

1713-24. to Cape Breton, there to take in salt for the gulf fisheries. When it had taken in its load, it would return to Cape Breton, sell its fish, and with the profit of these two voyages, purchase French goods to dispose of in Canada.

It is here well to know that what then prevented the Canadians from embarking in the fisheries at the Gulf, and at the mouth of the St. Lawrence, was the necessity of carrying their fish to Quebec, where they could not get enough to pay freight and sailors' wages, on account of the length of the voyage; and even if they should be lucky enough to make a little profit, as had very rarely happened, this profit was not sufficient to encourage the colonists to continue such a trade.

The two colonies then mutually aiding each other, and their merchants growing rich by the constant trade carried on, they might associate for enterprises equally advantageous to both, and consequently to the kingdom, if only in opening the iron mines so abundant around Three Rivers; for then those of France and its woods might rest, or at least they would no longer be obliged to draw iron from Sweden and Biscay.

Moreover, ships sailing from France to Canada, always run greater risks on the home passage, unless they make the voyage in the spring; now the small vessels from Quebec would run none in going to Cape Breton, because they would take their time, and would always have experienced pilots. What indeed, would prevent their making two voyages a year, and in this way save the ships from France the trouble of ascending the Saint Lawrence, which would diminish the voyage one half?

Moreover, it is not only by increasing the consumption of goods in New France that the proposed establishment would benefit the kingdom, but also by the ease with which it could introduce its wines, brandies, linens, ribbons, tafetas &c., into the English colonies. This trade would become a great object, as the English would supply themselves at Cape Breton and Canada with all these goods, not only for the American continent, where their colonies