

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY					
1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference:—  
B60/e/3

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH—NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY OR OTHERWISE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, LONDON

# Hudson's Bay Company.

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

SECTION B

CLASS 60

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 3

DESCRIPTION EDMONTON  
REPORTS on DISTRICT

1818 - 1820

**NOTICE** THESE COPIES ARE SUPPLIED FOR INFORMATION AND RESEARCH ONLY. NO REPRODUCTION EITHER OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT OR OF THESE NEGATIVES, OR OF PRINTS FROM THEM, MAY BE MADE OR USED FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, LONDON, ENGLAND.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY					
1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference:—

B60/e/3

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH—NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY OR OTHERWISE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, LONDON

# Hudson's Bay Company.

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

SECTION B

CLASS 60

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 3

DESCRIPTION EDMONTON  
REPORTS on DISTRICT

1818 - 1820

NOTICE

THESE COPIES ARE SUPPLIED FOR INFORMATION AND RESEARCH ONLY. NO REPRODUCTION EITHER OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT OR OF THESE NEGATIVES, OR OF PRINTS FROM THEM, MAY BE MADE OR USED FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, LONDON, ENGLAND.

HUDSON'S  
BAY COMPANY  
B Co E

M  
*Handwritten notes:*  
C  
11/18-19 1912



Reports on the State of Edmonton District for the  
Year 1818-19



On the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1818, I set out from  
Edmonton House for York Landing with eight boats and ten  
canoes furnished by barter with furs and provisions and on  
my departure from home left William Platt in charge of  
the District for the summer, with six boats, four Indian  
boats and fifteen men to pass the summer at the dif-  
ferent posts of the district viz. Edmonton House, Tanana,  
Beny River House, and Fort St. John. On my arrival  
at Dog Knave Creek House I determined about first, as it was  
considered too dangerous a situation to leave people at during  
the summer on account of its being placed exactly between  
the Slave Indians and Slave Indian countries, which war  
has been for these four years past been at war with each  
other which circumstances has placed the boats not only at  
Dog Knave Creek, but at every other post in this River, in a  
very dangerous situation, as Indians in a state of warfare make  
very little distinction between boats and their enemies particu-  
larly our boats as supply their enemies with implements  
of war, as we do the Slave Indians at these upper settlements,  
in which account the Slave Indians and their have often  
threatened to prevent us proceeding higher up this River than  
Cudlow, but they have not as yet attempted to put their  
threats into execution - After taking every thing on board from  
Dog Knave Creek House, I gave William Platt orders if it  
was not attended with too much danger to re-establish that  
post about the middle of August on account of its being a  
good situation for procuring provisions from the Slave  
Indians, and then proceeded to trade furs with all my  
boats and canoes from whence returned to this District  
in the fall with thirty seven and four boats full of

goods for my Indian people. Having often severely reproached  
the different war parties that were then putting about the  
River - On my arrival at Big Horn Creek I found our  
people whom William Hall sent there in August to rear  
butcher that just, as well as the North West Company's  
people shut up in their Forts, by the Slave Indians with  
whom they had a skirmish a few days previous to my ar-  
rival at that place, in which one Slave Indian was killed  
and one of the N.W. Intepreters severely wounded, of which  
by dead shortly after, this offering arose from the Slave Indian  
attempting to pillage our people, as well as the North West  
Company's people, of their horses, which both parties of course  
departed to the utmost of their power in the several efforts  
for a detailed account of this offering. Knowing that the  
lack of this Slave Indian, would punish his Countrymen  
to oppress our people, as well as the North West Company's  
people of left to pass the winter there, my different Duties  
and I determined on our own abandoning that post, which  
we accordingly did, and took all the paper and property  
to Edmonton House, but abandoned the cut post at  
Sour Lake, as only a few Indians remained in the  
vicinity of that place, with whom I sent people to pass  
the winter for the purpose of taking care of their Livestock  
generally the only posts left up in the District during the  
winter were Edmonton House, and Summer Camp near  
House at the former post the Slave Indians trade also, and at  
the latter the Swampy Ground Slave Indians, and their  
were two Indians. In the fall of the year previous to  
giving orders to my Indians to enter into the following ag-  
reement with my opponent viz that the Slave Indians, on  
account of their being so very numerous and consequently  
many of them unknown to us, and also on account of  
their getting no credits, should have free liberty to trade  
with whatever party they thought proper, and that the Swampy

27  
Ground Slave Indians, and that our own Indians as they are  
regular traders, we are known to us, and regularly receive credits,  
should remain exclusively with the party with whom they have  
habitual trade, without the opposition having the least prospect  
of having any dealings with them, such an arrangement  
when the Indians are really guilty traders, will readily ap-  
pear to be much to the Company's interest when the opposition  
is much stronger than we are. This agreement was strictly  
observed by both parties during the winter, but towards spring  
it was violated upon by the Slave Indians as there was not  
much frost or snow, on either side, it was resumed in the  
spring to continue during the ensuing summer. The Indians  
all made tolerable good hunts during the winter, and prepared  
to our departure from home in the spring my opponent  
and I succeeded so far as to get some beaver and musk  
the waters, which is an object we have often attempted to ac-  
complish but in which we never till now succeeded, and by  
the accomplishment of this object we will be enabled to carry  
in our traps with much more security than a former year  
three four years past, nothing else worth saying this year  
worth observation.



Very little vegetation has been  
made at Edmonton, either to the buildings or gardens, since  
the last annual reports on the state of the District went home,  
but the buildings have repeatedly undergone repairs, and are  
still in a good state. The buildings at the outposts are  
very temporary, as they are not likely to be long kept up.  
The extent of ground in cultivation at Edmonton House  
has not more than four acres which produced last year, seven and  
a half bushels of Wheat, one hundred and twenty bushels of  
Barley, and three hundred and twenty five bushels of Potatoes  
besides a quantity of turneps, cabbages, &c. The crop of Wheat  
was almost entirely destroyed by a heavy fall of snow, which  
laid it flat to the ground, as it was beginning to ear, and

It seems full of more than any great injury to our Corp of  
Savage.

It is a pleasant part of my duty  
to inform my best employes, that the officers and men in  
general under my orders during the year, have shown the ut-  
most zeal for their employes, and have with a few exceptions  
on all occasions been obedient to my orders, though several  
of them are unfit for acting in opposition to transactions,  
I shall here mention them individually, Mr William Dorr  
Dorr is honest and industrious but is now from the length  
of his services nearly unfit for the service as a trader, on  
account of his temper from his age being too easily affected by  
the Indians, with the greater part of whom he is far from  
being beloved, however he is still very useful about a Post  
in the capacity of Steward, or overseer, - Mr Guy Dorr  
is a steady, obedient young man, and with a little more  
experience in business, will be capable of taking charge of a  
Post - Mr John Whitman during the short time he  
has been under my orders, by his industry and atten-  
tion to business has given me very satisfaction, and by  
a continuance of his present good behaviour, will be entit-  
led to promotion, - Mr William Taylor, has, for these  
two years past been in charge of the Post at Quamocun,  
Dorr Wood being unable to have conducted himself  
with the greatest propriety, and shown the utmost zeal  
for the Company's interest, but for want of education,  
is unqualified for holding a higher situation - Mr John  
Cook is now nearly run out in the service but is still,  
on account of his zeal for the interest of his employes  
entitled to their regard - Mr George Munie is not of  
much use at present, but may be of some service here-  
after, - James Whelanay, Slave Indian interpreter, serves  
himself in all occasions, to be a most interested servant, and  
is entitled by his zeal, to an advance of wages, -



James Dorr Dorr acts in the double capacity of trader, and  
Slave Indian interpreter, and on both capacities discharges  
his duty to my satisfaction - James Spence Dorr acts occa-  
sionally as Slave Indian interpreter and trader, but in either  
capacity displays but little activity or interest, and in  
fact his services deserve little more remuneration than  
the provisions himself and his large family consumes, -  
John Whitman's conduct last winter has been such as to  
make him liable to a very heavy fine, in the fall of  
the year I sent him out with a few Indians to take care of  
their furs, and when they with their furs were within but  
days march of one of the North West Companies Posts, he  
abandoned them to the mercy of our opponents without any  
reasonable cause and went to Upper Slave Lake, where he  
was well received and when he still remained, but previous  
to his leaving the Indians he entangled some of the  
Company's property that he had in charge - James  
Dorr has behaved himself during the time he has  
been with me, and is entitled to an advance of wages,  
on account of his being at all times ready and willing to  
do whatever is required of him - William Dorr is a pro-  
mising young man and seems to deserve the notice of his  
Superiors - Joseph Dorr Assistant bookkeeper is an indus-  
trious, active young man, and deserves the notice of his  
Superiors - William Craigie, is an obedient, stout man, but  
unfit for hard labour, he returns this year to West River  
Settlement - Hugh Craigie is a stout able hand and is at  
all times ready to do his duty with cheerfulness, but is rather  
too fond of Spiritous liquors - Richard Baker at times, is  
apt to be indolent, but is an active young man when going  
after Indians, he returns this spring to West River Settlement  
Arthur Campbell is a tolerable good boy, but is at times  
rather indolent to his Superiors - Malcolm Bennett is an  
industrious labourer, but only an indifferent trader -

James Dickson is a good blacksmith, but of a very disagree-  
-able, quarrelsome disposition, and often endeavours to spread  
-discord among his fellow servants - James Good  
-is an active voyager, and a good runner after Indians,  
-John Tomlinson is but a very indifferent blacksmith, and  
-if possible a still worse workman, the only thing he is  
-fit for is doing sundry work about a Fort. - James  
-Wilson is a sober, honest, interested servant, and is gene-  
-rally employed as a free Indian trader at our Outpost. -  
-Peter Holt is an active hand, but can never do any other  
-work without quarrelling. - Hugh Wilson is a weak hand, and is  
-almost unfit for the service, he is a mischief-making fellow  
-among his fellow servants - William Wilson is a good voy-  
-ager, as well as a good runner to Indians, Andrew Black  
-hand is at all times obedient, but is rather weak for hand  
-labour, Magnus May is a stout, able man, and does his  
-duty with cheerfulness. - David Johnston is a good voyager  
-and a tolerable good trader, with the free Indians. -  
-James Wright is an active spirited man, but is too proud  
-to be a common man, and too ignorant to be an officer.  
-Robert Kirkup is but an indifferent voyager, but an  
-excellent hand at a Fort. - William Leach is an active  
-young man, and is well serving an interest of things of  
-his command in the service, but he is to quit this evening  
-runner to New River Settlement. - Thomas Leach is  
-but an indifferent voyager, and a still worse runner to  
-Indians, but makes a very good dundge about a House.  
-John Mowbray has hitherto been obedient, and is a  
-tolerable good blacksmith on the voyage, but is of little  
-use as a runner to Indians, when there is a strong oppo-  
-sition. - John Martin is a tolerable good blacksmith  
-on the voyage, but of no use as a runner to Indians. -  
-John Mayman is a very good voyager, and a tolerable  
-good runner to Indians. - John Moore is an excellent

blacksmith, but is rather too fond of spiritous liquors, which often  
-prevents him attending to his business. - Kenneth Mac Donald  
-is a good blacksmith on the voyage, but of little service in  
-going after Indians, however his steadiness and good nature  
-will always entitle him to the esteem of his superiors. -  
-Kenneth Mac Donal has always done his duty to my satis-  
-faction, and will be a useful hand if he remains in  
-the service a short time longer. - John Mac Intyre, either as  
-a boatman or a runner to Indians is among the first  
-class of our people. - Charles Mackay is sober and steady  
-sent, and on account of his having a little education  
-I have sent him out with the Slave Indians to learn  
-their language, so that he may become an interpreter. -  
-James Mackay is an active spirited young man, and does  
-his duty either on the voyage or going after Indians to the  
-satisfaction of his superiors. - John Mac Donal is a tolerable  
-good boatman but is of very little use at a Fort, or in a  
-run to Indians. - Donald Mac Donal is a stout spirited  
-young man, and is a good hand when there is a strong  
-opposition to contend with. - Donald Mac Donal is steady  
-and obedient, and is one of the best men in the District.  
-John Mac Intyre is a good boatman, but only an in-  
-different blacksmith. - Donald Mac Donal is a tolerable  
-good boatman, and does his duty at the Fort very well. - John  
-Mac Intyre is neither a good boatman, nor a good worker at the  
-Fort, but does very well to hunt with Indians, for the purpose  
-of taking care of their furs as he understands the free lang-  
-uage tolerably well. - Robert Mac Donal is a tolerable good  
-boat steerer, and an able hand at any work about the  
-Fort, but is at times rather impatient to his superiors.  
-Magnus White is but a weak hand, but obedient. - George  
-Wells is an obedient young man, and does his duty either  
-on the voyage or at the Fort to his master's satisfaction. -  
-Donald Sinclair is a stout hand, but of course, this is his



James Dickson is a good blacksmith, but of a very disagree-  
able, quarrelling disposition, and often endeavours to spread  
discontent among his fellow servants - James Crockett  
is an active voyager, and a good runner after Indians,  
John Tombs is but a very indifferent blacksmith, and  
if possible a still worse workman, the only thing he is  
fit for is doing chandyng work about a Fort, - James  
Solter is a sober, honest, interested servant, and is gene-  
rally employed as Cree Indian trader at an Outpost, -  
Peter Platt is an active hand, but can never obey an order  
without quarrelling - Hugh Nelson is a weak hand, and is  
almost unfit for the service, - he is a mischief making fellow  
among his fellow servants - William Nelson is a good voy-  
ager, as well as a good runner to Indians, Andrew Black  
hand is at all times obedient, but is rather weak for hand  
labour, Magnus May is a stout, able man, and does his  
duty with cheerfulness, - David Johnston is a good voyager  
and a tolerable good trader, with the Cree Indians, -  
James Wright is an active spirited man, but is too proud  
to be a common man, and too ignorant to be an officer -  
Wesley Kirkup is but an indifferent voyager, but an  
excellent hand at a Fort, - William Leach is an active  
young man, and is well deserving an advancement of wages if  
he remained in this service, but he is to take this evening  
passage to West River Settlement - Thomas Leach is  
but an indifferent voyager, and a still worse runner to  
Indians, but makes a very good chandy about a House -  
John Morrison has hitherto been obedient, and is a  
tolerable good blacksmith on the voyage, but is of little  
use as a runner to Indians, where there is a strong oppo-  
sition - John Martin is a tolerable good blacksmith  
on the voyage, but of no use as a runner to Indians -  
John Mayman is a very good voyager, and a tolerable  
good runner to Indians - John Moore is an excellent

blacksmith, but is rather too fond of disputing reasons, which often  
prevents him attending to his business, Kenneth Mac Donald  
is a good blacksmith on the voyage, but of little service in  
going after Indians, however his obedience and good nature  
will always entitle him to the esteem of his superiors -  
Kenneth Mac Laid has always done his duty to my satis-  
faction, and will be a useful hand if he remains in  
the service a short time longer - John Mac Intyre, either as  
a blacksmith or a runner to Indians is among the first  
class of our people - Charles Mathew is sober and obed-  
ient, and on account of his having a little education  
I have sent him out with the Shaw Indians to learn  
their language, so that he may become an interpreter -  
James McKay is an active spirited young man, and does  
his duty either on the voyage or going after Indians to the  
satisfaction of his superiors - John Mac Laid is a tolerable  
good blacksmith but is of very little use at a Fort, or in run-  
ning to Indians - Donald Mac Laid is a stout spirited  
young man, and is a good hand when there is a strong  
opposition to contend with - Donald McIvor is steady  
and obedient, and is one of the bravest men in the District,  
- John McWhitie is a good blacksmith, but only an in-  
different blacksmith - Walter McIvor is a tolerable  
good blacksmith, and does his duty at the Fort very well - John  
McWhay is neither a good blacksmith, nor a good worker at the  
Fort, but does very well to hunt with Indians, for the purpose  
of taking care of their furs as he understands the Cree language  
very tolerably well - Robert Woodland is a tolerable good  
boat steerer, and an able hand at any work about the  
Fort, but is at times rather impatient to his superiors -  
Magnus White is but a weak hand, but obedient - George  
Woods is an obedient young man, and does his duty either  
on the voyage or at the Fort to his masters satisfaction -  
Donald Sinclair is a stout hand, but of course this is his



just you in the country, he has but little experience -  
John Shuman is an active, spirited, young man, and promises  
so far, to be deserving of promotion - George Spence has  
done no duty for these two years past, on account of his  
always being sickly, but when in health was a good hand  
at running after Indians in opposition to the transactions.  
- James Taylor at times is rather impatient, but is an able  
hand on the voyage, and tolerably active at running  
after Indians - John Tait is but a weak hand, and is  
for long little use either on the voyage, or at the Fort,  
except when he is employed trailering, at which he is toler-  
ably expert - John Ward Tait is a lazy drunken fellow,  
and on about recent he is to be discharged the same  
in the 1<sup>st</sup> of June next - George Ware is a good voyage,  
but a great drunkard, and for long little use at the  
Fort - Joseph Abraham is a good for nothing scoundrel -  
- Peter, Dr. Blair has been missing since last fall, since  
in the spring on the voyage going down the River, he  
escaped from the boat and could never after be found  
although every search was immediately made after him -

To make out a list of all the Indians  
who trade with us at this Post, it would be a thing nearly  
impossible, particularly of the Slave tribes who inhabit the  
plains, many of whom we as yet entirely unknown to us,  
and even those with whom we have any acquaintance,  
are not regular traders, as they trade indiscriminately with  
us, and the North West Company, according as they  
are better or worse paid at our place than the other, but  
upon the whole we obtain three fifths of all the Beaver taken  
by these numerous tribes, on account of us commonly hav-  
ing the greatest share of the Mackinac River Indians, which  
tribe being more Beaver than all the rest of the Slave  
tribes inclusively, and about one half of their other furs

and provisions - The Shickwood Cree Indians, and Saw-  
ney Grouse Stone Indians who inhabit the thick woods,  
are regular traders, and all receive presents which the  
greater part of them endeavor to pay, of the thick  
wood Cree, at least two thirds of the best fur traders  
among them trade with us, and about three fifths  
of the Sawney Grouse Stone nations trade with our  
opponents, but the Cree are far superior to the Stone  
Indians at hunting furs - By the agreement between  
us and the North West Company not to interfere with  
each others traders, of course there can be no increase or  
diminution of either of our settlements -



The transactions take out annu-  
ity from this Post about two thousand Beaver skins,  
seven thousand Martens, and of all other furs nearly  
the same quantity as ourselves, but they obtain nearly  
two fifths of these furs from the Canadian and Ingle  
trappers they retain in their service, these trappers are of  
great service to the North West Company, and give  
them a great advantage over us, for wherever there are  
Beaver to be found they immediately dispatch  
their trappers to hunt them, who have now nearly des-  
troyed all the Beaver in this quarter, I have for these  
two years past made use of every means in my power  
to disaffect these people towards the North West Com-  
pany, and if possible thought to draw them over entirely  
to our interest, but they are kept in such a state of  
subjection by that company, that I have succeeded in far  
less as yet, than getting a part of their hearts, however  
I have no doubt but in the course of a short time I  
will succeed in getting many of these useful people to  
enter our service - James Douglas a private, intended in  
change of this department for the opposition, and had  
under his orders four (Indians, viz) John Kowand, Henry

W. Hill, Robert Small, and William Shaw, and about seventy  
men - Angus Shaw formerly a partner in that concern was  
traded with Hughes in a private capacity, but it is said  
that he was sent into the interior by the Agents at then  
treated as a spy over the Huron's prophecies, by whom  
he is treated with the utmost contempt. - There has  
been nothing improper in the conduct of the transactions  
towards us during the winter, and they still seem de-  
termined to continue on amicable terms with us in this  
Department, which it is to our interest to do, so long  
as they allow us to retain the greatest part of the  
Indians with an inferior force -

The amount of our returns of furs  
this year in value is only a few pounds different from  
that of last year, though our expenses are considerably  
less, but our provision trade falls far short, owing to  
the Buffalo not being so numerous nor so near the  
Forts this season as last, consequently this failure in  
the provision trade, as well as the Auger of an abnor-  
mally moderate amount of snow considerably reduces our profits  
this year - We present to you various little or no im-  
provements that may be made in the management  
of the trade of this District, but should any alter-  
ations hereafter seem necessary, they shall be  
mentioned in next Years Reports -

Wm. H. Rorer

87  
Reports on the State of Edmonton District during the  
Year 1819-20

On my departure from Edmonton House  
for York Factory with the returns of this District  
May 18<sup>th</sup> 1819, I left Mr. William Hill in charge of  
Edmonton House and the Outpost at Summer Bay  
by River for the Summer, with a necessary establish-  
ment of Officers and men for these two Posts, but I  
also left Mr. John Park with one interpreter and  
three men to proceed to Old Fort House about the  
middle of July to reestablish that Post, which now  
becomes a necessary measure for the securing of the  
valuable Beaver trade which is continually to be pro-  
duced from the Shudley River Indians, and of which  
the North West Company have lately made an at-  
tempt to deprive us by forming an establishment be-  
yond the Rocky Mountains from the Columbia,  
within a few days march of the Shudley River Indian  
Country for that purpose. But the reestablishing of  
Old Fort House will defeat their designs, as that is the  
Post of all others, at which these Indians as well as the  
Salt Indians have the strongest inclination to trade,  
- but this post although of many to the means of pro-  
curing the Shudley River Indian trade, will considerably  
increase our expenses, and perhaps add but little to  
the amount of our returns - We the boys to and  
from York Factory nothing material occurred over at  
the District during the Summer but it may be neces-  
sary to observe that the Summer trade in furs  
and provisions was unusually bad, owing to the  
Indians being at a great distance from the Fords,  
However the prospects early in the fall were so



nothing that in but every season to anticipate with  
out returns. The Shuckard Indians collected in great  
numbers from all quarters and were felled out with  
their necessary supplies for the Winter so early as to  
enable them to reach their wintering ground in time  
to commence their fur hunting on the first setting in  
of the frost. They all went off in the highest spirits  
and seemed determined to exert themselves to the  
utmost of their power to pay their debts, and to pre-  
vent them being interrupted in their hunting during  
the Winter by the opposition. I entered into the same  
agreement with my Opponent (Mr. Vengades) that  
of last year but scarcely had these unfortunate  
creatures proceeded one days march from the South  
when they were attacked with the Malaria which  
has proved fatal to great numbers of them and  
those who survived through grief for the loss of their  
relations, gave up all thoughts of hunting and con-  
signed themselves to inactivity for the rest of  
the Winter. The beautiful season (for so it is called  
that season of the Year) as well as the hunting  
season, proved interrupted during the greater part of the Win-  
ter by coming all the different tribes of Indians who  
winter with us at this District and proved equal-  
ly fatal to all. It is impossible to describe, or for  
any person except those who were eye witnesses to form  
any idea of the state of wretchedness which these  
creatures underwent the unfortunate natives. The  
North West Company on the first appearance of  
this disease took every means to anticipate the  
attacks against us, as well as against the Settlers  
at West Hill, by imposing upon their minds that  
it was the Settlers who first brought these diseases  
to Red River, and that it was the English who

73  
were called who brought them from West to the front  
of the Country, and notwithstanding every argu-  
ment has been used to convince them to the Con-  
trary yet, many of them are still of opinion that  
it was the Colonists who first introduced these  
diseases into this Country for the purpose of destroy-  
ing the natives. However through time I hope we  
will be able to convince them of the error in which  
they have been led by the false representations of  
our insatiable foes.

Towards the latter end of September I was under  
the necessity of setting up Outposts at Horse Lake  
for the purpose of securing the hunts of some of our  
Shuck Woodmen who went there to pass the Winter,  
on account of our own people as well as the servants  
of the North West Company another establishment  
at West Hill, which place is situated almost in  
the center of the hunting ground of many of the  
Indians of this District, consequently it is absolutely  
necessary for the Company's interest that it should be  
conveniently so arranged at least quarters, that our ser-  
vants, would not be under the necessity of incurring the  
unnecessary expense of establishing Outposts principally  
for the purpose of watching their fellow servants in an-  
other. When the Indians of different Districts make  
their fur hunts together, it were not that it is obvious  
if an establishment ought to be kept up that our right  
to serve for the whole. As the greater part of the Sum-  
mer some of our Indians abandoned that place early  
in the Winter for want of food only kept two men  
there to receive the hunts of the few who remained in that  
quarter during the Winter. The opposition and us-  
ticed on tolerable good terms during the Winter but  
prejudicial to our embarking for head quarters in the



Spurred a dispute took place between my Opponent and myself which was soon the cause of dissolving the agreement entered into between us last fall. See the Journal May the 6<sup>th</sup> 1820 for the detailed account of that affair —

Some alterations have been made either to the buildings or gardens during this year, but the Dwelling Shop and Store House, as they were in a rather flimsy state were taken down last Summer and rebuilt and instead of covering the roof with pine bark as it was before, it is now covered with two feet of weather boarding which is a much more durable and more covering than bark — The produce of our last crop of Potatoes and Peas was much the same as that of last year, but our crop of Wheat totally failed in consequence of its having been much injured when in the ear by heavy falls of rain —

The Conduct of the Officers has been creditably during the Year I am happy to say was such as to entitle them to the esteem of those employed and to my warmest thanks for their decisions on all occasions to obey my orders. As the Greater part of the Officers as well as the men continued here last Year, their Characters are decidedly well of course to see in last Year's Reports —

The Indians this Year I am sorry to state have made unusual bad farements owing to their being indisposed during the greater part of the Winter with the Measles and Hooping Cough, which disease as I have already stated carried off great numbers of them — In last Year's Reports I have pointed out the impossibility

89  
of making out a list of the names of all the Indians who trade with us in this District, therefore a further explanation on that subject I suppose will be unnecessary — However it may be proper to state we shall retain a good proportion of all the different tribes of Indians who trade at this District —

It is a difficult matter to state the precise amount of furs obtained by the Canadians during this Year, but according to their own accounts (which I believe is nearly correct) the whole amount of their returns this year falls short of that of the preceding year at least two fifths — The Officers who rendered in opposition to us in the North West Campaigns were Messrs Hughes, P. Rowland, Vickers, and Small & Foster Clarke, who had under their orders about eighty men, in which number are included one Guide and six Interpreters —



The amount of this year's trade I am sorry to say can bear no comparison with that of former years, which failure is solely as I have previously observed to be attributed to the several diseases with which the unfortunate Indians have been lately afflicted and what makes the matter still worse is that our expenses this year is equal if not greater than that of former years owing to the Indians having been all filled out with their necessary supplies last fall previous to any of these diseases making their appearance in this quarter —

Wm. Allen  
Clerk

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

1 2 3 4 5 6

1 2

Reference:—

B60/e/3

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH—NOT TO BE  
REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY OR  
OTHERWISE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF  
THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, LONDON

THE END.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY					
1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference:—

B60/e/4

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH—NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY OR OTHERWISE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, LONDON

# Hudson's Bay Company.

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

SECTION B

CLASS 60

SUB-DIVISION e

PIECE 4

DESCRIPTION EDMONTON

REPORT on DISTRICT

1820-1821

NOTICE.

THESE COPIES ARE SUPPLIED FOR INFORMATION AND RESEARCH ONLY. NO REPRODUCTION EITHER OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT OR OF THESE NEGATIVES, OR OF PRINTS FROM THEM, MAY BE MADE OR USED FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, LONDON, ENGLAND.

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH-NOT TO BE  
REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY OR  
OTHERWISE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF  
THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, LONDON

Reference

B60/e/4

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

HUDSON'S  
BAY COMPANY  
  
B 60 e

1878  
Edmonton  
District  
Reports  
1878-79



4  
1878-79

Reports on the State of Education District <sup>Pl</sup>  
during the year 1821-22



7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1  
I have received a letter from the  
District from the Department of the Beas for York  
dated on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 1821 and the last of  
them returned on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October following except  
at the last part of which I have an opportunity given  
a slight advantage over us in consequence of our  
being short of goods during a part of the summer  
but which was amply compensated as soon as  
we obtained a supply of goods from the neighboring  
Districts.

7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1  
The result of the Company's business  
is a great loss on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October with respect  
and loss of time being all taken in account.  
The first part of the District by that Company  
that year consists of two parts, one about  
about fifty four miles, which when added to  
the summer establishment amounted to about  
twenty persons in all. The last of the Beas  
arrived from York on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, and  
including that part, which part the summer  
interests, found very little for it that time  
only amount to about 36 persons, many of  
which part is interested and paid themselves  
in the winter, there is a loss of the last of  
the District. During the summer of 1821  
every advantage was given except that of the  
part of the Beas, I thought at the last of the  
to be but some time of an agreement with  
them respecting the District, which they also  
consequently desire, knowing that although my force

was made, it was much upon my power to turn the  
head to them - Both parties therefore finding it  
their mutual interest to live in amicable terms, we  
consequently entered into an agreement, a copy of  
which is entered in the Journal (see book 12<sup>th</sup> 1821 -  
Having therefore concluded this agreement with  
the said West Company, I filled out with my  
the best loads with necessary supplies of goods  
for the winter, and got them ready off for their  
wintering grounds, flattering myself that they would  
make good for loads, but all my hopes were  
frustrated by the unexpected interference of some  
of the Indians, who had been with some of my  
I had sent together of my Indians for want  
of goods, being obliged to abandon the route which  
they were to take for loads, and return to the plains  
where they could more easily procure subsistence  
among the Buffaloes - The plain loads at the  
beginning of the winter brought in but little pro-  
cess (which had been the principal trade this  
year) but towards the middle of the winter they  
brought considerable quantities, and would have  
been great as it must be made to be  
required but not a sufficient number of  
them, and the thickness of the snow, after which  
the plain loads could not continue to the West  
with their provisions, which we severely regret  
we find the want of provisions will be severely  
felt throughout the winter this year - The dif-  
ferent tribes of Indians who inhabit this western  
country are not only all suspicious towards each other  
but even towards the traders, when they findings of  
them property, and threaten to seize without  
provision.

52  
On the 10<sup>th</sup> of December James Whiting and a party of  
Indians who accompanied him returned from an expedition  
beyond the Rocky Mountains, where I sent them last  
Spring to try if possible to penetrate on the interior  
of these distant regions, to come with their valuable  
furs to trade at the Rocky Mountain House, on this  
side of the mountains, which post was partly established  
on their accounts - Whiting and his party after suf-  
fering great hardships on their loads, at last succeeded  
in finding some trading parties who it is my desire  
to be acquainted with, which they said would enable them  
to get rid of their present supplies the West West  
Company, but unfortunately for us, when on their journey  
coming through the mountains they received intelligence  
that a new party of Indians from this side  
of the mountains were on their march, which caused  
them to return to their own country, with all their  
furs, to our great mortification - I have however  
sent off another party on their march to try and  
see to penetrate further than to trade this way, but  
whether they have succeeded in their expedition I  
have not yet learned - Whiting is of opinion that  
a very lucrative trade could be carried on among  
these Indians, if our Government were extended to  
these valuable countries, and he is also of opinion that  
we would be greatly served by the traders, who have  
to that Government imposed upon by the West West  
Company -

Having made all the necessary ar-  
rangements for the safety of the different posts of the  
establishment for the ensuing summer, I embarked  
for York Factory on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May next 7<sup>th</sup> 1822 and  
4 barrels surrounded by 28 men -



State of the Posts — All Edmonton House is now  
within one half last summer adjoining the Officers  
House, and the old Whelan was converted into two  
Communications Rooms, which were made by means of  
the same plan, and open on the second, besides a  
great quantity, where the Day goods are generally  
kept — As the space of ground in cultivation at  
present at this place, is as much as can be conveniently  
attended to, without interrupting the business, Commerce  
but with the land; the gardens have consequently  
not been enlarged, since and a half bushels of Barley,  
and nearly three bushels of Potatoes, were planted  
last spring, which produced one hundred bushels of  
Barley, and 24 hundred bushels of Potatoes — At  
the Betty Mountain House a small space of  
ground was last year planted with Potatoes, and  
Barley, the whole of which were destroyed by heavy  
frosts, which are common in the vicinity of these  
east mountains at all times in the summer — At  
Lakeside Lake on the banks of the Beaver river, Potatoes  
and Barley were also planted last year; the Barley  
did not thrive but the Potatoes though not very  
productive, were of quality excellent, the best perhaps  
that ever grew in Hudson's Bay —

Officers and Men — The conduct of the officers  
in general seems very strict, but I am sorry to  
state that I cannot say so much in favour of  
the men, the generality of whom are discontented  
and refractory — Their only aim upon all occasions  
is to do as little for their employers, and to as  
obscurely to those placed in authority over them  
as possible — When separated through the different  
posts in the winter, I cannot say that it is so

disagreeable to have to do with them as when  
there are a number of them on the voyage in  
the summer — What has caused such a great  
change in the conduct of the men in my opinion  
is owing to the necessity we were under to  
solicit many of those who wished to go home  
last year, to remain at extravagant high wages  
which had the effect of making them overvalue  
their services, as they are of opinion that owing  
to the scarcity of men in the service, their ser-  
vices will still be required. But the only means  
in my opinion that ought to be adopted for the  
purpose of frustrating their views, and bringing  
them into a more orderly state, would be to  
allow all those who are so inclined, to go home,  
which will put a stop to the increasing evil;  
and unless this measure be adopted there will  
be no managing of them, for those whose  
contracts are now expired have the same as last  
year entered into a combination not to re-engage  
unless they get higher wages than what was given  
last year, which was enormous —



Indians. In former reports the impossibility  
of making out a list of the numerous tribes of  
Indians who trade at this District had been  
pointed out, therefore any further comment on  
that subject is unnecessary — Some of our re-  
gular traders, the Shickmo Indians, have  
made great hunts this year, nor have many  
of them paid their Debts. Some agreements  
generally subsist between us and the North West  
Company respecting these Shickmo Indians,  
there has consequently been no increase or decrease

of the settlements of either. — As for the plains tribes they trade promiscuously with either party. — All the different tribes of Indians who inhabit the plains and thickets in this quarter are at present at variance with each other, and in their hostile state have lost all their former respect for the traders, whom they rob of their property, insult in their Forts, and even murder their lives without provocation, and what is most mortifying that we must bear the whole, having it not in our power to chastise them for their crimes. — But if there are not some measures adopted soon for the purpose of punishing them for their offences, the traders cannot attempt coming to this part of the Country, unless at the risk of their lives and property. —

Canadians — I have standing endeavoured to obtain correct information respecting the amount of trade procured by the Canadians, I failed of success, but from my own conjectures I think they have procured about fifteen hundred Beaver skins, and three thousand martlets, besides other Furs in proportion; a great portion of which they obtain from their old servants, whom they employ as trappers who are commonly denominated "Greenmen" but who are in fact in a state of the greatest slavery; and not withstanding I have used every means in my power to make them independent of their oppressors, yet they are so deluded by the intrigues of the North West Company, and dread their vengeance so much that I have as yet met with little success. — Two Factors John McDear, and

John Howard have the management of this District on behalf of the North West Company, and have under their orders four Chiefs Peter Small, J. M. Barato, J. Grant, and J. Tustin, and about eighty free men, including Interpreters and Guides; besides these when they require their services, they can call into the service as many of the trappers who are attached to, as they wish. The Canadians have as usual been liberally paid in this quarter and seem well inclined to live on amicable terms with us, but nevertheless are not always actuated by honorable motives. —

Trade — The trade this year, both in provisions and furs, is much superior to that of last year, but is not likely to be much augmented until we commence our expeditions against the Rocky Mountains where Furs can be procured in great abundance at a very cheap rate. —

Wm. Allen

In the W<sup>th</sup> Mo<sup>th</sup> 1797



HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY						Reference:—	COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH—NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY OR OTHERWISE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY, LONDON
1	2	3	4	5	6	B60/e/4	
		1	2				

THE END.