

the barren Hills to the East of Malbaie. Several young men of Malbaie to whom I spoke, said they would hasten to take these Lands as soon as they were offered to be granted.

The other parts of the Coast on this side of the Saguenay are entirely mountainous. The Hills are a continuation of the chain which first falls upon the Saint Lawrence at Cap Tourmente. There are, however, a few spots of inconsiderable extent which may at a later period be settled. The bases of the Hills generally form the Shore, and it is impossible in most places to travel along the Precipices, a few Feet from which the depth of Water is often Thirty or Forty Fathoms. There is scarcely a safe Harbour for a Boat.

I did not visit the Lands of the Rivière Noire, which is the boundary Line of the Seignior of Mount Murray and the King's Posts, but I learned that in the first mentioned Seignior considerable Tracts of good Land are found, and that Doctor Fraser, the Seignior, had granted Two or Three hundred Lots to the young Men of Malbaie. It is probable that on the Bank of the River, lying within the King's Posts, there is also a very considerable extent of good Land. I was informed, indeed, that a Tract of good Land extended from this place across the Country to Chicoutimy, which was distant two days march, or forty or fifty Miles. The Timber on Rivière Noire is very well adapted for sawing into Deals, and a powerful Saw Mill has lately been erected a little on this side of the Outlet of the River at Port au Persil, by Messieurs McLeod and Duberger. There is a Footpath from Malbaie across the Country, but it would be difficult to make a Road for Carriages.

As to the Country on the East of the Saguenay as far as Les Bergeronnes, (two Rivers emptying themselves into the Saint Lawrence,) Pointe aux Vaches, just below Tadoussac, is the only spot where persons might at present be induced to settle. At Les Bergeronnes, it appears probable that much good Land will be discovered. The Soil which I saw was good; wild Hay grew very luxuriantly along both the Rivers, and it is cut annually for the use of the Cattle at Tadoussac.

A few Miles below Les Bergeronnes the great Mountain Chain leaves the Saint Lawrence; the low Shore indicates a fine level well wooded Country, and even from the middle of the Channel no Hills can be seen in the Interior. This is the case as far, I believe, as Betsiamites and even Manicouagan, a few Leagues on this side of Monts-pelées, that is about Fifty or Sixty Miles. It is very probable that the Soil and Climate of this part of the Country are good, and I see no reason why the latter should differ from that of Mitis, which is opposite on the South Shore, only Twenty-five Miles distant. It might be worth while to examine persons acquainted with the Country about Portneuf.

The whole Tract of Country on the Saguenay and below it must very soon be settled. Since rival trading Companies have got to be Neighbours, the Trade is of little value to any one, except the Indian perhaps who in consequence receives less harsh treatment and often a higher price for his Furs, by the party most anxious to traffic with him. The whole Indian Population does not much exceed Three hundred Souls.