

1741: NEW SETTLEMENT FOR OTTAWA AT MACKINAC

[Source, same as preceding document, but fol. 95; cf. transcript in *N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, ix, pp. 1072-1073.]

Speech of Monsieur the Marquis de Beauharnois, Governor general of New France, to the Outaouacs of Missilimakinac, on July 8, 1741.

My Children, I Wrote last year to the Commandant of Missilimakinac and gave him orders to Induce Mincheokima, Akikamingue, Chelaoiiskaouois, Otolinois,¹ Oniskaouois¹ and other Chiefs of Note, both Kiskakous² and Sinagos,² to come here and Listen to my message.

He wrote me that the reason that Prevented the majority of those Chiefs from coming down was their remaining at the grande Traverse³ to look for Lands suitable for the Establishment of their Villages, owing to the dearth of food that had prevailed the previous winter, and that, your Lands Being exhausted, they feared the same might happen Again.

Several years ago, My Children, Monsieur de Celoron, who is here present, wrote me that you Intended to Remove your Villages elsewhere for the same reason.

In obedience to the orders I gave him he Sought you at Maskigon,⁴ where you Wished to Establish yourselves, and brought you back to your Villages, as that land was in nowise suited to you, because the frequent maladies that prevail at that Place might have destroyed you. Moreover, it ruins your Hunting, and you must have observed that whenever any of your Nation have spent the Summer at that Place, they have found the Animals Scattered and your hunting less productive.

The point in question at present, My Children, is to settle you in a place where you may find good land capable of yielding profitable crops, in order to enable you to procure subsist-

¹Note on original document: "Chiefs of the Sauteux."

²Note on original document: "two branches composing the outaouacs nation."

³Grand Traverse Bay, Mich.—Ed.

⁴Muskegon River, Mich.—Ed.