

*Michilmakina.*—Michilmakina is distant from Montreal travelling by the grand river three hundred leagues; from Detroit a hundred leagues and more. This post is situated between lake Michigan and lake Huron; when the navigators had acquired experience on these lakes, knowing the different shelters and anchorages and retreats in case of bad weather, one could use these vessels for transporting all the goods for the posts of the north. Detroit, having become a considerable place, would be in position to furnish merchandise to all these several places. By this means voyageurs would be freed from taking up bark canoes by the grand river, which is very troublesome on account of the great number of rapids and portages which the engagés make. Eighty bark canoes ordinarily go up each year, or about six to seven hundred men for that part of the country of which I speak; and by these means it would not be necessary. This would conserve the men in Canada, and augment the number of laborers which are the basis of the state.

Following this, individuals at Detroit will make boats proper for these transports, and commerce will be much facilitated in the Upper Country, for the barks of Lake Erie will go on Lakes Huron and Michigan, and a boat of forty tons will carry twenty canoe weights, and for this vessel it will take five or six men, in place of the hundred and twenty to a hundred and forty needed for the twenty canoes.

The governor general has paid ordinarily to the voyageurs five hundred francs for each canoe-crew, as much for the gratification to the officers as for the poor families; therefore, there must be paid five hundred francs for four thousand weight that the voyageurs convey to the Upper Country, and the one returns to the other.

In following exactly that which is stipulated in a few words, one will remedy one part of the abuses which are contrary to the advantage of Canada, and in a little while will see the lands cultivated, the habitants increasing in numbers, commerce flourishing, and the people becoming happier; it is that