

be most convenient for the Commissioners on the part of His Majesty to meet those from the United States and the most convenient Route for carrying the Provision and Baggage requisite for that Service" (a survey to be made of certain parts of the River Mississippi) "from this Province to the Falls of St. Anthony with any other information which I or the gentlemen concerned in the North West Trade may Judge to be of importance on the above business" and I shall now endeavour to fulfill His Excellency's request.⁷⁵

I conceive that the fittest Place for the Commissioners to meet will be at Michilimackinac and the properest conveyance for the Provisions and Baggage as well as themselves to be the Route of the Lakes.

At Michilimackinac they must be provided with one or more large Canoes and six stout Canoe men for each Canoe, as the number of Persons to be employed and quantity of Baggage necessary may require; and I should conceive that one Canoe for each Commissioner may be sufficient; a Canoe can carry conveniently eight Persons and two Tons or two and a half Tons weight throughout the proposed voyage but not more. Provisions for the Canoe men can be readily had at Michilimackinac and generally consist of Indian Corn boiled, Flour, Pork and

Amherst and Wolfe, in the American Revolution, and in 1796 was chosen governor of Canada to succeed Dorchester, a position which he held for three years.—Ed.

⁷⁵ This request for information from the North West Company merchants was the result of a clause in the treaty of 1794, whereby a joint survey was to be made of the line of boundary specified in the treaty of 1783. This line was to strike due west from the Lake of the Woods to the Mississippi. It was already suspected that this was an impossible line, as explorers were discovering that the source of the Mississippi did not reach so far north as originally supposed. The survey here planned for, did not take place. In 1798 David Thompson of the North West Company made a survey proving that the source of the Mississippi was south of the line to be drawn. The matter was left in abeyance until after the treaty of Ghent (1814). This report of McGill contains, however, the best information to be had in 1797 of the region of the upper lakes and the Mississippi.—Ed.