M. Tibierge, “Report on What I have Seen Since my Arrival Upon the Shores of Acadia. Up to September 30. 1695”, in John Clarence Webster, ed. *Acadia at the end of the seventeenth century; letters, journals and memoirs of Joseph Robineau de Villebon, commandant in Acadia, 1690-1700, and other contemporary documents* ( Saint John N.B., 1934), p. 141-144.

It is very certain that the presents sent every year by the King to the  
Indians of Acadia do much to preserve their alliance with the French ; without  
the aid they derive from it they would be in no position to resist the English,  
and, in consequence, would be forced to make peace with them. When he  
went to Pentagoet, M . de Bonaventure distributed a portion of the presents sent  
by the King to the Indians of that river ; and having thus been provided with  
what they required for war, they at once resolved to form a large war-party to  
go to the neighbourhood of Boston .

It appeared to me that the Indians of the Pentagoet River have great  
confidence in M . de Thury, who has been their missionary for 8 years. I am  
convinced that he is much needed in this place both for the King 's service and  
the welfare of the tribe. If it were thought desirable to make use of these  
Indians for any important undertaking no one could be found who was better  
qualified to direct them to do whatever was required.

This river of Pentagoet seems to me very important because of the fur  
trade which can be carried on there; the pelts are extremely fine, especially the  
beaver, which, in M. Bonaventure's opinion, are better than they are here. I  
cannot, however, believe what MM. de St. Castin and de Thury have told me,  
that 80000 livres' worth could be obtained there each year. I shall in due  
course inquire into this so that I may give you, Sir, more precise information .

There are, to my knowledge, only three settlers on the Pentagoet River;  
M . de St. Castin, whose property is estimated at more than 40,000 livres ;  
Ranauld, the bondman of the Sr. de St. Castin, who acts as his servant ; and  
one, Deslories (Deslauriers), who has a wife and children. M. de St. Castin also

has a wife and children, but his wife was a squaw (daughter of Chief Madokawando) whom he had kept a long time and afterwards married. All three had , formerly, several homesteads, but during the war the English burned them so completely that they are now obliged to  
hide their goods in the heart of the forest in order to avoid pillage. I do not  
know whether they had cultivated their land, but they have no cattle at present.  
While I was there, I traded about 6000 livres' worth of merchandise, a  
statement of which I have sent to the Marquis de Chevry.

The settlers of Port Royal do almost no trade with the French of the  
St . John River because of their fear that, if the English learned of it, they would  
be burned out. However, M. de Villebon asssured me that M. Dubreuil, who  
lives there, and who returned recently from Boston, will come here for cloth  
and other merchandise. Three settlers came from Minas and Chignecto, who  
have taken away some goods, and are to return shortly for more so that they  
may go to trade in Cape Breton Island next winter. All the settlers are, like  
these, extremely timid about venturing into this river, especially if they come  
in shallops, because they fear to be caught by English vessels which frequently  
cruise about these waters.

The Fort of Nashwaak , which is 25 leagues up the St. John River, is  
suitable for the maintainance of a post in this province, and quite beyond the  
reach of a hostile attack, although the Falls which are about a quarter-league  
from the mouth of the river are not impracticable to an enemy. About five  
years ago the English ascended the river for more than 12 leagues, capturing  
M. Perrot and two ketches he had with him. But, as the time required by the  
enemy to reach the fort is considerable, it would suffice to summon the Indians,  
who are much dreaded by the English; and the difficulty of a retreat, while they  
were being harassed by these same Indians, will always deter them from under-  
taking any attack on this fort. This is indeed the only advantage of its  
present situation ; whereas, if the fort at the mouth of the river were to be  
re-established , there would be a safe refuge for all French vessels cruising along  
these shores. It would attract many, not only for their own convenience, but  
as a place of safety for their prizes; it would be very detrimental to the English  
colonies because of the fishing which is extremely valuable to them, and to  
their other vessels which are engaged in navigation during the entire year. It  
would facilitate the sale of the Company's merchandise to the settlers of Port  
Royal, who in good weather could cross from their homes to this river in 5 or  
6 hours, and, if their business were transacted quickly, they might return on  
the same day. This could be done only because of the proximity of the two  
places ; but the same is true of all the settlements on the Bay of Fundy, and even  
those of Pentagoet, for the mouth of this river is situated almost in the centre of  
all these settlements. Moreover, as game is much more abundant during the  
winter on the coast than up the river, the garrison of the fort would find it  
very advantageous as regards food.

It is true that M. des Goutins seems much attached to M. de Villebon;  
I have hitherto been unable to learn whether there are any special reasons for  
this. I shall make an effort to find out so that I may inform you presently.  
On September l 0th, M. de Villebon assembled the garrison of the fort to pay  
them, and, at that time, asked, in the presence of their officers and myself, if  
any among them had cause for complaint against the said M. des Goutins. No  
one made any complaint ; on the contrary they all congratulated themselves on  
the distribution of food which had been made. Each was paid 8 !iv. 35s 6d in  
ready money for 6 months' service.

I can say nothing definite about the presents to the Indians. I only  
know that M . de Bonaventure distributed a portion to the Pentagoets although  
M. de Thury was not present, but when the latter returned from the St. John  
River he heartily approved of what had been done by M. de Bonaventure. The  
other portion having been taken to Fort Nashwaak, M. de Villebon assigned  
some to the Indians of Meductic and Chedabucto; and there are enough left  
for the Micmacs. All distributions were made in the presence of the chaplain  
of the fort .

MM . de Villieu et de Montigny , having obtained leave from Count   
Frontenac to go to Quebec, left here 10 or 12 days after my arrival at the fort.  
I have been unable to learn anything definite about the cause of their quarrel  
with M . de Villebon , unless it be that the said Sr. de Villieu having some time  
since taken the seat in church appointed for M. des Goutins as civil and criminal  
lieutenant-general of the country, M. des Goutins wished to have him removed ;  
whereupon they said some harsh words to each other ; and M. de Villebon  
having attempted to interpose his authority, the Sr. de Villieu was disrespectful  
which obliged M . de Villebon to place him under arrest.

This year no soldiers of the garrison have gone on expeditions with  
the Indians against the English, save M. des Isles, the brother of M. de Ville-  
bon. Count Frontenac sent MM . Neuvillette and des Isles, brothers of M . de  
Villebon, to replace MM. de Villieu and Montigny. They are very good men  
so far as I know them, extremely reliable as regards the interests of the Company.  
I am under obligation to them for the conveyance and unloading of  
the Company's merchandise, about which they took a great deal of trouble,  
personally, as well as in directing the soldiers. They are most suitable for  
this country, because they are familiar with the trails and are known to the  
Indians, whom they frequently accompany on expeditions.

I bear witness that M . de Villebon has neglected nothing to induce the  
Indians to go in war-parties against the English. Many are out at the present  
time. I shall keep as accurate record as I can of whatever I may learn regarding  
the outcome of all of these expeditions so that you, Sir, may be informed  
next year.

There are here two Recollets : Father Simon, at present with the Meductic  
tIndians, who in obedience to his general is to go this autumn to Quebec ;  
he is a very fine man who occupies himself exclusively with the affairs of his  
mission ; and Father Elizee chaplain at Fort Nashwaak, a rather reserved man,  
has not , it seems to me, troubled himself hitherto about anything except the  
duties of his ministry.

The Srs. Damours have begun only within the last year and a half to  
cultivate their land ; they have at present a considerable amount of wheat and  
some cattle, especially M. de Freneuse. They have four other settlers on their  
concessions, which are very extensive, and which it would be impossible for  
them to develop by themselves. These four settlers are also beginning to  
clear and cultivate land ; the Sr. de Freneuse is to build a water-mill soon ;  
thus, if only they would sow grain, they would be able to dispense with   
contributions from France for their nourishment, and might even be of great  
service to ships in case they should run short of provisions while cruising along  
these shores. But, to do this, these settlers must cultivate their lands in future  
with more assiduity than in the past.

In conjunction with M. de Villebon, I am submitting to the Marquis  
de Chevry, a memorandum of the merchandise to be sent next year. The  
cargo sent this year will not be sufficient ; if it had been worth 25,000 livres,  
nothing would have been left upon the arrival of the ships next year.

Until now I have accepted only the soft, thick, and dried winter beaver  
skins, and those of the summer and autumn which are soft and thick. I reject  
the dry summer and autumn pelts in an effort to induce the Indians to make  
garments of them. I have as yet received few other furs besides beaver and a  
few otter ; moreover, this is not the season for trading. I have made no  
distinction between the Muscovy and other beaver ; the natives are heedless  
about them . If any are found when I make the packets for shipment to France,  
I shall set them aside.

Besides the settlers whom I have mentioned above, there is one other  
habitation begun. 18 months since, by MM. Baptiste and Martel in partnership,  
opposite the fort on the other side of the river. It will in future produce  
a considerable amount because M . Martel. who remained here while M. Baptiste  
went to France, has carried on the work with great care.

At Fort Nashwaak the 1st October, 1695 .

Tibierge.