

Michipicoton is a post situated at the northeast of Lake Superior, as that of Kamanistigwia is at the northwest. The Saulteux come there to trade. There comes from this post fifty to sixty packages.

*Sault de Sainte-Marie*, a picket fort is situated on the strait between Lake Superior and Lake Huron; it was established in 1750.

The trade was accorded free to the commandant in order to facilitate the establishment. The king gives five hundred francs of gratification taken from Michilimakinac, of which this post is a dependency. The savages who trade there are the Saulteux. There comes from there annually a hundred packages. The sieur Debonne and the sieur de Repentigny have the concession of this post for a hereditary seigniory.

*Trade and licenses.*—In almost all of the posts the house where the officer in command lodges, surrounded by pickets, is honored with the name of fort. In Canada, they call a fort a species of public shop where trade in peltries is carried on with the savages, who give them in return for these the merchandise that they need. Formerly the posts were auctioned off, and the merchants could thus obtain possession; they gave a profit to the king and paid the officer who commanded. To-day the governor general disposes of them for the benefit of his favorites, with the approbation of the court. The most important are the Sea of the West, the post of la Baye, Saint-Joseph, the Nipigons, and Michilimakinac, if they do not give at the latter place many licenses. The post of Détroit has never been given away, there they have the license system.

There are posts where the trade is carried on for the benefit of the king; such are Toronto, Frontenac, Niagara, the petit Portage, la Presqu'Isle, the river au Boeuf, fort Machault, fort Duquesne. The traffic at these posts is very burdensome for the king, who always loses, and it is carried on only in order to preserve the good-will of the savages; but the store-keepers and the commandants take care to enrich themselves.

The post of la Baye was worth in three years to Messieurs