

attach themselves to a French commandant there. They hate the Outawas, but appear to have a real affection for the French.

If we do not send a commandant with a garrison to Michilimackinac, it is to be feared that the Hurons who are at Detroit will settle with the Iroquois, in consequence of their feeling of dissatisfaction toward M. la Motte. They would have done so before this, if the Iroquois would have permitted them to make a distinct village among them. Thus far the Iroquois have not been willing to allow the Hurons to come among them, except on condition of combining with them, and the name of Huron becoming extinct. Since there are now at Michilimackinac only a few wanderers, the greater part of the furs of the savages of the north go to the English trading-posts on Hudson's Bay. The Outawas are unable to make this trade by themselves, because the northern savages are timid and will not come near them, as they have often been plundered by them. It is therefore necessary that the French be allowed to seek these northern tribes at the mouth of their own river, which empties into Lake Superior. It would be advisable to reëstablish the permits, to give only twelve the first year; and after that to increase them even to twenty, but not to exceed that number. This would suffice for the quantity of beaver we should need. These permits would be sold at a fixed price, and the amount given to indigent families, as heretofore. It would be necessary to forbid the governor-general granting private permits, on any pretext whatever.

To be still more certain of obtaining the beaver, it would be expedient for the contractor to give more than thirty sous a pound; it might be necessary to increase the price even to forty sous, in which case he would be able to purchase as much as he would desire. All this trade would come to Michilimackinac; and it would be necessary, in order to prevent any of the furs being subsequently carried to the English, that the commandant of that post should keep an exact account of the quantity of furs, more or less, which should be loaded into each canoe to be sent to the intendant. By this means, each canoe would be obliged to deliver, at the office at Montreal, the same quantity which had been charged at Michilimackinac. The contractor should remunerate the commandant for this service.