high as the Elbow or Charlton House but these last 3 summers it was necessary to Convey all the goods from the Forks by land in carts one horse in each and dragging between 500 lb & 600 lb.

Wheat, Barley, & potatoes have been cultivated here a few years back to a considerable extent last summer a considerable quantity was sown & planted of the kinds above mentioned, but owing to the very dryness of the season not even a single

[Fo. 6]

stalk was reaped or potatoe taken up and here before when showery summers the wheat would produce above 40 Barley 45 and potatoes 50 fold. Even all the smaller kinds of vegetables failed from the same cause but the first week in Aug^t last clouds of Grasshoppers came & destroyed what little barley especially had escaped the drought These insects make their appearance in great numbers generally about every 18 years & come from the southward The corn is sown here about the first may & reaped first Aug^t the wheat requiring 3 weeks longer in coming to maturity The turnips generally sown about the 20 to 30 June the hay is ready for cutting about the beginning of Aug^t but only low bottoms produce any quantity that is good There is a large purple flower that blooms in Ap^r generally springing up large even in a few days after the snow is melted. The most prevalent winds in summer is from the South westward in Winter between north west & East several Turtle are found in the Red & Assiniboine rivers shell of some above 12 Inches over

VI Advantages and Disadvantages

The principal advantage of this district is particularly in being able to procure a great quantity of dry provisions and Tallow. Also from the quantity of excellent oak good staves may be had for 10 gallon Rundlets to contain Rum &c and when the Colony is well established which I expect soon will be that in 3 years hence at farthest a sufficiency of Flour, meal, Pork & Rum may be made here to serve all the people of Trade belonging to the Honorable Company Tobacco might even be raised here in any quantity for the purpose of Trade if any people were here who understood the manufacturing it proper for trade, Salt & Mapple sugar can also be had in great quantities the former can be easily made by the Europeans & sugar by the Natives. Cordage also may be raised & made on the spot if persons qualified

[Fo. 6d]

were at the settlement. Coals are said to be found in Pambina hills 30 miles from Fort Dair in great quantities: There are also Lime & Ironstone in that vicinity so that even Iron might be produced in the spot. The principal Disadvantage is the small quantity of valuable furs to be procured in the district the Beaver being nearly extirpated & the country to open and clear of woods for proper places for the smaller fur bearing animals. In some seasons especially for these 3 last summers the water has been so shoal in Red & Assiniboyne Rivers more especially the latter that no loaded boat or canoe could ascend even so high as Brandon House whereas boats and canoes tolerably loaded have formerly ascended the north branch as high as Charlton House lately called Fort Hibernia 20 miles above the Elbow where are settlements The goods & men going overland nearly 120 miles from Swan River House at which place the Craft discharge their cargoes some part taken by land in the fall the rest dragged on sledges in winter and all the returns in furs & provisions have been till now taken by the same route at a great expense in provisions for dogs and men one dog consuming as much as nearly a man & the custom is to have always 3 in one sledge and seldom take above 250 lb at most what is called Company cargo. The Indians I believe are becoming more lazy than formerly they are also much more troublesome and daring were they more industrious many more furs might be got than is killed by them. Almost every spring the natives are obliged to collect in large bands for fear of their enemies the Sioux and other tribes who inhabit along the banks of the Missouri river. But there is little danger of them doing any injury to the settlers or settlement as they invariably wish to be on friendly terms with the Europeans. This district is subject in almost a constant periodical term of every 18 years to be greatly

hurt by immeasurable scourges of grasshoppers that sometimes they scarcely leave a single green leaf but this is only partial in spots

[Fo. 7]

where such dreadful havoc is made by them.

The 3^d aug^t last at 2 PM innumerable swarms arrived at the settlement of Fort Douglas they seemingly came from the south west the same evening they attacked the barley & cut much down cutting the stem a little below the ear. At Birsay a village of some of the old servants of the H.B. Co 20 miles above the Forks they appeared e days earlier and at Pambina a few days sooner a small caterpillar at times are also hurtful to the leaves &c

VII Number & situation of the Posts in the District

Begging at Lake Winipee the first Post occupied by the Coy is 2 or 3 miles up Riviere au mort or Netly Creek on the west bank of the Red River for these several years the trade from there is very trifling since the rats & Beaver have become scarce. The second Post is at the Forks or junction of the Red & Assiniboyne river on the north side established by us 2 years and by the N.W.Co in 1811. Brandon House 6 miles above the Souris River on the south side and established in 1793.

The next Post up the Assiniboyne river is Beaver Creek 20 miles by land from Riviere qui' appell House established in 1817. The other post is below the Turtle river about 15 miles by land above Pambina these are the different trading posts in the district inhabited this winter. 2nd Dead river House 3 very poor small Houses. At the Forts large buildings are beginning to be erected & to be enclosed with excellent oak piquets. Brandon House is in a ruinous state occasioned by the wabrules (or half breeds) in 1816 – a small new house was built here last summer 30 by 14 feet there are a smith & coopers shops also a trading room Provisions stores and 2 stables with houses for the men & Indians when they come to the Houses to Trade. At Beaver creek there are several buildings as being a great place for the stone Indians & enclosed with Poplar piquets about 35 yds square. 3^d the only place at present where there are gardens are at the Forts, Brandon House & Beaver Creek, At the Forks last summer about 2 acres in cultivation (purchased with

[Fo. 7d]

small house from a freeman) planted with potatoes a little wheat & Barley but the grasshoppers destroyed the whole of the latter this spring. the ground is considerably enlarged making use of the plow. At Brandon House last summer the Barley was

destroyed by the grasshoppers & the great & almost continuous drought entirely destroyed the potatoes turnips &c &c so that there was not the least benefit derived from the labor. Since 1812 there was always good crops of everything until 1816 when the dry summers Commenced the land here under cultivation was upwards of 3 English acres at Beaver Creek about half an acre enclosed which produced a few potatoes & a few kegs barley with some other smaller vegetables but the dry weather greatly deteriorated the expected produce. This spring they are going to enlarge the garden a little but at present (22^d ap. 1819) the season has every appearance of being as dry as latterly. 4th The quality of the soil at Dead River is dark rich mould. at the Forks rather more sandy but produces good returns. at Brandon House still more sandy but in wet or rainy seasons produces abundant crops. Beaver creek better soil not so sandy as at Bⁿ House and generally tolerable crops. 5th Generally the spade & Hoe is used by turning over the soil in the spring when the seed is put in. at Brandon House the Plow is used, manure is seldom used except for raising Cucumbers, melons or onions, The wheat & Barley is cut down with the sickle & the potatoes taken up generally with the spade sometimes with the plow and are secured generally in cellars within the House well covered with grass to secure them as well as the turnips from the post. 6th Potatoes, at the trading establishments have generally been the most attended to which was first introduced into these parts about the year 1780 these with a few cabbage & Turnips constituted the whole produce of the gardens till within these 8 or 10 years wheat particularly Barley have been raised at several of the

[Fo. 8]

Trading posts. (Excellent potatoes can be raised in the Atabasca as well as cabbage. Wheat & Barley very probably would not come to maturity there When I wintered at Atabascow Lake we had good gardens there in 1803-4 & 5 and the Canadians followed our example). The Wheat produce 40 the Barley 45 and the Potatoes about 50 bushels for one sown the Potatoes are generally put into the ground about 10th May & taken up middle oct^r but they are eatable after 25th July. Oats have as yet been tried but in very small quantities but they produced well & of a good body 7th The Cultivation of this River may be extended with one additional hand to more than treble the ground under present culture. Millstones might also be had to reduce it into flour &c Where horses may be had as in this river several acres might be sown with wheat, Barley, &c but the few men generally left Inland would not be able to secure the whole crop that might be put in the ground in the Spring without any additional expence. 8th Sturgeon which passes by here (Brand. House) about 10th May every spring would

afford a very ample supply for many people – some of them a seen as high as shell river more than 800 miles by the River – The natives frequently make fences of wood to prevent their descent to Lake Winipee and by this means preserve a constant and very ample supply for summer. The traders sometimes pursue this Indian method a few Burbat or what is Commonly called here Cat fish about 8 to 12 lb each – There are also flat fish about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ each besides 2 or three other kinds. Buffaloe are in general plentiful in this district particularly the southern & Western parts of it also Red Deer and some moose Deer or Elk in the Turtle mountains which is like an island in the open plains about 25 Miles long by near 10 wide very woody interspersed with numerous small Lakes & a few creeks which discharges itself into the Soure or sandy river, formerly plenty of Beaver in it now very few. as the country wherever I have been & by the invariable information of the different

[Fo. 8d]

Tribes I have enquired at agree that the country is becoming much drier than formerly & numbers of small Lakes become good farm land well covered with Timber of various kinds but generally Willows or Poplar or ash is the first produce. There are a number of small Lakes East of Brandon House that produce the Lizina aquatic or Wild rice a few years ago an Indian sowed some in 2 or 3 places on south side the assiniboine which grew & multiplied where the water is too deep or the seasons too dry very slender Crops are brought to maturity

VIII On the men Employed in the District

The men employed last year in 1817=18 in this district at three posts viz: the Forks, Brandon House & Beaver Creek was upwards of 65 which was double the number absolutely required for the Companys business. Many of them were Meurons who came from Canada summer of 1817 and Canadians. This season or 1818=19 there are employed 48 men which is still too numerous for the Indian Trade but this super abundance partly arises from the last summer having all the goods for the supply of the Colony to bring up from the Bay in addition to what is required for the Trade only

At present it seems necessary to have a Trading Post at the Forts where 5 or even 4 men are sufficient to winter at after the necessary buildings are erected

At Brandon House 10 men may be required and at Beaver Creek 18 to 20 may be necessary on account of the great numbers of Stone Indians who Trade there. One Trading Post about Turtle river or near the entrance of the red Lake river or the grand

Forks for the purpose of the Soteux Trade 12 men would be sufficient there. There winters at the Forks & the small outpost of 5 men at Dead River 18 men at Brandon House the same number and at Beaver Creek 22 men There are usually left Inland for the summer 5 each at the 2 Upper houses 3 would be sufficient for the Forts after the necessary buildings are erected which are now in a fair way of being soon. Mr. Duncan Graham with 2 or 3 Canadian Clerks and about 20 men winter at the head waters of the

[Fo. 9]

Red River between the Sioux & Soteux Country where plenty of Beaver is said to abound being on the borders of those Tribes who are frequently at war with each other but whether much is said to be there of Beaver as yet very little has been done but a very heavy loss incurred tho' pursued now 3 seasons. The masters or Traders who at present winter in this District beginning at Lake Winipic & ascending Westwards are at Dead River Mr. John Stett at the Forks Mr. James Sutherland chief of the Department & Mr. Loutit writer with John Ram Kipling as Interpreter. at Brandon House Mr Peter Fidler with Charles Fidler a coabrule Interp^f

At Beaver Creek House Mr Duncan Finlayson & Mr J R^d Mackay with Geo. Setter as assistant and Francis Monjenil as Interpreter for the Cree Language. We are miserably off in this River for the Stone Indians altho this district has been established these 20 years not a single person has been able to acquire the Assiniboyne language never being sent to learn it so that we are always beholden to Indian women to act as Interpreters in that Language which is never so trusty and beneficial as our own people This year it is intended to send a man along with the Stone Indians for 2 years by that time he will have acquired a sufficiency of the language for every essential purpose. as all the particular papers are at the Forks I have it not in my power to specify every particular as to Character &c &c. which information will be found in the books there. But there is a census of the Free Canadians & others at the two periods of 1814 & 19.

[Fo. 9d]

A List of Free Canadians &c In Red River District									
District	Name	3 March 1819				14 Feby 1814			
		Men	Wom	Boy	Girl	Men	Wom	Boy	Girl
Qu'Appelle	Francis Dechamps Sen ^r	1	1	4	2	1	1	1	
Qu'Appelle	Francis Dechamps Jun ^r	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	
Qu'Appelle	Jos. Dechamps or Gros Tate	1	1		2	1	1		
Qu'Appelle	Humphrey Favel - Trader	1	1	4	2				
Qu'Appelle	Thomas Favel - Trader	1	1	3	2				

Qu'Appelle	David Sanders - Trader	1	1						
Brandon House	Andre Trocher Senr (Trottier)	1	1	4	3	1	1	2	
Brandon House	Andre Tocher Junr (Trottier)	1	1	3	1				
Brandon House	Michel Francis	1	1	2	4				
Brandon House	Jos. Bonneaux Senr	1	1	4	3	1	1	3	2
Brandon House	Pierre Bolleaux	1	1						
Brandon House	Antoine Azur	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Brandon House	Jos. Azure	1	1	2					
Brandon House	Antoine Fannier (Fournier)	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	
Brandon House	Annie Poetras, his mother & sister	1	2						
Brandon House	Jos. Vivier	1	1	4	2	1	1	1	2
Brandon House	Jos. FallerDeaux	1	1	1		1	1		1
Brandon House	Baptiste LaDeaux	1	1	3	1				
Pambina & Forks	Jos. Botteneaux	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	5
Pambina & Forks	Antoine Tranchemontagne	1	1	3	1	1	1	4	1
Pambina & Forks	Jos. Dauphine	1	1		2	1	1		2
Pambina & Forks	Old Adam	1	1	1	1	1		1	1
Pambina & Forks	Bell Gaurde	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	
Pambina & Forks	Louis Belahemare	1		1	1	1		1	1
Pambina & Forks	Lagemoniere	1	1	3	4	1	1	2	4
Pambina & Forks	Jos. Ducharme	1	1		1				
Pambina & Forks	Pierre Ducharme	1	1	1	3				
Pambina & Forks	Menasem	1	1			1	1		
Pambina & Forks	Old Amell	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Pambina & Forks	Jos. La Plante	1	1	3	2				
Pambina & Forks	Cattena La Plante	1	1		1	1	1		2
Pambina & Forks	Antoine Marsellais	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	1
Pambina & Forks	Baptiste Marsellais	1	1	2					
Pambina & Forks	Antoine Pelletier	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	1
Pambina & Forks	Bostonais Pangman	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2
Pambina & Forks	Colish Ducharme	1	1	2	1				
Pambina & Forks	Baptiste Le Roy	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2
Pambina & Forks	Bazil Bellhanger	1	1			1	1		
Pambina & Forks	Jos. Hamelin	1	1	4	4	1	1	4	3
Pambina & Forks	Antoine Bercier	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fo. 10									
Pambina & Forks	Jos. Loosey	1				1			
Pambina & Forks	Jos. Langee	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Pambina & Forks	Mine	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pambina & Forks	Jos. Caddotte	1			2	1			2
Pambina & Forks	Angus McDonald	1	1	2	1	1		1	1
Pambina & Forks	Laverdure	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	3
Pambina & Forks	Nicholas Ducharme	1	1	3	3	1	1	3	2
Pambina & Forks	Baptiste Demarais	1	1	4	5	1	1	3	4

	Stony Interpreter								
Pambina & Forks	Delorme	1	1	3	3	1	1	3	3
Pambina & Forks	Dubois	1	1			1	1		
Pambina & Forks	McKay	1	1	4	3	1	1	3	2
Pambina & Forks	Vandal	1	1			1	1		
Swan River	Antoine Ducharley	1	1	2	2				
Swan River	Antoine Pluff	1	1	2	1				
Swan River	Lamere	1							
Swan River	Montraï	1	1	3	2				
Pambina 1814	Monteour					1	1		
Pambina 1814	Lafevere					1	1		
Pambina 1814	Charles Hesse					1	1		
Pambina 1814	Baptiste					1			
Pambina 1814	Fausseneuve					1	1		
	In 1814					43	37	49	52
	In 1819	57	54	103	95				
Settlers (servants of the H.B.C. lately)									
	Magnus Spence	1	1	4	4				
	John Spence								
	James Sandison Sen ^r								
	Robert Sandison								
	James Spence								
	Oman Norquay								
	Whitford								
	James Monkman	1	1	2	3				

Fos. 10d

IX Of the Indians

In this district the stone Indians are by far the most numerous. They inhabit generally between Brandon House and below the Elbow or Fort Hibernia on the South side [of] the Assiniboyne River 4/6th of them Trade at Qui appelle & Beaver Creek 1/6 at Fort Hibernia & the other 1/6 at Brandon House. They are estimated in the whole who visit these three posts at upwards of 540 Tents each Tent generally Containing on average 2 married men with at least 3 woemen as many of them have two wives & some few of them as high as six with generally 3 children may be safely taken on an average for every married woman so that the whole population of the stone Indians or assiniboynes for who frequent this side may be taken at a tolerably near estimate at 1080 men 1620 woemen & 4860 children at different ages & sexes. Tho' the females are about the proportion of 6 to 4 1/2 men or nearly one half more females than men being in a greater proportion than is generally in Europe. The various tribes of the kind speak the same language so that on the whole they are by far the most numerous of any other Indian nations we are acquainted with; They are of a

bold warlike disposition and great thieves & like all other Tribes in these parts keep their woemen under a great submission they doing all the drudgery the men only killing the animals for subsistence The rest wholly devolving on their helpmates, They are kind to their children & never correct them by blows for any fault they may commit. 2^d Their condition on the whole is such that I believe they consider themselves happy. The men have a great [unclear] to gaming especially in the summer months which they consider the most pleasant period of the seasons. at which time but more particularly after the snow is melted away.

They are after being confined in some measure during the winter to their homes much more bold dancing & mischievous than in the fall or Winter

[Fo. 11]

since the Traders have had communication with them which has been for more than century past they are neither so happy & comfortable as before The great fondness for spirituous Liquors & the frequent Intemperance they commit makes them appear old before their time. It is a great pity strong liquors were ever introduced among them, as they would be much happier without it & should such a step be taken by the Company in absolutely prohibiting it the Trade would suffer very little if any after the first year or two 3rd the names of the Stone Indian Chiefs are at Beaver Creek

But tho' they are the heads of sometimes 50 to 80 tents they receive very little homage except they are good friends with the Traders from whom they receive presents twice a year both to encourage them to hunt provisions &c to keep their young men quiet not to steal our Horses &c but still we are obliged to be continually on our guard every summer. 4th the local situation of their hunting grounds are generally between the assiniboyne and Souri river or the height of land which separates the waters that fall into the Hudsons Bay or the Gulf of Mexico Some of the stone Indians extend even near the Rocky Mountains north of the Saskatchewan in a thick woody country & have been detached from the main body who frequent the plains at no distant period on account of quarrels amongst themselves very few or any visit the Forks or ever Pambina River. Tho' the old Indians say at the former place in their boyish days great numbers resorted but have since been gradually advancing more Westwards. 5th It does not appear that any of the separate Bands of stone or other Indians have hunting grounds peculiar to them but every one kills an animal or anything else wherever he choses & not the least notice is taken of it tho' it would not be well liked if any other tribe who spoke a different language should

[Fo. 11d]

hunt along in their accustomed places

6th as more of us know the names of the 20th part of the Stone Indians men who trade with us or at either House for no credits are given them now they are such cheats only to a few the more particular men we know the names of which are who Trade with us.

The Crees or southern Indians next to the stone Indians in number are about 130 tents who trade at the different Posts on the Assiniboyne River between the Forks & Fort Hibernia Those proportion of Women & Children are a trifle under the estimate of the Stone Indians so that the Crees may be rated at 200 men able to bear arms 260 women & 800 children

They are a more miserable Tribe than the Stone Indians owing to their immoderate fondness for Spirituous liquors when in a state of inebriety they will dispose of almost every thing they have They are a bald set of people & good Warriors but latterly become Indolent & kill but few furs their principal hunting ground is on the south side [of] the assiniboyne between Brandon House & Riviere Qui appelle some few winter on the north side which is more woody but fewer Buffaloe so on this account but a small proportion reside there

Thumby or aspek is our principal chief he showed himself in a brave manner for us at Qui appelle 1815 in the fall when Alex^r Macdonnell by means of his Brules wished to drive us from that place which is the principal provision Post & so distress or rather prevent us from having provisions to carry on the atabasca Trade which they so very much wish to Monopolize. When McDonell had sent two separate messages

[Fo. 12]

to Mr McKay our Master to depart within 24 hours several Crees happened to be then at the Houses. Thumby immediately sent away the Woemen & Children & the men all instantly prepared for war The NWCo seeing the determination of the Natives refrained from putting their tremendous threats in execution so we remained till May unmolested Yorstones Guide or the Little Rattlesnake or Michel aque thoo. Is the NWCo principal Chief a young resolute strong man and of a bad disposition This is the reason they made him a chief & just at the time they plundered our settlement in 1816 that they might have with his followers his assistance in any dirty work they intended to Commit. But notwithstanding the frequent presents of Chiefs Clothing Rum & various other articles he was never induced to commit any violence toward what the NW term the English. It has been a constant custom to advance credits to these Ind^s every fall in particular but they have so very frequently cheated those who

furnished them that since last year only a very select few are advanced anything & it is fully intended to advance none this fall by either party by this means I believe the trade will be better at least cheaper had. And when the Indians find no advances made they will be more induced to exertion to procure them. The Crees formerly wintered on the North side & below this place towards the Manitoba Lake. They very seldom go further north than the Turtle mountain to Hunt.

X The Bungees or Soteaux are about 80 Tents who Inhabit this district the greater part of them in the lower part of it about the settlement and some up the Red River above Fort Dair Their estimated numbers of men Capable of

[Fo. 12d]

bearing arms is 150 men about 170 married woemen & between 4 & 500 Children They go very dirty in the winter in particular the woemen In summer the young men are very dressy & clean. They usually were good Fur Hunters but latterly their exertions in that respect has been slender particularly since the colonists arrived in this quarter as they receive many presents which enables them to live without that exertion they had been accustomed to. 40 years ago there was scarce a single Bungee in this district they have come from Rainy Lake & that quarter & finding the country much more plentiful in provisions than their own preffered remaining here formerly they were rigidly honest in paying their Credits but now they are become free as great cheats as the rest of their neighbours Peguis or the cut nose Chief only made by Captain Macdonald in 1812 on the first arrival of the Colonists who happened with a few others to be present on the first coming of the settlers was the cause of his being first particularly noticed He has always been very friendly to the Colonists & his band which is annually augmenting from at first only abut half a dozen to now more than 4 times that number He is looked on as the first chief by the settlers but the Premiere an older man late from Rainy Lake is considered by the natives as the greatest chief but his influence is declining very fast even among his countrymen He is sly insinuating & on the whole a bad character Whereas Peguis is open & generous ever ready to render the colonists any assistance he can. The black man an other Soteaux Chief who generally resides higher up the Red River towards the Lake of that name he is an elderly man of a gentle

[Fo. 13]

& open disposition and friendly to all the Whites Black Cat another newly made chief but not deserving that distinction generally resides about Portage De Prairie

These chiefs all received medals from the Colony last fall along with their annual present of Rum Tobacco ammunition & Clothing Altho the agreement signed by Lord Selkirk & the 5 Chiefs only specify that the Soteaux shall annually receive as a quit Rent 100 lb Tobacco & the Crees the same quantity but the Crees have not as yet received any part No proper officer having been sent to meet them at the Portage De Prairies belonging to the Colony but next October it is fully intended that the Crees shall have the stipulated quantity distributed amongst the 2 or 3 principal men of that Tribe

XI Account of the Canadians or NW Company

1st Their Establishments at present in this district are the first 12 miles from Lake Winipic only built last fall Mr. Harrison Master & perhaps 3 or 4 men & who receive as well as our Post lower down very little from the Indians. Their next Post os at the Forks of the Red & assiniboyne River on the left bank first built in 1811, pulled down June 1816 by Governor Semple & Mr Robertson that the N.W. should find as shelter as the year before to annoy the Colonists they began in July 1817 to rebuild it & have enclosed the whole with excellent sawn oak piquets 14 feet above ground set very close together like a continued wall about 100 feet square Their large dwelling House is not yet built but to be this summer & Mr. McKenzie a young clerk is master there this winter with about 4 or 6 men. At Pambina

[Fo. 13d]

River close to Fort Dair they have an other establishment where Mr. or one Eyed Grant a partner is master there this winter with about 6 men to 8 & has made there about 40 Packs of Furs; at present they have no other post in this district higher up. Mr. Graham & partner being at the height of land, have no Canadian opponents up the assiniboyne River the first post is Brandon House called by them Riviere la Souri where Mr. Poctras with 12 to 14 men resides, it is on the left bank whereas ours is just opposite on the other side. They have made here this season 20 packs of Furs & Dresst Moose, Deer & Buffaloe skins & about 210 bags of Pemigan. The next Post occupied by the NWCo is at River Qui Appelle about 20 miles from the assiniboyne on the south side. This is their principal place: and Posts in this river & I believe in any part of the Country I know Mr. McBain a partner Winters there with near 20 men They have a custom & I believe a good one that they hire Brules & freemen for the Winter only to well man their Houses & in spring they are again at liberty By this means they have less wages to pay than by keeping them the whole year round &

fewer men can bring up the goods than what is necessary at the Houses in the winter season

Their returns from Qui Appelle are the most considerable this year they will have at least 1200 pieces of Provisions & perhaps near 20 Packs of Furs. They have been alone there these 3 last Winters & summers & the Indians have been so very troublesome & daring that this spring they are going totally to abandon it & erect new buildings at Beaver Creek within 200 yards of our House as not a man of them [Fo. 14] would agree to remain Inland at their old place.

The Indian scalped last summer & otherwise wounded 3 young persons belonging to the NWCo. The post at Qui Appelle has been established near 40 years but the buildings have been removed 2 or 3 times to other spots in that interval on acct. of the fire wood being so far to fetch.

2nd The men employed at their 5 different Posts this Winter is about 48 to 52 men Proprietors Clerks & Interpreters included. In the summer this generally leaves 8 to 10 at Qui appelle 4 at Brandon House 3 at the Forks & perhaps the same number may be left at Pambia altho none remained there last Season Nobody remains at the Posts below the Forks in summer.

3rd The NWCo generally bring here into the district 8 loaded canoes & one half loaded with the Head master The whole quantity of Trading Goods may amount to between 170 & 190 pieces but the far greater proportion is Rum perhaps not 250 yds cloth in the whole department for the Indian Trade

4th Their returns principally consist in Pimigan & Buffalo Robes The provisions trade is very uncertain in some seasons they have brought from Qui Appelle alone upwards of 900 bags of Pimigan of 85 each. And at other times their whole Trade from the same place would not amount to 400 bags. This season as well as the last has been abundant in Provisions Those they may have 25 Packs of Furs of all descriptions principally Wolves & from 4 to 600 Buffalo Robes. Also near 100 Bales Dry meat Some seasons at

[Fo. 14d]

Pambia a considerable quantity of Pemigan is made more than 200 bags But the Sauteaux are much dearer to Trade with than the stone Indians.

XII On the Trade The amount of provisions & Furs in this district this Spring 1819 collected at the following places. Viz belong^g the HBC^o

	Men	Bags Pemigan 80 lbs	Bales Dried Meat 100 lbs	Fat lbs	Tongues & Bosses	Packs of Fur	Drest Skins	Buffalo Robes
Beaver Creek	23	873	60	4129	1800	278	14	232
Brandon House	18	300	68	612	727	31	26	16
Forks	13							
Dead River	5							

2^d Trade in Furs cannot be increased in this quarter even when the men & goods doubled There are even to many men at present employed for the value of the Trade procured & were it not from the absolute necessity of having dry provisions to carry in the Athabasca Trade all the furs in this district might be collected with less than half the number of men at present employed in it as I believe all out other Establishments to the South of Isle a la Crosse could be carried on effectively without a single pound of provisions being taken from their District. along the height of land which divides the waters that fall into the Gulf of Mexico & Hudson Bay between the Sioux & Soteaux & Cree country there are a considerable number of Beaver but on the borders; the different Tribes are afraid to go to kill them Mr. Graham has been there these 3 Winters but has had little success in procuring Beaver tho' he has had a great supply of Men & goods on the whole were the Colony to fetch up their own goods from the Bay & the Athabasca entirely & firmly established there would not be

[Fo. 15]

the least occasion for half the number of men as at present in this River to purchase and Carry away everything valuable

P. Fidler

[Fo. 15d]