

1750: AFFAIRS AT LA BAYE; OFFICER DROWNED; THE SIOUX
POST

[Letter from La Jonquière to the French minister. Source, same as preceding document, but "Canada, cor. gén., C 11, vol. 95, fol. 199."]

QUEBEC, August 18, 1750.

MONSEIGNEUR—I had the honor to inform you by the letter I had the honor of writing you on the 9th of October, 1749, jointly with Monsieur Bigot, that in consequence of the promise made by Monsieur the Marquis de la Galissoniere to the savage nations of la Baye des Puants to no longer farm out the said post, we should have it exploited by license. I have given the command of the post to the Sieur Marin, the elder, who left on the first of June to go and take possession with two canoes on the King's account, and a detachment of ten soldiers. I had presents for three years placed in the said canoes and these he will distribute to the nations of la Baye, of the Sioux, and the others into whose country he may penetrate.

You were also informed by the same letter that I had intended to have the said Sieur Marin establish a post among the Sioux in accordance with their desire.

Thus, Monseigneur, all that remains to be done is that I should have the honor to report to you the orders I have given him. I append a copy of the instructions I handed him.

In the first place, I charged the said Sieur Marin to do his best to restore peace and harmony between the nations of la Baye and the Sioux, and to bring about a peace between the latter nation and the Saulteux of Chouagamigon.

Such a negotiation is very important, inasmuch as it is essential for the good of trade and the safety of the French that all those nations should be in perfect accord. There are no officers better able to conciliate their minds than the said Sieur Marin. Moreover, the abundance of goods taken to the said post by the eight canoes that went there under licenses, will contribute not a little to renewing the attachment of those nations to the French. They have already been turned away