

more difficult to avoid that the majority of the officers commanding the posts are interested in the farming out, and the lessees are to a certain extent obliged to associate them in it; it has been proposed to me to do away with the farming out, and leave the trade free at the posts by imposing certain conditions on the traders who may wish to go there, either as regards the payment of licenses, or the transporting of provisions, or even supplying certain articles for the King's stores at certain posts.

This matter requires serious consideration. I beg you to give it special attention; and when you have obtained the necessary information to enable you to judge whether it is expedient to continue the farming-out system or to make any change in the same, you will please report to me thereon.

The post of Chagouamigon is one of those that are farmed out. The widow of the *Sieur La Ronde*, a captain, had been granted the enjoyment of one third of the proceeds of the lease for the period expiring this year, in consideration of the expense incurred by her husband in establishing that post from which he had not had time to obtain any benefit. *Monsieur de la Jonquière* has represented to me that that widow is in a condition requiring fresh assistance; and he has proposed to me to grant her the enjoyment of one third of the proceeds of the farming out of the post for a further term of three years. I find it objectionable to thus perpetuate a favor of that kind. Nevertheless, I rely upon you regarding what you may think should be done in favor of the *Widow La Ronde*, after obtaining information respecting her condition and that of her family which is said to be numerous. But, if she be really in need, I think it would be still better were you to make her participate in the distribution of aid you will have to make to the widows of officers by doing something more for her than for the others, in proportion to her wants.