

name. This stream may be said to be all but unnavigable even for canoes, as it is but one long succession of rapids, seething and foaming over an uneven and rocky bed.

Father Claude Godfray Coquart, in his yet unpublished "Memoire sur les Postes du Domaine du Roy," addressed to the Intendant Francis Bigot, and dated the 5th April, 1750, says:† "Chom8kch8an (sic) was dependent formerly on (the post of) Lake St. John. The Indians brought thither their peltry, or as it is still practiced, the men of the post went after it. Winter cantonments had been made there several years in succession; but it is now ascertained that it was all but a useless expenditure, it being quite enough to repair thither at the breaking up of the ice. The post of Chom8kch8an lies back of Three Rivers, and it would be well to prevent the trips of the Indians to that town, in which event instead of 8 or 900 marten skins, the amount now secured, the supply might be greatly increased. The Indians are enticed to Three Rivers by the fire-water given in exchange for their furs, and which they bring back with them to their homes. This road has not been successfully blocked up to the present."

"The agent at Chek8timi usually sends up a trader, whom he supplies with merchandise,* together with two Frenchmen and a few Indians of his post. By the end of July they are back again from their trip. The Indians (of Chom8kch8an) are a worthless set; they cannot be distrusted too much, for their intercourse with Three Rivers has utterly demoralized them. It would be a great advantage for Chek8timi if they could be kept at home, and if the traders of Three Rivers could be prevented from sending either French or Indians to trade with them for spirits. Dergroseilliers had made successful expeditions several years in succession to Chom8kch8an, whatever Mr. Cugnet may assert to the contrary. What is wanting now is a trader who can manage to make a trip each year, either by wintering in Chek8timi, or by setting out in the very early spring, and it is my opinion that he

† Orig. MS., p. 20.

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