

united in asking a decrease in the price of the licenses, while those who are best known insisted upon their being reduced to a very small number.

To all this they added that as the supply of the Company's cloth was insufficient, this might keep the nations away. The latter reason did not fail to impress me, but how was it possible to satisfy them all when there is so small a quantity of that cloth in the warehouses of the beaver trade? I could not do better than distribute all there was, and promise to deliver them all they needed as soon as the Company's ship arrived.

Having, in the presence of the said traders, fixed both the number and the price of the licenses, I told them I would send off their canoes in several convoys under the command of officers, who would be going in the same direction, and that they were to prepare themselves so as to lose no time.

But, instead of hastening, they postponed their departure hoping to escape the discipline I cause to be observed. A commandant of a convoy puts them out extremely! The liberty to do as they choose and to get rich no matter how, strongly holds their heart! They are not fond of subordination, and thereby make themselves very liable to it; they have left no means untried to escape it.

As foreign trade has always done considerable injury to the Colony, and as I must make corresponding efforts to abolish it, I issued on the same day, the 29th of May, an ordinance by which I forbade the said trade, and ordered the governors and commandants of neighboring posts to seize all persons, whether French or savages, who may introduce the prohibited goods into the country or export them to New England. I append copies of both ordinances.

The publication by my order of the latter ordinance and the measures I took to have it strictly enforced, did not fail to cause uneasiness among those traders, and the example of the demoiselles Desauniers,¹¹ who are related by marriage to the

¹¹ The Demoiselles Desaulniers had a store at the mission of Sault St. Louis, where in conjunction with the Jesuit father, Jean Baptiste