

1720: LOUVIGNY APPOINTED COMMANDANT-GENERAL IN THE NORTHWEST.

[Proceedings of Council of Marine, March 12, 1720. Source, same as that of preceding documents, but vol. 41, c. 11, fol. 177.]

Sieur de Louvigny, Lieutenant of the King at Quebec, having represented that it would be necessary for the King to designate some person authorized to make an inspection, at least every two years, of the Posts in the upper country, to ascertain what is going on there, and to remedy any disorders arising there, so that orders to that end might be given in accordance with the reports which would be made by the person entrusted with that Commission,—to whom it would be Necessary to give a Brevet as Commandant-General in the countries where the French trade, so as to avoid all discussion with the Commandants of the Posts,—he offered at the same time to undertake this Commission.¹ Letters were written to Monsieur the Marquis of Vaudreuil, asking for his opinion of this proposition. He answers² that this inspection seems to him expedient, in order to maintain good order and peace among the Nations; he adds that Sieur de Louvigny knows perfectly their character and their interests, and can, better than any one else, acquit himself of this Mission, for which he considers that he will need a brevet of Commandant-General in the country where the French trade. But he feels that he ought to state that this Commission will prove useless if the Licenses are suppressed; for in that case, as it will be Impossible to Bring to those Posts the supplies necessary for their maintenance and for the Subsistence of their Garrisons, they will necessarily be abandoned. He adds that, if this Arrangement is carried out, a new expense will accrue to His Majesty—which Will be a considerable one on account of the presents which Sieur de Louvigny Will be obliged to Make to the Na-

¹Marginal note: "Approved. Opinion of the council: the title of commandant-general of the upper country should be given to Monsieur de Louvigny by an order of the king; and this should give him no rank in the colony but that of lieutenant of the king."

²Marginal note: "Oct. 15, 1719."