

## Letter No. 15

Trade in Quebec City; general trade of the country  
and of His Majesty's Domain

Quebec 1709

Sir:

When telling you of Quebec city I did not tell you of its commerce. I waited to do this until I had written you of the other two cities.

The general trade of the country is done here as this is where the vessels dock. All the furs are brought here to be sold or exchanged for merchandise from France. It must not be overlooked that it also does some trading in goods which are brought here by the Huron Indians and by the French who go trapping in the lower river and it also trades with Tadoussac.

This commerce in furs consists of beaver, marten, lynx, American marten, black bear, timber wolf, pine marten, wildcat, otter, American badgers, fisher and fox, red, silver and black. The last mentioned is very rare and very costly. It also does trade in moose, deer, white tailed deer and caribou. These furs are the chief commerce of the colony. They also do a business in porpoise and seal oil, (the skin of the latter animal surpasses morocco) also salmon and dried cod fish. The return from all these articles amounts to very little. For some years we have shipped wheat, vegetables and salted beef from this country to the islands and Plaisance. I believe that this is the best and the surest for this colony which could also be dealing in lumber as do Sweden and Norway.

There are some iron mines in this colony which are under the management of Three Rivers. They claim they are abundant and of good quality. They will help trade more when they are mined. Lead was also discovered in Lake Champlain.

This colony is still growing. It suffered a long time from the Iroquois wars. It also endures a great deal from the wars waged in Europe which cause the merchandise brought over to be very expensive.

It is not very populated as it has only 16 000 or 17 000 people including the women and children.

A good peace and an increase in inhabitants would put it into a little happier state and would make it develop new commerce.

The property of His Majesty consists of the trading at Tadoussac, duties on the entries of wines, brandy and tobacco to Quebec and Three Rivers. Also taxes consisting of a fourth of the beaver and a tenth of the moose.

The entire colony is granted as seigneuries and as the custom of Paris is observed here, His Majesty draws a fifth from each sale on anything which comprises part of his domain.

I am, Sir, etc.