

decision no longer exists, since the King has taken over the colony of Louisiana, for it is indifferent to the King's service and to that of the State whether that colony or Canada benefits by the advantages the Illinois establishment can give; and the only question at issue is to know which of the two can derive the greatest benefit from it or is most in need thereof.

In the second place, if we consider the circumstances which must lead to the decision of this question, they all seem to be in favor of Canada.

In fact, the Illinois post can be considered only as a burdensome establishment for Louisiana. It is 400 leagues distant from New Orleans. It serves but to divide and consequently to weaken the forces of that colony. It entails considerable expenditure on the King for the maintenance of the two companies in garrison there, owing to the difficulties of transport, and for the same reason causes the death of many soldiers. The greater portion of the proceeds of the fur-trade with the savages passes into Canada. And everybody knows that the hopes that had been raised with regard to the mines have vanished, since the whole thing is reduced to getting a little from those of lead.

By reuniting that post to Canada, Louisiana would, in the first place, gain the two companies of troops stationed there, which might be more usefully employed for the defense of the chief posts of that colony. The King would be spared the expense occasioned by that garrison there. It would be sufficient to send there from Canada a detachment of a few soldiers with an officer to be commandant, and the farmer of the trade of the post or the traders to whom licenses would be granted should be obliged to transport the necessary provisions for that detachment and other requisites, according to the practice for the remote posts of Canada. So that this post, far from being a burden upon the King, might, on the contrary, increase the revenues of that colony, which would be in a much better position than Louisiana to exploit that post, although it is farther from Montreal than from New Orleans,