

They managed to retain possession of part of the seigniority of Sault Saint-Louis, granted in 1681 for them to the Jesuits. It extends nine miles along the river St. Lawrence, and forms one holding of 12,600 acres. A portion conceded to white settlers yields a revenue of several hundred dollars to the Iroquois community.* Several members of the band have acquired within the Reserve possession of lots covering one hundred or more acres which they transmit freely to their children, although they are debarred from selling or donating them to outsiders. So that as regards the system of property, as well as that of labour, the Iroquois of Caughnawaga have not retained as much as the Hurons of Lorette, of the primitive status and conceptions.

But from this point onwards, the order is reversed. It has just been said that the lands retained by the Hurons at Lorette are limited in extent; the village where most of the families live, covers only a small area. It is situated along a highway which leads to Quebec, and the French Canadian settlements surround it closely, penetrate it as it were. So much so that at many a point on its outskirts, the Huron homes almost touch those of inhabitants of French Canadian parishes.

That situation puts the small Huron community in close and constant intercourse with Canadians. It opens the doors of Huron homes to the notions and usages of the white settlers.

On the other hand, it has been noticed that the Iroquois of Caughnawaga are still the owners of large areas; their reserve of Sault St. Louis is a compact holding of over 12,000 acres in extent. Their village (which, unlike that of Lorette, is not cramped for space) is isolated from the nearest Canadian settlements, in front by the wide and dangerous expanse of the St. Lawrence, in the rear and on each side, by a stretch of almost unoccupied woodland. Caughnawaga is indeed a closed group, a community locked up as it were to the rest of the world, and wherein Iroquois manners and traditions have been preserved as in a hot-house.

* Besides there has been set apart for the Iroquois of Sault St. Louis, a reserve covering 18,500 acres, in the township of Doncaster, County of Montcalm. It is as yet wholly a forest tract which the Iroquois do not work. As in the case of the Hurons of Lorette, the cut of timber is leased to outsiders for the benefit of the Iroquois community.