

1747: TRADE AT THE WESTERN POSTS DISARRANGED

[Letter of La Galissonnière and Hocquart to the French Minister, dated Oct. 7, 1747. MS. in archives of Ministère des Colonies, Paris; pressmark, "Canada, Corresp. gén., vol. 87, c. 11, fol. 122."]

QUEBEC, October 7, 1747.

MONSEIGNEUR—

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Monsieur The Count de la galissonniere¹ will take particular care to recommend the Commanding officers of posts to protect the Farmers in their trade. We are not aware of the consequences of the murders And Disturbances that have occurred in the Upper Countries, And especially at Detroit And Michilimakinac, the two most important posts after Niagara. We have related All these Events in our journal, And the orders given by Monsieur de Beauharnois to restore quiet if possible. Monsieur de la Galissonniere will not lose sight of That object, but the season Is too far advanced to allow of new measures being taken. He will wait until he is informed of the Effect produced by the former ones. If we learn anything before the departure of the last ships, as we Hope we may, we shall have the honor to report the Same to you. Meanwhile we must notify you that far from The Posts yielding any Revenues, they have been the cause of considerable expenditure, owing as much to the Consignments that had to be Sent to Michilimakinac And to Detroit for the King's account, as to the convoys of the trading canoes; that 9 Canoes only have left for Detroit and Messieurs de Beauharnois And Hocquart could Induce them to go up only

¹Michel Rolland Barin, comte de la Galissonnière, was in 1747 appointed governor of New France to succeed Beauharnois, arriving in the colony Sept. 19. Born at Rochefort in 1693, at the age of seventeen he entered the navy, where he served with distinction until appointed governor-general. His term of service was brief, being recalled in September, 1749. He was a good administrator, and while deformed in body, much respected both by the Indians and habitants. He was noted for his scientific attainments, and after his recall was appointed head of the department of nautical charts. He died at Nemours, Oct. 26, 1756.—ED.