

discoveries of the sieur De la Ronde, and of the measures he adopts for prosecuting that Undertaking. The Information that we gave you is nothing else than extracts from the Letters that He and his son have written us. We send you copies of those Letters.

The Sieur La Ronde might have given us more detailed information, but from what he writes to us There is hardly any reason to doubt the advantages to be derived from that Undertaking both for himself and for the Colony; at least He engages in it in a manner that leaves us no doubt.

On Examining The Ingot of copper that we sent last year, one might be inclined to believe that it had been cast; And If it has been acknowledged by Monsieur Grassin as a work of nature, the pieces we send this year will convince him still more, Independently of the certainty we have that these specimens were cut with hatchets from larger pieces of the same quality. We consider that the whole difficulty in the Working of these mines, supposing that the ore is as pure as it seems to us to be, Consists at present in finding means to divide into portable pieces, the masses of Copper on the banks of the river Tona-gan, and that which will no doubt be also found at other Places on Lake Superior; for if They are as enormous as the Block lying on the shore of the Lake which we Reported to you in 1732, when we sent you the Sieur de la Ronde's proposals regarding this Undertaking, the iron or steel Implements that would be Used in separating them might be Insufficient, And although the copper is pure, this method of mining it might be very costly. We can expect from the Sieur de la Ronde nothing but great activity in seeking for these mines, and both from him and from the Workmen and voyageurs whom he has with him nothing but mere natural Industry, without the slightest Idea of the art [of mining], which will not be conducive to An easy Exploitation of these mines. This is doubtless the reason which has Induced the Sieur de la Ronde to write us to beg you to procure a skilled workman for him to show them how to Work these mines, which, he says, consist only of a Mass of ore. He asked Monsieur hocquart for a certain Chambellan, a