

public expenditures, but also of the resources of the Country. I would, it is true, have avoided even the least shadow of interference as long as you kept within the bounds of moderation, as I supposed you were equally aware with myself of the present scarcity, as well as of the necessity for studying the strictest economy. I had not the most distant idea of what you had expended until the 26th ultimo when you presented me with a statement thereof. At that time I made up my mind not to approve of the accounts should you present them to me for that purpose, which I never expected you would have done from you having averred on frequent occasions that my approval was not necessary to ensure there [being] allowed. Allow me to ask you if in addition to the quantity of flour mentioned in your last statement, Say 1550 lbs. you did not also expend about 1,400 which was in Capt. Dease's possession when you arrived, and whether Mr. St. John did not furnish you with more than 1000 lbs. I am led to ask these questions from having been told that you in one day received 40 bread buns. Will Mr. St. John and Mr. Brisbois swear that since your arrival they only furnished you with the quantities specified in your statement.

You say, I have forgotten the 20 engages attached to your Department. Pray Sir, were all these men here during the period in question, and did not some of them catch fish enough to supply nearly the whole. I know not if the nets belonged to Government, but if not a charge might have been made for the use of them. Respecting the Officers and Interpreters, I know not if they all received regular rations. I am told that some of them did not, this of course you know best, but at all events some account ought to have been kept of the appropriations of such a vast quantity of flour as has been used.

Which is it better that the Indians—many of whom loiter about here for the purpose—should be fed, or that the Provisions should be reserved for the grand object, the defence of the Country. One or the other must be neglected. The one is only a temporary evil and can be repaired by hunt-