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1755: INSTRUCTIONS FOR VAUDREUIL

[Source, same as preceding document, but série B, vol. 101, fol. 3.]

*Memorandum from the King to serve as instructions to the Sieur de Vaudreuil de Cavagnal, captain in the navy, governor and lieutenant-general of New France.*⁹⁶

VERSAILLES, March 22, 1755.

New France, the government whereof His Majesty has been pleased to confer upon the Sieur de Vaudreuil de Cavagnal, comprises Canada, l'Isle Royale, and Louisiana with their dependencies.

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In addition to those forts, there is one in each of the posts of the upper country, which are commanded by officers chosen by the governor-general. As a rule, the choice of such commandants will demand special attention on the part of the Sieur de Vaudreuil, because, apart from ordinary talents, they must possess sufficient knowledge to make them fit to govern the various nations at such posts, and those which are in the habit of frequenting them; but as the commandants destined for forts St. Frederic, Frontenac, and Niagara must also be capable of conducting the defence of those forts should occasion arise, the Sieur de Vaudreuil must bear in mind that he cannot take too many precautions to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the officers who may deserve the preference for such commands, so as to make a proper choice when commandants are to be appointed.

His Majesty is pleased to add a general remark here regarding the posts, and that is that such establishments must not be

⁹⁶Pierre de Rigaud, marquis of Cavagnal and Vaudreuil, left Louisiana, where he was governor, May 8, 1753, soon after the arrival of his successor, Louis Billouart, Sieur de Kerlérec. During the remainder of 1753 and 1754 Vaudreuil was in Paris, where (Jan. 1, 1755) he received his commission as governor of Canada. This was registered in Quebec July 10, after his arrival (June 23) at the colonial capital. For biographical sketch, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, p. 31.—Ed.