

back to France, and, moreover, an almost equally competent man would be needed to replace him at Illinois, whom it would perhaps be difficult to find. It would be desirable that one be found amongst the officers under his orders, but I know nothing about them, and I am not even aware that they have the necessary seniority and services to entitle them to the rank of major, which might be retained for the stationary Commandant of Illinois, as at present held by Monsieur the Chevalier de Bertet.<sup>1</sup>

If this idea were followed it would be advisable, it seems to me, that the Commandant of Detroit should have authority over all the posts called here the Southern posts, that is to say: Illinois, Miamis, la Rivière blanche,<sup>2</sup> and Ouyatanons or the nations of Ouabache.

It would seem natural to make Missilimakinak a stationary post also, but the almost continual dearth of meat and a thousand other things looked upon in France as necessaries, leads me to think that this had better be postponed to a future date.

Meanwhile I consider that all the posts called the Northern posts might be made subordinate to it, namely: la Baye des Puants, all Lake Superior and the western sea. The River St. Joseph should also be under its orders for the routine of the service, but it should likewise obey those of the Commandant of Detroit on pressing occasions, St. Joseph being almost equally within reach of both, and being inhabited by Pouteouatamis, some of whom are settled at Detroit.

I remain, with very profound respect, Monseigneur, Your very humble and very obedient servant,

LA GALISSONIERE

<sup>1</sup> The officer in command of the Illinois country at this time held the rank of major; in 1752, Vandreuil raised the post to the grade of a royal lieutenancy.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup> Doubtless this refers to Vincennes, very near the White River (la Rivière Blanche) of Indiana.—Ed.