On the other hand the savages blamed the lessees for the scarcity from which they suffered, and nearly all those from even the most reliable posts, such as la Rivière de St Joseph and la Baye had asked Monsieur the Marquis de Beauharnois and urgently pressed me to have no more lessees. Monsieur de Beauharnois had promised this to the Pouteouatamis of St. Joseph, and I adhered to it.

Moreover when Goods had to be sent to the posts last spring, several farmers gave up their leases or asked for a reduction of three fourths of the rent.

Perhaps peace may make them bolder, but the other drawbacks will always exist, and these seem so serious that I determined, with the advice of Monsieur hocquart, to whom you may speak of this, to have as few posts farmed out as possible, and to have them exploited by licenses as the leases expire, in the same manner as was done for Detroit and Missilimakinak during the whole time the system of leases lasted.

I do not think this will yield as much, but I expect that competition between several traders at each post will lower the price of goods and bring back the savages to us who are all going to give themselves to the English, unless we employ every means to keep them. That to which we have been reduced for some time and which consists in loading them with presents is beyond contradiction the worst of all.

We will make an exception for some posts where so far the savages do not seem to have complained of the lessees, or where, owing to their position, they are less likely to go to the English. These posts are Temiskamingue, Nepigon, Camanistigoya, Michipicoton, La pointe de Chagouamigon. These leases therefore may be allowed to continue or fresh ones may be granted saving the right to take other steps according to events or to new light that may be obtained on the subject.

I have spoken of the Western sea in a special letter.

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

LA GALISSONIERE