

best known among them and who have always been thoroughly in league with them for the carrying on of such trade, did not allow those traders to conceal the trouble caused them by what I have done. They have become rich partly by that illicit trade, either by getting their beaver skins fraudulently conveyed by the Savages to the English, who pay them a high price for it; or by obtaining from them cloths and calicoes etc with which there is hardly a house that is not furnished.

I have even heard that they said among themselves that nothing less was wanting but the ordinances I issued to prevent them from increasing their fortunes. Their cupidity is unpardonable. There is probably no country in Europe where a more lucrative trade is carried on.

In fact, apart from what they ship on their own account, these traders fit out voyageurs to whom, in peace time, they give goods at an advance of from 20 to 25 per cent above the usual Quebec rate; they compel them to give them their furs in payment at the rate of the tariff they make among themselves in Montreal, and obtain a profit of from 25 to 30 per cent by selling them in Quebec. Should not this be a sufficient limit for those traders?

My zeal for the King's service and my promptness in informing you of everything, compel me, Monseigneur, to enter into all these details.

I trust that the strict enforcement by the commandants in the upper country of the ordinance I have issued, and the punishment I will inflict on all offenders, will restore order.

It is very likely that I shall have to make an example in connection with article 4 of the said ordinance if what has been reported to me is proven true by the commandant of Detroit, that is to say if I receive a report of the seizure of 200 pieces of English cloth sent, without my knowledge, by the Montreal merchants to the Southern posts. I discovered this

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Tournois, they carried on a profitable but illicit fur-trade with the English merchants at Albany. La Jonquière finally broke up this traffic and sent the two women and the Jesuit to France.—Ed.