

1715: MILITARY PREPARATIONS AGAINST FOXES: TRADERS AND VOYAGEURS; THEIR LAWLESSNESS; RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE; ENGLISH SEEK TO CONTROL FUR TRADE; FRENCH SHOULD ESTABLISH NEW POSTS.

[Letter of Ramezay and Bégon to French Minister; dated Nov. 7, 1715. MS. in archives of Ministère des Colonies, Paris; press-mark, "Canada, Corresp. gén., vol. 35, c. 11, fol. 15."]

We had the honor, in our letter of Sept. 25 last, of reporting to you all the measures that had been taken for the war with the Renards. We have, since then, been informed by a letter of Aug. 30th last, from Sieur de Lignery, in command at Michilimakinak, to Monsieur the Marquis de Vaudreuil, of which a copy is enclosed, that he has undertaken nothing against the Renards, because the convoy of provisions, munitions of war, and presents for the savages and the Soldiers of the garrison, under the conduct of Monsieur the Captain Deschailons, had not yet arrived. He Decided that the season was too far advanced for this Expedition, and determined to allow 100 Frenchmen to go down to Montreal, in accordance with the petition which they presented to him, of which a copy is enclosed. Sieur de Ramezay did not dispatch this convoy as early as he sent the other officers designated for this Expedition, because Monsieur Dubuisson had informed him, by his letter of March 2nd last, that the corn had so completely failed at detroit that he had been obliged to send Sieur Dupuy to the Miamis to buy some. In view of the uncertain success of this purchase, Sieur de Ramezay took advantage of the visit made by Sieur de Joncaire to the Iroquois, and had 300 minots bought there. Sieur de Joncaire had this grain brought to the shore of Lake Ontario by the Savages, and Sieur Deschailons there had it loaded upon the Canoes of his convoy; and, as it was necessary to allow time to Sieur de Joncaire to accomplish that transportation, over some 20 Leagues by land, Sieur de Ramezay judged it expedient not to send this convoy sooner than he did, in order to economize the provisions.

He took the precaution of sending to la galette, above the rapids, the munitions and presents for Michilimakinak, in a