

as we know, in 1745, the place being weakened within by the very nature of its prosperity and the accompanying corruption. Nor need we forget that here Bigot served his apprenticeship, and laid the foundation of his ill-gotten fortune. Altogether, the place abounds with nourishment for those inclined to moral reflections.

For our purpose it suffices to observe that at Louisbourg Canadians found a ready market for their provisions, and an equally good market in which to purchase foreign goods, either brought from France or taken from English prizes. Here we find the key to the Canadian prosperity of the period.

The resident merchants at Louisbourg had adopted a special machinery of exchange to suit their conditions. When a cargo of Canadian produce arrived there, the local merchants purchased it, giving in return certain notes or promises to pay, which were always redeemable in coined money or codfish. But the Canadian traders generally desiring to take back an assorted cargo of European goods, purchased them from the French traders there, giving these notes in return. The traders again, if going to the West Indies, would convert the notes into codfish and other provisions, or, if going to France, would convert them partly into provisions from Canada or the West Indies, and partly into cash; a cargo of French goods being worth more than a cargo of provisions.

The coined money, which was always circulating at Louisbourg, came partly from France, partly from English prizes, and partly from the West Indies, being most of it ultimately drawn from the Spanish possessions on the mainland.

The Acadians, usually represented by their Canadian kinsmen as an ignorant, ill-thriven and extremely miserly people, sold what little they could scrape together in the Louisbourg market, but instead of taking back with them any considerable quantity of the various goods to be had there, preferred to carry away the hard money, which they carefully secreted in their cheerless homes, preferring riches to comfort.

In making a general report on the condition of affairs in 1745, after the capture of Louisbourg by the English, the governor and intendant report that the Acadians have steadily drawn from Isle Royale, in the manner referred to, nearly all