

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Records of the British Fur Companies

Aaron Newell, while pursuing graduate work in the Department of History, University of Washington, wrote to the Public Record Office at London, and the Public Archives Office of Canada for information as to the present accessibility of the records of the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company of Montreal. The replies he received are so important to researchers in the field of Northwestern history that they are here published in full.

The Deputy Minister of the Public Archives of Canada wrote from Ottawa on April 29, 1924, as follows:

"In answer to your letter of the 21st instant, I beg to say that the Hudson Bay Company are now removing their papers to a building which they have taken for the purpose of their Archives. The staff is engaged in the arrangement of these papers for the purpose of publishing an official history of the Company.

"I believe that there are certain documents relating to the North West Company in Montreal but the papers are not open at the present time to the public and I understand that no copies will be made until an examination of the whole of the records is complete. This will probably take two or three years."

Mr. A. E. Stamp, Secretary of the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, W. C. 2, London, writes on May 7, 1924, as follows:

"With reference to your letter of the 21st ultimo, I am directed to inform you that the material formerly in the Hudson Bay Company's Building has been removed to 9, Elvaston Place, London, S. W. 7, and that enquiries regarding it should be addressed to Sir William Schooling, K. B. E., at that address. I am further informed by the representatives of the Canadian Archives here that many attempts have been made to trace the papers of the Northwest Company of Montreal, but without success."

Valuable Newspaper File

A file of the *Spokane Times*, the pioneer newspaper of Spokane County, has been given to the library of the State Normal