

*Secret Memoir sent to the Regent Duc d'Orléans on the limits of Acadia, on what he observed on by the Papers which have been given to him on the matter of the objectionable conduct of M. the Marquis de Vaudreuil and Mr. de Saint-Ovide and on the intentions of the English to encroach the lands of France (7 January 1720) in Rapport de l'archiviste de la province de Québec pour 1922-1923 (Québec, Ls-A Proulx, 1923), p. 80-82.*

*(Mémoire secret a M. Le Duc d'Orléans, Régent, sur les limites de l'Acadie, sur ce qu'il lui a paru, par les papiers qui lui ont été remis sur cette matière, de répréhensible dans la conduite de M. le Marquis de Vaudreuil et de M. de Saint-Ovide et sur l'intention qu'ont les Anglais a empiéter sur les terres de France (7 janvier 1720).*

The S. Dauteuil argues very respectfully that by the examination of the documents which can be used for the regulation of the limits between New France and New England, he observed that M. le marquis de Vaudreuil, governor general of New France, and M. de Saint-Ovide, governor *particulier* of the Ile Royale, had dangerous lenience towards the English, allowing them to settle in places under the domination of the king of France, although the regulation of the limits, which alone must designate what will belong to each King, was not fixed as it is not yet.

It seems necessary to observe here that the English thought and still think only of the usurpation of the complete domination of Western America.

They seized Carolina, Virginia and all the rest of the country up to the Saint-Georges river, although they belonged to France; which now makes up New England.

Then they prevented the establishment of the French colony all along the seacoasts from the Saint-Georges river up to Acadia. And likewise of Acadia either by open force during the wars or secretly by privateers during the peace, which they armed and disarmed in New England.

They gave names of their kingdoms to domains of New France, to form a type of right to claim them, although they were neither the first discoverers nor the possessors, such as Nova Scotia for Acadia.

At the time they obtained the cession of this Nova Scotia or Acadia through the peace treaty of Utrecht, they made the *Savage* allies of France understand that all the southernmost part of New France belonged to them until about ten leagues from Quebec, and by the restitution of Hudson's Bay, they had almost all that was on the north side of the St. Lawrence River; so much that there was nothing left for France of this great continent which she discovered and then established.

A *mémoire* from M. de Vaudreuil dated October 31 1718, and a letter from M. Bégon, intendant, dated the following November 8, addressed to the Marine Council, explain very clearly the conduct of the English.

The first says that he learns that the governor of Baston is going to send two hundred families to live on the Panaouamski river, 500 others to live at Pentagouet, and about 500 to settle at the St-Jean river and that he has trouble believing this.

The second says that Father Rasle, Jesuit missionary of Narantsouak, writes to him that the English have arrived by land in the number of two hundred at the fort nearest his mission; that there are yet to come a greater number by water.

That the Governor de Baston says that His Britannic Majesty has the whole continent from Baston to near Quebec.

That if the English seize this river they will be in a position to attack the French as far as Quebec, which they can reach in seven or eight days' march.

That it will not be easy to drive them out of the establishments they will have made. A letter from M. de St-Ovide, Governor of Île Royale, dated December 10, 1718, says that he made a trip to Canceaux (it's the cape that starts west of the Grande Baye St-Laurent, about 8 to 10 leagues from Île Royale, and this trip was the first days of June 1718) to prevent the *Sauvages* from plundering the English who are settled there and fish there, in which he has succeeded, and that he has reported to M. de Vaudreuil who approves of it.

That he ordered the French families who settled there to come to Ile Royale.

And that he gave the order to go and kidnap the man named Petitpas, a Frenchman, because he did not obey and because he is the safeguard of the English against the Savages of whom he is the master.

S. de Saint-Ovide did not think that he contradicted himself in this letter because if Petitpas was the safeguard of the English against the Savages, his journey to Canceaux was not necessary to prevent the Savages from plundering the English since they had this so-called safeguard.

A letter from the governor of Baston to S. de St-Ovide dated August 24, 1718 by which he complains that the French are established at Canceaux and are fishing there, this letter brought back by a frigate sent expressly.

After being sent to Louisbourg, this frigate went to Canceaux, where it exercised all the hostilities that can be done at times of declared war.

S. Dauteuil believed it necessary to report to his Royal Majesty the substance of these few documents because he considered it more persuasive than reasoning.

1° Of the continual attention that the English take to encroach on the lands of the France

2° Of the assaults, which they usually do without restrictions to destroy French establishments as soon as they are formed. This is what concerns the English.

As for the French.

Of the wrongdoing that the governors did in allowing the English to put themselves in possession of the slightest part of the land belonging to France according to the regulated limits.

But mainly of the said S. de St-Ovide for having made an express trip to Canceaux to prevent the Indians from driving out the English since that could have been done without his participation and in his absence.

And even more for having forced the French who were established there to leave and establish themselves at Île Royale, and to have ordered the violent abduction of Petitpas, a Frenchman; in which it appears that he lacked competency, since he acted against the interests of France, as he maintains the English in a property which does not belong to them and deprives the French against all justice of what belonged to them.

Of these procedures so misunderstood and so contrary to the service of the King, S. Dauteuil takes the liberty of proposing whether it would not be necessary that Messrs, the governors of Canada and Ile Royale, do not suffer the English to establish themselves on French lands as long as the limits have not been settled, and that to achieve this, they put into use the means which presented themselves and that could not be attributed to the French and which would be the most effective.

That on the contrary, they should maintain and help the French in the establishments they have done or will want to do on French lands by giving them all the protection and assistance they will need.

After the limits have been settled, each nation will enjoy what they are entitled to. What led S. Dauteuil to give this memoir is that the Marine Council has already worked on the decision of the affairs of Canada and that the Commissioners for the settlement of the limits have not yet decided anything.

(Unsigned).