

1752: GRANT OF LA BAYE

[Extract of letter from Du Quesne to the French minister, dated Aug. 21, 1752. MS. in Archives Coloniales, Paris; pressmark, "Canada, Corresp. gén., C 11, vol. 98, folio 15."]

MONSEIGNEUR—

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Monsieur Rigaud de Vaudreuil,⁶⁶ like an honest man, has told me the state of his affairs, which are embarrassed. Although I have only been a very short time in the Colony, Monseigneur, I have obtained reliable information that the Government entrusted to him is exceedingly expensive owing to The excessive expenses occasioned him by all who go to And come from Montreal. It is a ruinous custom at present on account of the Dearness of provisions, but with which a man occupying the position cannot refuse to comply. To set him on his feet I propose to you, Monseigneur, to grant him the post of la Baye on condition that it be exploited by the officer whom the governor-general shall find sufficiently capable and prudent to manage the great number of savages in that region.

⁶⁶ This officer is noted in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, p. 456. The following additional facts have been gathered from recently-published calendars of Paris manuscripts: François Vaudreuil, Marquis de Rigaud, was the eighth son of Philippe de Rigaud, Marquis de Vaudreuil, governor of Canada (1703-25). Born in 1703 (not 1705) he became lieutenant in 1724, and received the cross of St. Louis in 1738. At the close of King George's War (1748) he became king's lieutenant at Quebec, the following year being promoted to the governorship of Three Rivers. During the French and Indian War his services were important. In 1755 he was captured by the English in a vessel at sea. The following year, he ably seconded Montcalm in the capture of Fort Oswego. The year 1757 found him deeply engaged in the campaign of Lake George, wherein with much skill he commanded large forces of Canadians and Indians. The same year he was awarded the governorship of Montreal, left vacant at the death of Baron de Longueuil. After the capitulation of the colony, Rigaud retired to France, where he was pensioned for life. He died, probably at Tours, in 1779.—Ed.