

Peace that had just been concluded with the Iroquois seemed to shield them from all difficulties that might arise for them; and the presents that they had given to the Iroquois deputies were a sort of pledge of the alliance that they had contracted. About this time¹ the Court revoked the Congés; these were a score of Permissions which His Majesty had granted to the Families of the poorer Gentlemen to go trading among the Outaouaks, and which the Governor-general distributed to the persons whom he thought most in need of them. A Congé was, then, a Permission to take into the Outaouak country a Canoe with eight men, loaded with merchandise. Those who did not care to go up thither would sell their Congés for a sum varying from eight to twelve hundred francs. The buyer would choose three Voyageurs, to whom he gave a thousand écus' worth of goods, which he rated high; these goods would produce about twelve thousand francs' profit. The Owner of the Congé had the half of this profit, besides his principal; and the Voyageurs shared the rest. Those people usually resorted to Michilimakinak, or else went among those Nations who, they believed, had most Peltries. So many abuses crept in with all these favors from the Prince that persons who were entitled to but one year extended that term, and others went thither as they would. As a result, Beaver-pelts became so abundant that the Farmers of the West could with difficulty find sale for them in France, or a market in foreign countries. On the other hand, Monsieur de la Sale, seeing his projects thwarted by the disorderly commerce which some unauthorized Frenchmen were coming into those quarters to carry on, ordered his men to plunder them; and, at an Assemblage of the Savages convened by him, he begged them not to trade with any one who was not provided with one of the Commissions issued by him. He took this action because the trade which he carried on was really the means of maintaining those peoples, and because he could not succeed in his discoveries if he did not attach them to himself.

these Miamis. La Salle's establishment was that known as Fort St. Louis, built on "Starved Rock," a lofty height near the present Utica, Ill.—Ed.

¹In 1660.—LA POTHERIE.