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DOCUMENT No. I.

Accompanying a Meſſage from the Preſident of the United States. Received the 8th November, 1804.

Extract of a letter from Don Pedro Cevallos, minister of state of his Catholic Majesty to Charles Pinckney, esquire, dated at the Pardo, 10th February, 1804.

TRANSLATION.

"At the ſame time that the miniſter of his majeſty in the United States is charged to inform the American government reſpecting the falſity of the rumour referred to, he has likewiſe orders to declare to it—that his majeſty has thought fit to renounce his oppoſition to the alienation of Louiſiana made by France, notwithſtanding the ſolid reaſons on which it is founded: thereby giving a new proof of his benevolence and friendſhip towards the United States."

Copy of a letter from the Marquis of Casa Yrujo to the Secretary of State

TRANSLATION.

SIR,

The explanations which the government of France has given to his Catholic Majeſty, concerning the ſale of Louiſiana to the United States, and the amicable diſpoſitions on the part of the king my maſter towards theſe ſtates; have determined him to abandon the oppoſition, which at a prior period, and with the moſt ſubſtantial motives, he had manifeſted againſt that tranſaction. In conſequence and by ſpecial order of his majeſty, I have the pleaſure to communicate to you his royal intentions on an affair ſo important; well perſuaded that the American government will ſee in this conduct of the king my maſter, a new proof of his conſideration for the United States, and that they will correſpond with a true reciprocity with the ſincere friendſhip of the king, of which he has given ſo many proofs.

God preſerve you many years. Philadelphia, 15th May, 1804.

James Madison, Esq.

DOCUMENT No. II,

Accompanying a Message from the President of the United States, November 8th, 1804.

To all to whom theſe preſents ſhall come:

WHEREAS by an act of Congreſs authority has been given to the Preſident of the United States, whenever he ſhall deem it expedient, to erect the ſhores, waters, and inlets of the bay and river of Mobile, and of the other rivers, creeks, inlets, and bays, emptying into the gulph of Mexico, eaſt of the ſaid river Mobile, and weſt thereof to the Paſcaguola incluſive, into a ſeparate diſtrict for the collection of duties on impoſts & tonnage, & to eſtabliſh ſuch place within the ſame as he ſhall deem expedient to be the port of entry and delivery for ſuch diſtrict; and to deſignate ſuch other places within the ſame diſtrict, not exceeding two, to be ports of delivery only.

NOW KNOW YE, that I THOMAS JEFFERSON, Preſident of the United States, do hereby decide, that all the above mentioned ſhores, waters, inlets, creeks and rivers, lying *within the boundaries of the United States*, ſhall conſtitute and form a ſeparate diſtrict, to be denominated "The Diſtrict of Mobile;" and do alſo deſignate Fort Stoddert within the diſtrict aforeſaid, to be the port of entry and delivery for the ſaid diſtrict.

Given under my hand this 30th day of May, 1804.

(Signed) TH: JEFFERSON.

DOCUMENT No. III,

Accompanying a Meſſage from the Preſident of the United States, November 8th, 1804.

A summary description of the Lead Mines in Upper Louisiana; also an estimate of their produce for three years past.

St. Louis, June 16. 1804.

SIR,

In conſequence of a requeſt made me by captain Lewis, before he left this, I now do myſelf the honor of encloſing you a copy of a diſſertation on the Lead Mines in Upper Louiſiana, furniſhed me by Moſes Auſtin, Eſq. This gentleman owns an extenſive mine, ſituated about thirty-eight miles back of St. Genevieve, which he has worked for ſome years paſt; and from his education and experience, I conceive him to be better calculated to give correct information on the ſubject than any other man in this quarter.

I am, ſir, with ſentiments of high reſpect,

Your very humble ſervant,

AMOS STODDARD,

Captain and firſt civil commandant of Upper Louiſiana.

The Preſident of the United States.

A summary Description of the Lead Mines in Upper Louisiana—to which is added an Estimate of their produce for three years past—also, a Table shewing the increase of population in their vicinity, since the year 1799—Hastily drawn at the request of captain Amos Stoddard, first civil commandant of Upper Louisiana—to whom it is most respectfully submitted by his very humble servant,

MOSES AUSTIN.

SIR,

Agreeably to your requeſt, I have annexed a memorandum of the number, extent and ſituation of the Lead Mines in Upper Louiſiana, with an eſtimate of the average quality of mineral produced, and the number of hands employed at each mine; with the probable quantity which may be annually produced, when the country becomes populated ſo as to afford workmen ſufficient to occupy the mines to advantage.

Names of the Mines.

1. Mine a Burton.
2. Mine a Robuna.
3. Old Mines.
4. Mine Ranault.
5. Mine a Maneto.
6. Mine a la Plate.
7. Mine a Joe.
8. Mine a Lanye.
9. Mine a la Mott.
10. Mine a Gerbore.

1. The Mine a Burton, ſituated 38 miles weſt north weſt of St. Genevieve was diſcovered by Francis Burton, about the year 1763, on a fork of Grand river, 10 miles from its junction with the main river, after which it takes the name of Ranault's fork of the Merimak, and unites with that river, about 25 miles above its junction with the Miſſiſſippi. The Fauche Ranault is navigable in the ſpring ſeaſon, within 10 miles of the mine a Burton. In the year 1798, a conceſſion of one league in ſuperfice, comprehending about one third part of the mine (on condition he ſhould erect a ſmelting furnace, and eſtabliſh a lead manufacture) was granted to M. Auſtin; all of which he has carried into execution. Francis Burton, alſo, obtained a grant of four acres, as a compenſation for the diſcovery.

There is a ſmall village at this place, of twenty families, who cultivate a little land near the mines; but have no conceſſions. Two griſt mills, with a ſaw mill, furniſh the inhabitants with grinding and plank.

The greateſt part of the workings at the Mine a Burton, are in an open prairie which riſes nearly an hundred feet above the level of the creek.—The mines may be ſaid to extend over two thouſand acres of land: but the principal workings are within the limits of one hundred and ſixty acres; and perhaps, no part of the world furniſhes lead ore in greater quantities and purity. The mineral is found within two feet of the ſurface of the earth, and it is ſeldom the miners dig deeper than ten feet, not that the mineral diſcontinues, but becauſe they find it troubleſome to raiſe out of the ground; The French miners being unacquainted with the utility of machinery, and generally are able to procure in plenty nearer the ſurface.

The manner in which the mines have been wrought, renders it impoſſible to determine whether the mineral terminates in regular veins or not; for when the miner finds himſelf ten or twelve feet below the ſurface, his inexperience obliges him to quit his digging and begin anew, notwithſtanding the appearance of mineral may be good. Thus one half his time is taken up inſinking new holes or pits.

The mineral is of two qualities, gravel and foſſil mineral. The gravel mineral is found immediately under the ſoil, intermixed with gravel, in pieces from 1 to 50 pounds weight of ſolid mineral. After paſſing through the gravel, which is commonly from three to four feet, is found a ſand rock, which is eaſily broken up with a pick, and when expoſed to the air, crumbles to a fine ſand. This rock alſo continues five or ſix feet, and contains mineral nearly of the ſame quality as the gravel: but mineral of the firſt quality is found in a bed of red clay, under the ſand rock, in pieces from ten to five hundred pounds weight, on the outſide of which is a white, gold or ſilver coloured ſpar or foſſil, of a bright, glittering appearance, as ſolid as the mineral itſelf, and in weight as three to two; this being taken off, the mineral is ſolid, unconnected with any other ſubſtance; of a broad grain, and what mineralogiſts call potters ore.—When it is ſmelted in a common ſmelting furnace, it produces ſixty per cent. and when again ſmelted in a ſlag ſurface, produces fifteen per cent. more, making cleanly ſmelted, ſeventy-five per cent.—The gravel mineral is incruſtated with a dead grey ſubſtance, the eighth of an inch in thickneſs—has ſmall veins of ſulphur through it, and will not produce more than ſixty per cent. when cleanly ſmelted.

When I firſt knew the Mine a Burton in the year 1797, the French ſmelted their mineral in ſtone furnaces, ſomewhat ſimilar to lime-kilns. At the bottom they put a floor of the largeſt logs to be found, ſetting ſmaller ones round the ſides of the furnace. In a furnance thus arranged, is put from three to five thouſand pounds weight of mineral; and a fire being lighted under the bottom of the furnace, is kept up until the mineral is entirely ſmelted, burnt or loſt in the aſhes. In this way, each miner ſmelted his own mineral, extracting about three hundred and fifty pounds of lead from each thouſand pound weight of mineral. But ſince my works have been eſtabliſhed, they have found it more advantageous to ſell their mineral than to ſmelt it themſelves.

In the year 1798, there were twenty French furnaces: but in 1802, one only was in uſe.

The time for working the mines, is from Auguſt to December. After harveſt the inhabitants of St. Genevieve and N. Burbon, reſort to the mines; the rich ſend their negroes, and the poor claſs depend on the mines to furniſh them with lead to purchaſe all imported articles. From the middle of Auguſt to the 15th or 20th of December, there are from 40 to 50 men employed in digging mineral: the remainder of the year, but little mineral is drawn from the mines, and but few hands employed—From the year 1798 to 1803 the average quantity of mineral may be ſtated at five hundred and fifty or ſix hundred thouſand pounds French weight each year; procured moſtly in four months, by not more than fifty men.—The ſame number of hands employed the year round, would produce at leaſt fifteen or ſixteen hundred thouſand pounds, making proper allowance for ſpring rains. From the extent of the mines one thouſand men might be employed to equal advantage.

2. Mine a Robuna, two miles eaſt ſouth-eaſt of the Mine a Burton, was diſcovered about the ſame time. This mine has not been wrought for many years, until the laſt ſeaſon, a few experiments were made and a ſmall quantity of mineral raiſed. The old diggings are not extenſive, although it is ſaid large quantities of mineral were drawn from the mine on its firſt diſcovery. It is public property, and there is every reaſon to believe will become advantageous when the population of the country ſhall afford workmen to open and work the mines.

3. Old Mines, ſo called, from being diſcovered many years before the Mine a Burton. It is ſaid the old mines were opened and wrought by Mr. Ranault about the year 1726 at the time he explored this country for the famous Law and Company. It is ſituated five miles north eaſt of the Mine a Burton, on the diſcovery of which it was abandoned—mineral being found in great abundance at the new mines. The old mines remained in this ſituation until February, 1802, when fifteen French families made a ſettlement near the mines, & have formed a village, ſince which the mines have been opened, and the laſt year produced three hundred and ſixty thouſand pounds weight of mineral of an excellent quality, not inferior to the beſt produced at the Mine a Burton. A gold coloured foſſil ſimilar to that found at the Mine a Burton, is alſo connected with the mineral taken from this mine.

The proſpect of obtaining immenſe quantities of mineral from the old mines is at preſent very flattering, and there is not the leaſt doubt of their being equally extenſive as the Mine a Burton. The preſent workings, with the old, include about one hundred acres of land. The mines are elevated, and may be eaſily drained to the depth of an hundred feet.

In the year 1799 a grant for four hundred acres of land was obtained, and ſurveyed in 1800, but includes no part of the workings: therefore the mine, with the adjacent lands, excepting that conceſſion, may be conſidered as public property.

No ſmelting furnace has as yet been erected at this place, except a French one, moſt of the mineral being tranſported to the Mine a Burton to be ſmelted.—The greateſt number of hands employed at the old mines, at any one time ſince the late eſtabliſhment, has not exceeded twenty-five or thirty; and thoſe only for a few months. It is not improbable that the ſpace between the old mines and the Mine a Burton may produce mineral in as great abundance as either of the mines. The Fouche Ranault is navigable within 7 miles of this mine.

4. Mine Ranault, ſituated 6 miles N. of the Mine a Burton, on a creek of the ſame name. Little can be ſaid relative to this mine, it not having been wrought for more than ſeventy years; but from information and the extent of the diggings, a large quantity of mineral was drawn from it. It was diſcovered and opened by Mr. Ranault, about the year 1724—5, with an expectation of finding ſilver ore. The country near the mine is hilly and broken. It is ſuppoſed that Ranault's conceſſion, granted by the king of France, if ever it ſhould be brought forward, will comprehend the mine. The mineral drawn from theſe mines, is of a good quality, generally found in limeſtone rock, in regular veins and is ſaid to be inexhauſtible. I know of no reaſon why they have been ſo long neglected, unleſs I attribute it to the diſcovery of mines nearer the ſettlements and the ſmall number of workmen to carry them on. As they are within 10 miles of navigation, by the Fouche Ranault, great expectations of their utility to the public may juſtly be entertained.

5. Mine a Maneto, or American mines, on Grand River, was diſcovered and opened in the month of October, 1799 by the Americans ſettled on Grand river: is ſituated twelves miles eaſt ſouth eaſt of the Mine a Burton—The appearance of the mines being very flattering, a plan was excuted by Meſſrs. Valle and Pratt, of St. Genevieve, to diſpoſſeſs the Americans of the privilege allowed in ſuch caſes, of four acres in ſuperfice as a compenſation to the diſcoverers of mines. In 1803, Mr. Pratt brought forward two conceſſions, one for himſelf of one thouſand acres, the other in the name of his ſon, a minor, for eight hundred acres. In conſequence of theſe conceſſions the Americans have been excluded from the mines.

The Mine a Maneto, from its flat poſition, will not admit of deep mining, the water riſing at the depth of fifteen feet, and the ſituation is ſuch, it cannot be drained. The mineral is found within two or three feet of the ſurface of the earth, in a ſoft, grey, limeſtone rock in ſmall particles. The rock lies in a horizontal poſition, in ſheets of five or ſix inches in thickneſs. Two or three layers of this rock are found one under the other; between each is a layer, either of clay or mineral, one or two inches thick—moſt commonly mineral. In places where the rock will admit of ſinking eight or ten feet, the mineral is found in thin flakes, covered with an iron colored ruſt. Before the mineral can be ſmelted, it requires to be pounded and waſhed; after paſſing through this operation, out of one thouſand pounds, as it is taken from the mines, three or four hundred only is found to be mineral. Notwithſtanding this additional labor, the eaſe and facility with which the mineral is procured, would leave a handſome profit in the hands of experienced workmen; but to the preſent holders yields but little. There is not the ſmalleſt appearance of the Marcoſite to be found in theſe mines. The land carriage to St. Genevieve from the Mines a Maneto, is about twenty ſix miles.

6. Mine a la Plat, ſituate on a river of that name, about two miles from its junction with Grand river, and eighteen miles E. S. E. from the Mine a la Burton, was diſcovered in October, 1799, by an American; but the injuſtice done to the ſettlers at Grand river, in the affair of the Mine a Maneto, diſcouraged thoſe concerned in the diſcovery from making any great attempts to open and improve it. In 1800, thirty thouſand pounds weight of mineral was drawn from the mine by two Americans; obtained near the ſurface. The mineral aſſumes the appearance of regular veins, and there is not a doubt but this mine will be very productive. A ſilver colored foſſil is found at this mine, but not in ſuch quantities as at the Mine a Burton. The mine, at preſent, is unoccupied for the reaſons before mentioned; and will remain ſo until a more favorable moment.

The land carriage from the mine to St. Genevieve, is about twenty miles. The mine may be conſidered as the property of the public.

7. Mine a Joe on Grand river, about four miles from the Mine a la Plate, and fourteen ſouth eaſt of the Mine a Burton, was diſcovered by Meſſrs. Baker and Ally, American ſettlers at Grand river, in September, 1801, but was taken from them in 1802, by one of thoſe acts of injuſtice, not uncommon in abſolute governments. While Meſſrs. Baker and Ally were ſuffered to work the mine, they obtained mineral in abundance; but ſince it has been in the hands of the preſent holders, it has produced but little. This mine is ſaid to be private property, which renders it difficult to aſcertain its extent and richneſs; but from circumſtances it is ſuppoſed not to be very extenſive. The mineral is found in pieces of ſeveral hundred pounds weight, pure and ſolid.

8. Mine a Lany. This mine is ſituated ſix miles weſt of the Mine a Joe, and fifteen ſouth ſouth eaſt of the Mine Burton. It was diſcovered about the year 1795, and bears the name of its diſcoverer. The mine has not been much wrought, and from what I can learn, never produced any large quantity of mineral. It is not in much repute, and at preſent is unoccupied.

9. Mine a la Mott, is ſituated on the waters of the river St. Francis, ſix miles from the main river, and thirty ſouth ſouth weſt of St. Genevieve; was diſcovered by Mr. Ranault, about the year 1723 or 24, who made an exploration, but finding no ſilver ore, he abandoned it. About the year 1723, a man by the name of A la Mott, opened and wrought the mine, after whom it is called.

Mine a la Mott differs in every reſpect from the mines on Grand river and its vicinity. The ſituation is flat, low; the water bad and unhealthy. The mineral is found in regular veins, from two to four feet ſolid. Five of theſe veins have been opened and wrought.—They are found within four or five feet of the ſurface; with a declination of about forty-five degrees, but cannot be mined deeper (on account of water) than twenty-five feet, and to that depth only in the dry ſeaſon. The mineral is of a fine ſteel grain, ſaid to contain fifty ounces of ſilver to a ton of lead, and is highly charged with ſulphur. Notwithſtanding, the French inhabitants of this country have followed the mining buſineſs upwards of eighty years, yet they have not advanced in the art of ſmelting a ſtep beyond their anceſtors. The methods they purſue beſpeak their ſurpriſing ignorance. As the Mine a la Mott, differs from thoſe already deſcribed, ſo does their mode of ſmelting. The firſt proceſs is, by depoſiting the mineral in a pile of logs, after the manner ſea ſhells are burnt to lime; the piles being ſet on fire and conſumed, the quantity of lead produced, is five per cent. It is then put into a furnace of ſtone, ſuch as before deſcribed; from this proceſs, if well attended, is produced fifteen per cent. more. After this ſecond burning, they conſider the mineral in a proper ſtate for ſmelting. Therefore, collecting it from the aſhes, they again put it into the furnace, arranged with logs at bottom and ſides, and make an end of ſmelting. From the laſt proceſs, they commonly obtain about fifteen per cent. making thirty-five per cent. the greateſt quantity obtained.

At the Mine a la Mott, is alſo found, in beds, what the miners call gravel mineral, becauſe it is found intermixed with the ſoil, like fine gravel, in particles from the ſize of a pin's head to that of a hickory nut. This mineral, after an imperfect waſhing, is put into a furnace, where it is ſuffered to melt into a ſlag, no attempt being made to create a fluidity of the metal from the droſs. It is then put into a furnace, not unlike a miller's hopper, with a grate at bottom, underneath a fire is lighted, and continued until the ſlags are all melted, and a partial fluxion effected: This mode of ſmelting produces about two hundred and fifty pounds of lead to a thouſand of mineral. Notwithſtanding the immenſe loſs in ſmelting, the richneſs of the mines, and the ſmall expence in obtaining the mineral, leaves an aſtoniſhing profit to the proprietors. I found by experiments, that the mineral in the hands of ſkilful ſmelters, will produce ſixty, and ſome of the veins ſeventy per cent. About the year 1738—40, the Mine a la Mott, was conſidered as public property, and the people, in general, were allowed to work at it: At that time furniſhed almoſt all the lead exported