

1662. to the king's council the erection of a seminary at Quebec.

Establishment of the Seminary of Quebec.

His majesty consented,<sup>1</sup> and a patent was issued, in the month of April of the ensuing year, in favor of the clergy of the Seminary of the Foreign Missions.<sup>2</sup> As this seminary, according to the system of that time, was to supply the whole colony with parochial clergy, the prelate obtained that the tithes should be paid to the directors of the new seminary, and had them fixed at one-thirteenth of all that was liable to tithe rates.<sup>3</sup> This was found heavy for colonists who were not rich, and led to various representations in their name.<sup>4</sup>

Various regulations as to tithes.

They were heard, and in the month of September, 1667, the superior council of New France made an act in form of regulation, stating that provisionally, and without prejudice to the letters-patent granted by his majesty, the tithes to be raised should be only one twenty-sixth; but that they should be payable in grain and not in sheaves, and that newly cleared lands should be exempt the first five years. This regulation was carried out.<sup>5</sup>

The colony having increased, it became necessary in time to establish new parishes. It was then claimed that the tithes should belong to the parish priests, and their absolute establishment began to be discussed. These two points were settled by a royal edict of the month of May, 1679, five years after the erection of the Church of Quebec into an episcopal see.<sup>6</sup> The same edict

<sup>1</sup> Esquisse de la Vie, p. 32.

<sup>2</sup> The Seminary of the Foreign Missions is not mentioned. See Patent and Act of Establishment, Edits et Ordonnances, i., p. 34-6; Esquisse de la Vie, pp. 134, 131: Celebration du 200<sup>e</sup> Anniversaire de la Fondation du Séminaire de Quebec, 30 Avril, 1863; Quebec, 1863.

<sup>3</sup> Patent: Esquisse de la Vie, p. 134; Edits et Ordonnances, i., p. 36; De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Septentrionale, i., p. 236.

<sup>4</sup> Mgr. Laval reduced it to one-twentieth, but, as this did not satisfy, allowed them to appeal to the king: Faillon, Histoire de la Colonie Française, iii., p. 72, and authorities cited.

<sup>5</sup> The regulation was made by Tracy, Courcelles, and Talon, with Bishop Laval, Sept. 4, 1667: Edits et Ordonnances, ii., p. 133; Faillon, Histoire de la Colonie Française, iii., p. 165.

<sup>6</sup> Edits et Ordonnances, i., p. 231.