

"In 1663 the Indians of the Bay du Nord (Hudson's Bay) returned to Quebec in further quest of Frenchmen, and M. Davaugour sent thither Sieur de la Couture with five men, who proceeded *overland* to the said Bay, possession whereof he took in the King's name, noted the latitude, planted a cross, and deposited at the foot of a large tree his Majesty's arms engraved on copper, and laid between two sheets of lead, the whole being covered with some bark of trees."

In 1671 Pere Albanel was despatched overland to Hudson's Bay by the Intendant Talon, (*viu* the Saugenay River); and in the same year (1671) Sieur de St. Lussou was sent by Mr. Talon to Sault St. Marie, where he made a treaty with "seventeen Indian nations." The Intendant in his report states that the place Sieur de St. Lussou reached is not supposed to be 300 leagues from the extremities of the countries bordering on the Vermilion or South Sea. He continues: "The countries bordering on the Western ocean appear to be no farther from those discovered by the French, according to the calculation of the distance made from the reports of the Indians; and by the maps there does not appear to be more than 1500 leagues of navigation remaining to Tartary, China and Japan." Even at so early a period in the history of Canada did the French look forward to establishing communication, overland, with the "South Seas," to command the trade of Western Asia; and in another half century the French government were so impressed with the idea of an overland route to the Pacific that they sent instructions to Quebec to have the exploration effected.

Du Chesneau writes in 1681: "They (the English) are still at Hudson's Bay, on the north, and do great damage to our fur trade."

In 1683 M. de la Barre writes to M. de Seignelay: "The English of Hudson's Bay have this year attracted many of our northern Indians, who for this reason have not come to trade to Montreal. When they learned by expresses, sent them by Du L'hut on his arrival at Missilimakinak,* that he was coming, they sent him word to come quickly and they would unite with him to prevent all the others going thither any more. If I stop that Pass (Lake Superior to James Bay), as I hope, and as it is necessary to do, as the English of that Bay excite against us the savages, whom Sieur du L'hut alone can quieten, I shall enter into arrangements with those of

* Michillimakinak, Green Bay, and Lake Huron.