

1746: DIFFICULTIES AT WESTERN POSTS OCCASIONED BY
WAR

[Extract from a letter of Beauharnois and Hocquart to the French Minister, dated Sept. 22, 1746. MS. in archives of Ministère des Colonies, Paris; pressmark, "Canada, Corresp. gén., vol. 85, c. 11, fol. 15."]

MONSEIGNEUR—

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With Regard to the other Posts of the Upper Countries, The orders you gave to farm Them or have them Exploited by means of The purchase of Licenses, were followed until last year, but the circumstances in which we were placed this year through the lack of goods, added to their dearness, have not allowed of our continuing the same arrangement for all. In Fact of the 12 Licenses granted for Detroit, there was only one for which 500 livres were paid to Monsieur de Beauharnois; with Regard to the 11 others, it was all we could do to Engage Voyageurs, in consideration of the full remission of the price of the License and of the obligation to Transport the munitions required for the service, to Send there some goods they collected in the storehouses of private Individuals.

The Post of Michilimakinac Has Been in the same Position. Only 5 Licenses have been Sent for that post and nothing has been paid for them.

We Induced The Sieur Gatineau, the farmer of Michipicoton whose lease Had Expired, to Send a Canoe to that Post, on his paying 1,000 livres instead of 3,750 livres, the amount of his rent.

We endeavored to find a farmer for La Baye but without success. The last Lease in favor of Monsieur de Lagorgendière Had Expired. The lack of goods had an effect on The Exploitation of that Post as on those above mentioned. Nevertheless, **Monsieur de la Corne**, the Commandant at Michilimakinac, provided for the safety and indifferently for the Trade of the said Post, by allowing two private individuals to Fit themselves out