

At a Meeting held in the Court House at Albany Saturday 6 July 1754 A.M.

Present

All the Commiss^{rs} of the Massachusetts Bay

Will^m Pittkin & Roger Wolcott Esq^r Commiss^{rs} for Connecticut

The Commiss^{rs} for Rhode Island, Mr. Penn & Mr. Thomas & Mr. Franklin Esq^r Com^{rs} for Pennsylvania The Commiss^{rs} for Maryland.

His Hon. the Lieut. Gov. sent to the Board the Speech ^{he} proposed to make to the River Indians which the Board agreed to with a small addition - was sent in writing to his Hon.

The Board ^{being} informed by Mr. Peters that the Lieut. Gov of New York sent for him last night, and told him his Provisions were expended and he could no longer maintain the Indians and expected the Commiss^{rs} would maintain them and gave him a list of what had been allowed per day to the five Nations exclusive of the River Indians.

The Board here upon resolved that they would take the Charge of supporting the Indians themselves. Messrs. Moore & Henry Shebbone Esq^r took their seats Commiss^{rs} from New Hampshire. The Committee appointed the first Instant to draw up a Representation of the present State of the Colonies with Relation to the French deliver'd the same to the Board which was read and order'd to lay upon the Table for the Consideration of the Com^{rs}.

The Secretary presented to the Board a Draft of the Speech which his Hon. propos'd to deliver to the six Nations this Afternoon and also the following Message from his Honour, that the Board would please to send him any alterations or additions which they might think proper to be made to the said Draft; that his Hon. intended when he made the Speech to read to them the Act of the general Assembly of New York concerning the Sale of Rum to the Indians, and that he also recommended the Request of the upper Castle of the Mohawks, for a March to the Board. The Secretary also brought back his Hon. Approbation to the small additions propos'd to be made to the Speech intended to be made to the River Indians, which Speech is as follows.

Brothers

I have sent for you here to give you fresh Assurances of the great thing your Fathers Protection and that we might with your Commiss^{rs} whom you now see assembled here from the Governments of Massachusetts Bay New Hampshire Connecticut Rhode Island Pennsylvania & Maryland to strengthen and brighten the Covenant Chain, we are glad to see you at this your meeting place and we do now in his Majesties Name and in behalf of all his Colonies renew the Antient Covenant Chain of Friendship that it may be

stronger and brighter than ever which I recommend to you to preserve clean & free from Rust by a desirable and affectionate desire to all your Brethren and especially to those who live near you and you may then with confidence rely on the favour of His and all his Majesty's Governments.

As a proof of the King your Father's tender regard for you I shall deliver you a present he has sent over for you consisting of such necessaries as you may want. And the Commissions from each of the Governments have contributed towards a present for you also, all which I ^{ready} shall be here for you in the afternoon.

Elizabeth Williams Esq. Commissions from Council took his seat

On a motion made and seconded that a Message be sent to his Hon. the Lieut. Gov. of New York relating to the Affairs he proposes to make to the Indians, Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Franklin were appointed to prepare the same. Theodore Atkinson Esq. and Mr. Wilberd Esq. Commissions from New Hampshire took their seats and also Mr. Pyles Esq. Esq. of New Hampshire.

Mr. Hutchinson reported the following Message

May it please your Honor. The Commissions from the several Governments now met at Albany observed that in the Speech your Hon. proposes to make this day to the Indians of the Six Nations and which you have caused to be recommended to the Board by their Secretary a notice is taken of the complaints of the Indians relating to their Lands. This Complaint seems by the direction from the right Hon. the Lords of Trade which your Hon. has laid before the Board to have been the principal occasion of this unusual & expensive Meeting of Commissions from so many Colonies and it appears from the last answer from the Indians that their Grievance remains. The Commissions therefore think it incumbent on them to pray your Hon. that they may be acquainted with the particulars of the Complaint and that they may have an opportunity of consulting by your Hon. proper measures for removing the Cause thereof. Which was read & unanimously agreed to and it was thereupon ordered that Mr. Lovells & Pitkin wait upon his Hon. the Lieut. Gov. of New York with the same.

Adjourn'd till 8 O'Clock this afternoon

At a Meeting on Saturday 6 July 1754 P.M.

Present

All the Commissions from Massachusetts Bay, All Commissions from New Hampshire, The Commissions from Council, Stephen Hopkins Esq. one of the Commissions from Rhode Island.

Mr. Lovells reported to the Board that he and Mr. Pitkin had delivered the Message they were appointed in the Morning to deliver to his Hon. the Lieut. Gov. of New York. The four Gentlemen of the Council of New York

Martin Howard Esq; Benj. Franklin & Abraham Banne Esq; took their Seats

M. Murray delivered to the Board his Hon. the Lieut. Gov. answer in writing to the Message delivered to his Hon. in the Morning by M^r. Weits and M^r. Pitkin which was read and is as follows

Gent^l In Answer to your Message, I am of this Day acquainted, you that yesterday I had the Sachems of the Conjoharie Castle before me in Council to conclude the Matter in Controversy between some Germans & one Lady, Magee relating to an Indian Purchase that had occasioned the greatest uneasiness among the Indians of that Castle which after two Meetings was then formally & finally settled to the Satisfaction of all Parties. I then took occasion to observe to them that at their meeting on the second Inst. I desired them to open their Minds to me fully & that I expected they would have then have laid all their Complaints before me. That as to what they had mentioned in their Publick Speech on the fourth Instant I was not acquainted with any other Particular Complaints until I came to this place being abroad on the Circuit at the Time they made them at New York and then I proceeded as soon as I returned thither I would look into them and do them all the Justice that lay in my Power with which they declared themselves well satisfied and thanked me.

Albany 6 July 1754

James Delaney

The Board being obliged to attend at the Interview of the Schenectady & River Indians. Adjourned to Monday Morning 9 o'clock.

Present
W^m. Johnson & W^m. Smith Esq; at a Meeting in the Court House at Albany on Monday 8 July 1754.
Two of the Council of New York & all the Commissioners.

The Speech proposed by his Honors to be made to the Indians of the Six Nations having been again read to the Board & the Complaint of the Indians relative to their Lands coming under Consideration the Board were acquainted that M^r W^m. Livingstone & M^r W^m. Alexander two of the Heirs or Devises of Philip Livingstone Esq. Deceased the Proprietors or Patentee of the Lands on which Conjoharie Castle stand had declared their Readiness to give up all Right to said Patents or such parts as shall be thought necessary it was ordered that M^r Livingstone & M^r Alexander be informed that the Board desired to speak with them.

to the thing as they were — Gave a Post. ⁴⁷

They gave also to the Gov^r a small Bundle of Skins & desired that the Sale of Rum might be stop'd at Schenectady & that if they want it they will come & buy it at Albany —

The Speech of the River-Indians

Fathers We are greatly rejoiced to see you all here — It is by the Will of Heaven that we are met here & we thank you for this Opportunity of seeing you altogether as it is a long while since we have had such a one.

Fathers who sit present here we will just give you a short Relation of the long Friendship which hath subsisted between the white People of this Country & us.

Our forefathers had a Castle on this River as one of them walked out he saw something on the River but was at a Loss to know what it was, he took it at first for a great Fish. He ran into the Castle & gave Notice to the other Indians. Two of our forefathers went to see what it was & found it a Vessel with Men in it, they immediately joined hands with the People in the Vessel & became Friends. The white People told them they should not come any further up the River at that time & said to them they would return back from whence they came & come again in a Years time. According to their promise they returned back in a Years time & came as far up the River as where the old Fort stood. Our forefathers invited them ashore & said to them here we will give you a place to make you a Town it shall be from this place up to such a Stream (meaning where the Patrons Mill now stands) & from the River back up to the Hill. Our forefathers told them tho they were now a small People they would in time multiply & fill up the Land they had given them. After they were ashore some time, some other Indians who had not seen them before looked fiercely at them & our forefathers observing it perceiving the white People so few in Number, least they should be destroyed took & sheltered them under their Arms, but it turned out that those Indians did not desire to destroy them but wished also to have some white People for their Friends. At this time ^{which} we have ^{now} spoken of, the white People were but small we were very numerous & strong we defended them in that low State but now the Case is altered you are numerous & strong we are few & weak.

Mr. Loring & Mr. Alexander being present informed the Board that their Father was one among other Patrons of the Lands mentioned that they were interested one eighth each of them in their Father's Right. The Circumstances of his Title they had made no inquiry into, but were ready to make any Resignation which either Justice or the publick Service required.

The Board being informed that His Honour the Lieut. Gov^r desired a Gentleman from each Colony might be appointed to be present with him in making enquiry of the Indees of the Connaught Castle how far they were satisfied respecting their Lands Mr. Peter & Mr. Hobart were appointed to wait on his Honour & acquaint him that the Board agreed to the Proposal.

Accordingly Mr. Hutchinson was appointed for the Massachusetts, Mr. Col. Atkinson for New Hampshire, Col. Fookatt for Connecticut, Mr. Hopkins for Rhode Island, Mr. Norris for Pennsylvania, Col. Tusher for Maryland, Jas. Murray & John Chambers Esq^s of the Council of New York took their Seats.

His Honour's Draught of the Speech he proposes to make to the Six Nations which was delivered to the Board the 6th Inst. was read & after Debate had thereon relative to the Sale of Rum amongst them & the Connaughts Desire about a Church, some Alterations & Additions to it were agreed to be proposed to His Honour.

The Representation of the present State of the Colonies was again read through, but no final Resolution thereon agreed to.

The Answer of the Schaticokes & Sixes Indians to the Speech made them the 6th Inst. were read & are as follows.

The Speech of the Schaticoke Indians.

Fathers we are glad that the Gov^r sees his Children now before him we are small in Number but next time we hope we shall be more. Your Honour may see that we are but young & unexperienced Our Nations People being almost all dead so that we have nobody to give us any Advice but we will do as our Fathers have done before us. Have a Bell.

Father this Belt came from our Forefathers & we will be true & faithful

The Board proceeded in their Consideration upon the Plan for a Union but did not go thro with it.

The Speech proposed to be made to the Six Nations was returned to the Board from his Honour wth the Alterations and Additions proposed by the Board in the Morning

Ordered that the Speech lay upon the Table till some further Matter relating to it be agreed on by the Board.

The Committee appointed in the Morning to be present with the Lieut. Gov. of New York at a Conference wth the Onojoharie Indians returned from the same and Reported as follows.

That his Honour inquired of the Indians whether they had not been satisfied themselves with the Measure he had taken concerning their Lands, and the promise that he would inquire further into the Affair when he came to New York, to which they replied that they were sensible his Hon. was at Albany when they made their Complaint at New York East York, that he told them he had now left the papers there, but he would inquire into it when he came there, that they were willing to try one Year more and if matters were not made up by the Gov. whom they look'd upon as their Elder Brother. But neglected as they used to be, they would send to all their other Brothers of printing to the Commis^{rs} for their Assistance, and that they agreed to this the Matter, as there were French Indians, and they did not think it convenient to have any Difference before them upon which his Hon. again assured them, he would inquire into their Affair in order to their being satisfied, especially as he had the things done for it

The Board receiving a Message from his Hon. that the Sakeins of the Six Nations were attending to be sworn to

The Board adjourn'd to 9 O'Clock tomorrow Morning, & waited upon by Govern^{or}.

At a Meeting in the Court House in Albany Tuesday 9th July 1754 A.M.

Present

Joseph Murray & Mr Smith Esq^r of Council of New York

All the Commis^{rs} except Col^l Partridge & Mr Hopkins

The Publick Conference between his Hon. the Lieut. Governor of New York & the Commis^{rs} of the Gov^{ernm^t} with the Sakeins of Six Nations yesterday evening was read and order to be enter'd and is as follows

Both then

You told me your Hearts were deeply concern'd at the sad effect which may arise from selling them in your respective Countries, I will give orders that the Laws already made for preventing the Sale of this