

ward in advance with the kitchen equipment, linen and everything necessary for the convenience of Bigot and his party and the entertainment at his table of twenty or twenty-five guests.

On the eighth of February the guests of the Intendant, fifteen in number, including six ladies, dined at Bigot's palace with as much luxury and order as though they were not about to leave the place for months. After the meal each gentleman conducted the lady assigned to him, to their cariole, and in a few moments the joyous party, Bigot in the van, were speeding through St. Valier Street towards the road to Lorette. The horses, surfeited with oats, bounded eagerly over the firm snow, manes streaming in the wind, with tossing heads, their blood lusty with the cold air of a clear winter day, through which their breath drifted in wreaths of mist, while the foam from their bits froze as it fell.

The first stop was at Pointe-aux-Trembles, where they passed the night. Cards whiled away the hours before dinner, and two hours were devoted to the repast. The cabmen were paid, and returned to Quebec, while orders were issued to the captain of the cote to supply at seven next morning the horses required to continue the journey. Refreshments of tea, coffee and chocolate were served at an early hour next day, and the drive was resumed. The church of Cape Sante was passed and the "cote a Page" descended, where relays were had and two hours devoted to breakfast, or rather luncheon as the route was not resumed until after midday.

At four in the afternoon the steaming horses were drawn up at Ste. Anne de la Parade, the party was billeted and the evening again passed in eating and gaming. The next day found them hastening still forward. They changed horses, but did not stop long at Cap de la Magdeleine, and drove through Three Rivers shortly before noon, being saluted by cannon. They halted at Yamachiche for the night, and the next day, being Sunday, they attended Mass and did not consequently set out until ten o'clock.

At Beaver Island, which they reached about three o'clock in the afternoon, Bigot and his companions were agreeably surprised by the arrival of the Governor from Montreal, welcome additions to the card party that was already assembled.

The following day Duquesne assumed the post of honor in the lead, the others following, and the route was resumed to Pointe-aux-Trembles, on the island of Montreal, where they halted for the night, and played faro.

An incident, which might have been an accident, occurred during the journey of that day. The horses drawing Franquet, who was alone, took fright. The driver dismounted to stop them, when he received a kick in the face and the team swept across the ice towards an opening in the river. With Franquet, who found his steeds entirely beyond control, it was a question of jumping out or drowning in the icy waters, and he chose the former course.

Montreal was entered by the Beauharnois gate next day, the 13th, the journey having extended over about five days. According to Franquet, the cost of each cariole between Montreal and Quebec was from 70 to 75 livres, while the charge for each horse was twenty sols per league, or counting fifty-seven leagues between the two towns the charge for a horse vehicle amounted to 184 or 190 livres. Add to these charges the cost of feeding the party and its numerous retinue, and 7 livres 10 sols per diem to the grand voyer or road surveyor who preceded the Intendant by some days to put the roads in proper condition, and it will be seen that the cost of "doing" the trip in regal style was very considerable.

Furthermore, every league of the road between Montreal and Quebec was covered with a small army of habitants in advance, who, lacking the mirth of fur-clad exquisites and the encouragement of bright eyes and fair faces near at hand, drove up and down, hour after hour, in their sleighs, beating down the snow, that the vice-regal party might urge forward from stage to stage at a gallop, without impediment. Whenever the chiefs of the colony moved, the whole country moved also. Exclude the court brilliancy and the lavish expenditure, deprive the roads of the special supervision of the grand voyer and the labors of the habitant, and it is not difficult to realize the hardships and actual dangers which had to be faced by unofficial persons whom necessity compelled to travel on this route in mid-winter; and necessity alone could have led to such a course,