stopping here, the Canadians proposed to Sieur Fabry that a party should go to find the Mentos. Mallet the elder, being the one who seemed to have the best idea, and being the only hunter, was charged with this commission; and Philippe Robitaille, Sergeant Champart and an engage named La Grandeur were detailed to go with him. Mallet was charged with a present for the chief, and was told to engage one of the prominent men of the village to come to the camp to receive the message of the great chief of the French, and to bring horses to trade. If the Indians hesitated to come, Mallet was to leave two Frenchmen in the village as hostages. Ten days were asked, and Fabry says he allowed twelve, for the return of the party, which started from camp on the morning of the 13th. At noon, fell the first snow of the winter; and on the 14th there was a little more. On the 16th, taking advantage of a slight rise of water, Fabry hastily moved camp a league further up the river, to a low point which had been selected before Mallet's departure, as a convenient place for wood and a hunting camp.

This locality, the principal camp and depot of the expedition thereafter, was near the south-western corner of the Seminole Nation, about 21 miles up the Canadian river from Little river. It was probably a point somewhat above, if not that directly opposite, the mouth of Sand creek. Elsewhere in his journal, Fabry mentions it as 30 leagues below the Grand Prairies. The separate days' journeys given by Fabry, figure up a little more than 49 leagues as the distance which his party had travelled up the Canadian river, to this camp; but Margry refers to Sieur Fabry's instruction to the voyageurs, of the 2nd April, 1743[ meaning 1742], on the river Saint-Andrew, at 52 leagues from its mouth. The river at this place was 240 paces wide, and all its water passed in one channel but 20 paces wide and two feet deep at the side of the bank. A pirogue served as a bridge, to cross to the flats. "One may judge", wrote Fabry, "how much water it has in the places where it has seven to eight channels which meander in the flats".

Here, on the 17th and 18th, they made a felling of trees and fortified themselves, to await the Mentos, if Mallet could find them. Mallet's party returned on the 19th, having gone far enough to see three smokes that he supposed proceeded from the Mento village, being then five days out, and fearing that if he went there he would not get back within the ten days which he had asked for the trip, (the negotia-
tions in the village itself would have taken some time), he returned and reported progress.

On the 21st, he was sent again, "La Rose" (i.e., Beslot) being substituted this time in the place of Robitaille, and no time being set for the return. On the 26th (Easter day), 27th and 28th, the river rose about six inches each day and fell as much at evening.

"On the 31st, Mallet returned. He reported that he had been near the place where he had seen the fires, he observed others further back, which did not seem to him very far distant, that he had gone there without being able to find them; that, in short, he had walked and fasted a great deal without seeing anything but abandoned villages, and that his route he had crossed six rivers, one of which [doubtless Red river, to or beyond which the distance travelled would have taken him] was a great one.

At the failure of this second attempt to find the Mentos, Sieur Fabry was greatly mortified, and, as usual, he was inclined to lay all the blame on Mallet, of whom he sarcastically said that he had given him, on request, a compass, which had only served to turn him round in the woods a little more than he would have been without it, as he did not understand its use. The commander's pride, however, was now sufficiently humbled.
bled to receive from his associates, though subordinates, the counsels which he had previously prohibited. He assembled the four Canadians and the sergeant, admitted that he had abandoned all hope of such a rise of the waters as would enable them to navigate the Canadian to the supposed "portage" near Santa Fe, and told them, in the desperation of the situation, that they knew in what manner they thought it was necessary to proceed in order to accomplish the journey, and that on their advice he would take a course. The Canadians, who had previously made the journey, maintained that from the camp in which they then were, but 150 leagues of road remained to be traversed; they offered to take him to Santa Fe in less than 22 days, however bad the weather was, and to carry for him all his baggage, and in this offer concerning which Fabry's journal is silent, the soldiers also joined.

On the 2nd of April they reassembled. The older Mallet believed that they need not yet despair of being able to ascend the river by boat; that when May arrived they could make elm-bark canoes of very light draft, with which they could ascend the river with but slight depth of water. His brother suggested sending to the Black Pawnees to try and get horses. Old Philippe and La Rose were willing to follow whatever plan it might be desired to take, — by land or by water. The sergeant said that if it was a question of walking, the soldiers could carry only their arms and a few provisions; that even if there were one not in condition for marching, that as for the rest, the detachment was ready to follow Sieur Fabry.

Sieur Fabry now gave his own views at some length, which, according to his journal were as follows: He "replied to them that the course which Mallet the elder had proposed, of awaiting the month of May to make canoes, did not seem expedient; moreover, if the river should have water, he could ascend it with his pirogues without the aid of canoes; that if it did not rise, it would be necessary to make the canoes as well as the pirogues, since, when they [the four Canadians in their] had descended 40 leagues on the lower part of the river with two small canoes, [illegible] they had encounter in several places; that therefore, on the upper part of the river, it would be necessary to start from morning till evening, with less water and heavier canoes; that supposing, even, that they were not obliged to drag, it would take more than three months to make 300 leagues in a river which is a torrent when it rises and which would not keep its water half of that time, since he had found it low when he had embarked on it on the 20th of June; that moreover he thought, and others had often told him, that these bark canoes required much care, that they were spoiled in
the sun and were quickly worn out by dragging on the sand; that one would think that the soldiers, being wholly unaccustomed to managing these canoes, they, somebody every day, would split some of them; that boating in hot weather, it would be impossible to protect them from the sun; that — which would not fail to happen — they would not last long, and that then one would find himself on the prairies where barks for making others would be lacking, one would see himself reduced to severe extremities.

"Mallet", continues Fabry's journal, "being wholly unable to object to all these reasons, his proposition was rejected." But on this, a footnote to the journal as presented in Margry's Originées, comments as follows: "Mallet and his associates, having only their experience to oppose to the reasons of Sieur Fabry, could not fail of being put in bad humor, since, from him [Fabry] had resolved to give up, seeing that he could not arrive with the train of an ambassador, alleging that he had order to ascend the river in conveyance and not to repair thither to Santa Fe except in decent manner."

With equal ease, Fabry disposed of the proposition of the younger Mallet. He sneeringly submitted that after a failure to find the Mentos "at two paces from the camp", it would not be natural to go to look for the Black Pawnees, who were six times as far away from them.

As for going afoot, Fabry declared that would be his last resource; and in that case he would leave everything he had brought with him; when he had been given soldiers, it had of course been thought they could make a few leagues afoot, if they couldn't get horses in the country through which they were to go, but a distance so long as remained to be travelled was far beyond their strength, especially in the heated season. He reminded them that the journey of 1739-'40 had not been made afoot.

Stating that no other course remained but to procure horses, Sieur Fabry now announced his attention to go, in light pirogues, down to the nation to seek them, of the Arkansas; and if unable to get them from those Indians, among whom they were still rare, he would find there (at the Post of the Arkansas, near mouth of the Arkansas river) some horses of the King, with which he could convey goods to the Caddoauins, where could buy them cheap. He said that by going north from the Caddoes he could not fail to strike the river on which the expedition had had his camp, and with Caddo guides he could return by way of their allies, the Mentos, if on his route. He started on the 4th of April, taking with him Robitaille, Beslot,
Champart, La Grandeur and Pantalon. He tells us that he would have liked to take also the elder Mallet, but deemed it necessary to leave him to provide meat for the camp, and Mallet was not in rugged health. The voyageurs had agreed only to wait three months for his return, which seemed ample for the circuit he proposed to make; but in the letter of instructions which he left for them (and which the Corporal Grappe was not to show to the Mallet brothers till four days after his departure), he ordered them to wait for him till the 1st of August, or practically four months; after which, if they continued, they were not to take the military detachment with them. In this letter also he willed, as he tells us, to the Mallet brothers, and to Philippe and La Rose, one of the personal property which he had brought along on the expedition, directing that all the rest be delivered to Corporal Grappe, destined for conveyance to New Orleans. He also gave a written order to the Corporal to return thence to the Post of the Arkansas, in case of accident to him or his failure to return by August 1st; and the Mallet brothers having said that they did not wish ever to present themselves before Bienville if the expedition failed, he made them pledge, before the entire company, that in any such case they would at least see the soldiers safely back to the Forks of the Arkansas, with canoes and provisions.

Impeded in some places by low water, Fabry did not reach the Post of the Arkansas till April 26th. Here he dismissed Pierre Roussel, a soldier, incapacitated by the reappearance of an old disease of the leg, and took in his place a man named Bellegarde. Here also he collected five of the horses of the King. He could buy no additional horses from the Arkansas nation, as they would have cost him more dear than slaves; but he traded for some saddles with these Indians. With two guides who promised to take him there in ten days, he started for Cadodauick, which, he tells us, made him hopeful of rejoining his company on the Canadian by the end of May, and to start immediately for Santa Fe, where he calculated to arrive in less than 25 days' journey. But, alas for his hopes, had to give up on the 5th, owing to recent floods which had made the roads impassable. Thus detained till the 21st, he then made a new start, guided by two Arkansas Indians who had previously been over the route. They went and crossed Red river and wandered for seventeen days beyond it in the country between the Yatas-ses and the Caddoes, without finding sign of a trail of any nation. They had borne far too much to the south, and too little to the west.
Fabry tried to induce them to recover the route; but they were so
dispirited that in spite of anything he could offer them, they gave up,
after 45 days of travel through frightful regions, having lost three horses from
fatigue and the heat, compelling Fabry to abandon his own merchandise
in the forest in order to save that of the King, the latter also losing nine
squires and seven tomahawks. They got back to the Arkansas
Post on the 8th of July!

But as for the redoubtable Fabry, "An obstacle so unforeseen", he
tells us, "did not in the least disconcert him". Two days after his
return to the post, he sent Sergeant Champart with old Philippe and
Indian guides (three other such going with them voluntarily), to seizure
the camp on Canadian river of his detention. He urged them to hasten,
and the Indians promised to take them sympathically through to the
Gadodouis in eight days, whence there was time enough left to reach
the Canadian river party before its waiting time had expired, so that
the sergeant
Champart could see that Fabry's instructions were carried out. But
miscarriage still dogged the footsteps of the Sieur Fabry's expedition;
Champart fell ill on the road, having an abscess on the knee ("genouil"),
and did not reach the Gadodouis till July 28th.

Here Champart and Philippe seem to have obtained some additional
horses, with the understanding that the Sieur Fabry was to follow them
shortly, and procure others. Though they were now too late to reach
the expedition camp by August 1st, they obtained guides and
pushed on from Gadodouis toward the forks of the Arkansas, thinking
that low water would prevent the passage of the men thence by boat,
and that if they abandoned the merchandise and went down the river by
land, they could intercept them at the forks.

Meanwhile the Mallet brothers, having heard nothing of Fabry, and
the time for his return having nearly elapsed, determined to go on to
Santa Fe on their own account. They inventoried Fabry's merchandise
and delivered it to Corporal Grappe, as they had been instructed to do,
taking his receipt for it, taking with them only some presents for an
Indian nation which they expected to meet; and arranged
for the return of the troops to New Orleans, as also instructed.

On the last day of July they wrote a letter to Bienville and Salmon,
claiming that the failure of the expedition was the fault of Fabry,
against whose management of the enterprise they made the four following
accusations:

1. That he had been unwilling to trade to the Osages for their
   horses, certain considerations which they indicated to him, in wishing
   more for the horses of nothing at all.

2. That they (the Mallet brothers) had proposed that one of them
go to look for horses among the Pawnees; to which he would not listen at all.

3. That he had been proposed to make canoes of bark, with which the river could be ascended; which he did not approve at all.

4. That during the absence of Sieur Fabry the river had been navigable for a period of 40 days.

In view of the jealousy and dislike which had arisen on the part of Sieur Fabry and the Mallets toward each other, and in view of the reasons which we have already seen that Fabry gave for not following the suggestions cited in articles 2 and 3, the force of these allegations is somewhat impaired. The statements of Fabry and the Mallets in the matter of the trade with the Osages and Mergi inform us that the journal of the Mallets, kept in camp on the Canadian during Fabry's absence, indicates that the river was almost always very low, and even to dryness. On this last point, we may safely say that there must have been some manifestation of the "June rise," which, as is now well known, appears in all of the rivers of the Great Plains annually, and such as it was, it doubtless afforded a basis for the Mallet brothers' fourth allegation. They may have noted forty days on which they considered that some progress up the river could have been made with skin bark canoes.

The Mallets took a departure (presumably August 1st) with an agent named Marcellin, whom on their way to the Forks of the Arkansas, when near the Canadian river, Champart and Robitaille separated, and on the 12th of August the latter reached, at 10 leagues above the Forks, "the camp of a hunter named Brin-d'Amour, where he found the corporal and the soldiers, who had been there ten days. Philippe*, who had brought five horses with him, told the soldiers that Sieur Fabry was to arrive shortly with the rest, which caused them to return to the fort. They engaged Brin-d'Amour to make the trip with them, to victual them, and on arriving at the fort, they found Champart who had gotten there on the 13th. The Corporal showed him the place where he had cached a part of Sieur Fabry's luggage, which had been delivered to him by the Sieurs Mallet. But he did not know where they had cached the effects of the King and the munitions and trading goods belonging to Sieur Fabry and the others. They had carried the whole away from the fort without..."