

the colony during the war—it seems necessary, before proceeding further, to know the intentions of His Majesty. There must necessarily be great expense incurred for the officers, for the garrison, and in presents to the savages; and if the project meet His Majesty's approbation, he will appropriate funds for that purpose.

Michilimackinac might be reëstablished without expense to His Majesty, either by surrendering the trade of the post to such individuals as will obligate themselves to pay all the expenses of twenty-two soldiers and two officers, to furnish munitions of war for the defense of the fort, and to make presents to the savages. Or, the expenses of that post might be paid by the sale of permits, if the king should not think proper to grant an exclusive commerce. It is absolutely necessary to know the wishes of the king concerning these two propositions; and as M. Lignery is at Michilimackinac, it will not be any greater injury to the colony to defer the reëstablishment of this post, than it has been for eight or ten years past.

The conduct of the *coureurs des bois* is an evil which has lasted a long time, and we must learn whether the king will grant them a general amnesty, or punish them according to the rigor of the ordinance, which is corporal punishment and the confiscation of their goods. Until this decision is made, their trading at Michilimackinac will not injure the colony any more than if they pursued the same course elsewhere. It seems necessary, in order to prevent the savages from going to trade with the English, where goods are cheaper than they are at Montreal, that our goods should be carried to them. Therefore, though the *coureurs des bois* deserve punishment for disobeying the orders of the king, no doubt the trade which they carry on with the nations is advantageous to the colony. This trade, during the war, has brought beaver and other furs to Montreal that would otherwise have gone to the English, had there been no French in the upper country. Besides, the principal object being to prevent any intelligence passing between the Outawas and Iroquois, the French should carry all that the savages might need, lest they be attracted to the English, first by necessity, and afterward by the cheapness of their goods; and it being impos-