

1707.

Tithes.

The clergy, nevertheless, attempted at various times to raise the tithes back again to one-thirteenth; but the superior council of Quebec always opposed it, and as they finally appealed to the king's council, that appeal drew on them a decree of July 12, 1707, which exploded beyond hope their pretensions in the matter.¹

On the other hand, besides the sum of 7,600 livres which the king had assigned them supplementary to the tithes,² his majesty also granted one of 2,000 livres for those whose advanced age or infirmities prevented from administering their parishes, and, by a decree of March 29th, 1717, it was ordered that this sum be divided in five portions of 300 livres, and one of 200.³

The patronage of the parishes vested in the Bishop.

There are, finally, two sums of 1,350 livres each, one in favor of the parish priests, and the other for the erection of parochial churches; the patronage of which, by a decree of March 27, 1699,⁴ was vested in the bishop, to the exclusion of the seigneurs, who had till then enjoyed it by virtue of a former decree of May, 1679.⁵ The last act also required churches to be built of stone. All the sums paid by the king from his domain, for the purposes just mentioned, are at the disposal of the bishop. The chapter of the cathedral is composed of a dean, great chanter, great arch-deacon, theologian, and twelve canons. The king reserves to himself the nomination to the two first dignities, the bishop appoints all the rest.⁶

To return to the island of Montreal, and conclude all that regards the establishments in Canada for ecclesiastical and charitable purposes: the clergy of the Seminary

¹ Edits et Ordonnances, i., p. 305.

² De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Septentrionale, i., p. 236, says 8000.

³ Edits et Ordonnances, p. 367.

⁴ Arrêt du Conseil d'Etat du Roi qui accorde le Patronage des Eglises à Mgr. l'Evêque; Edits et Ordonnances, i., p. 279.

⁵ Edits du Roi concernant les Dimes et Cures Fixes: Edits et Ordonnances, i., p. 231.

⁶ De la Potherie (Histoire de l'Amérique Septentrionale, i., p. 235) says that in his time, for want of resources, there were only nine canons. He adds to the officers a great penitentiary.