

and Amikoés Savages from going to trade with the Iroquois on their way, when returning from their hunting around Lake Erié; but if His Majesty approves of this Establishment, it is necessary that the trade carried on there should be in the King's name, and that this new post should be exploited like fort frontenac, whence will be sent the provisions and merchandise needed there. He proposes also to build a bark to facilitate transportation between the posts; and he believes that this would be a sure means of conciliating the Iroquois, and of getting the greater part of the peltries that go to the English, which would result in great profit to his Majesty.

If this post should be established, we would be able to prevent the *coureurs de bois* from going to trade along Lake Ontario, by plundering them and putting a stop to the trade which they carry on to the great prejudice of that at fort frontenac.

The utility of these various posts is shown also by the attention paid by the English to establishing them in all the places where they wish to extend their commerce—which they are now engaged in doing on the lower part of the Nanrantsouak River near Baston, among the Nontaés, and on the Mississipi and Ouabache Rivers, placing there strong garrisons. But we are quite unable to do the same, owing to the lack of soldiers, which it seems to us so essential to remedy, for the security of the country, that we dare not leave you in ignorance of the bad condition of the Companies kept in this country.

This has obliged *Sieur Begon* to make an Exact review of them; we have the honor of sending you the enclosed Extract therefrom, in which are enumerated those who are not in condition to serve the King. There are very few in condition for service, and even of those there are not 50, including the Sergeants, Corporals, and Lance-corporals, who are capable of going in Canoes to the upper country. The rest are only old men and boys, or physically incompetent. The weakness of these Companies is due to various causes: Soldiers have been allowed to marry; two detachments of 40 men each have been sent to *isle Royale*;¹ some 20 men constitute the garrison of *Michili-*

¹Another name for Cape Breton island.—Ed.