

[Letter of La Galissonnière to the French Minister, dated Oct. 23, 1748. Source, same as preceding document, but vol. 91, fol. 231.]

QUEBEC, October 23, 1748

MONSEIGNEUR—The arrangements made some years ago for the posts of the upper country having been thwarted in some places and upset in others on account of the war and by the movements of the Savages; it is now necessary either to restore matters to their footing previous to the war or to put them in better shape.

In the latter period of Monsieur de Vaudreuil's Government and in the first years of that of Monsieur de Beauharnois, the officers were like lessees of the posts. You then recommended that they be given to them at low rates to enable them to satisfy the savages, and some fortunes were made there.

But either through the abuse made of it by some, or for other reasons, these same posts were farmed out to the highest and last bidder, and the idea that was formed of the profits derived from them caused the rents to reach a much higher figure than had formerly been exacted from the officers.

The persons to whom the posts were adjudged then considered they had a right to get as much profit as possible out of them without regard to the drawbacks that might result from it.

They therefore raised the price of goods beyond all reason, and to maintain it they sent only small quantities, especially in the latter years of their leases.

They thereby reduced the savages to despair and compelled them to go to Chouaguen for goods which the English *could not sell at the same price as ours, had not the exclusive right to trade and the price of the leases increased ours.*

Under circumstances so little favorable the war broke out: thereupon the price of goods was actually doubled in the Colony; the savages seemed desirous of rebelling everywhere; the receipts under the leases dwindled to nothing, and the expenses that had always been very light under the previous system, grew to such an extent that I doubt whether the proceeds of the most profitable ten years of the posts could have paid the expenses of the last two years.