

1713-24. time when there was not, perhaps, a thousand crowns in silver coin in the country. Paper money made up the deficiency. I will not repeat here what I have said in my Journal as to this money; its advantages, its drawbacks, and the reasons for suppressing it.

The Messieurs Raudot, after thus exposing the state in which New France stood till the year 1708, in regard to its trade and its faculties, give the means which they devised to render it more flourishing. This colony, they say, might carry on a trade in its own products, which would enrich it. These products are salt meats, masts, planks, sheathing, timber for building and staves, tar, pitch, whale, seal and porpoise-oil, codfish, hemp and flax; to which might be added iron and copper. It only requires to find an opening for all this, and to reduce the price of labor.

The difficulty on the last score, arises from the indolence of the inhabitants and the high price of French goods. At times, when work is scarcest, the workman expects twenty-five sous a day, for the reason that he uses up more clothes in working than he can replace by his labor. On the other hand, goods in Canada are at double French prices. This seems exorbitant, but after reckoning twenty-five per cent for assurance, (though this is only in war time, at least at that rate,) expenses of commission, freight, which sometimes exceeds forty crowns a ton, interest on money advanced, charges to be paid to agents, and which are heavy when drafts are not met at maturity, as is often the case, and exchange on Paris, it will be found that the merchant does not gain much. In fact, none in the country are rich.

To raise up the colony of Canada, all the people must be employed, each according to his ability, and every individual enabled to subsist by diminishing the price of goods. Now this might apparently be attained by finding a place to which they could cheaply and conveniently carry their produce and obtain French goods to take home. They will thus gain a part of the freight of both, and that part of the people who rust out in inaction or roam the woods, would be employed in navigation.