

Louis, and it is amazing that no one has yet observed the advantage to be derived from this post, by settling it, so as to assist vessels that might be in distress, or need water and provisions, in so long and dangerous a navigation as that of the St. Lawrence.<sup>1</sup> Besides this, at the time now treated of, a slate bed had been discovered there, but it is only within a few years that men have opened their eyes to the use of an article that makes fires less frequent and terrible than they have hitherto been in New France.

There is also much saltpetre at that place, and an Indian one day brought to Sieur Riverin a piece of very pure copper, which he assured him he had found in a ravine between two mountains. To conclude, some individuals having chanced to visit this haven to fish, had a most abundant take, although they lacked many things necessary for the work, and it was on their report that Riverin's associates consented to form their establishment there.

Everything was in the best possible train; several settlers had already started for the place by sloop, and a ship loaded with salt and all kind of stores was in the harbor of Quebec, waiting only for a proper wind to hoist anchor, when, toward the end of May, the Count de Frontenac received, as already mentioned, orders to be on his guard against the English, and not permit any vessel to descend the river. They had to obey, and this annoying disappointment entirely disgusted Riverin's associates. He did not lose heart, however; he succeeded in encouraging the small body of settlers already at Mont Louis, and the following year the fishery and crops were so abundant, that all picked up courage. We shall see in due time what prevented the result from corresponding to so happy a commencement.<sup>2</sup>

Meanwhile, a good part of the regulars and militia had been under arms, from the beginning of the pleasant season to the end of autumn; at first in readiness to receive

1697.

What  
defeated  
the project

<sup>1</sup> For its present state, see Ferland, *Cotes de la Gaspésie*, in the *Soirées Canadiennes*, 1861, p. 328.

<sup>2</sup> N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 585 note, De Callieres to the Minister, Oct. 16, 1700. See Charlevoix, *Journal*, p. 63.