

church and the priest. The church itself, and all the vestments and paraphernalia, belonged to Cadillac, as his individual property. A large portion of the expense of maintaining the parish priest was also borne by him, but the inhabitants paid a part. Taxes, as we understand them, were unknown to the people of that day, but those traders who came to Detroit solely to trade, and who did not reside here, were compelled to pay something for the church privileges that they enjoyed. Cadillac owned the public mill—a windmill—used to grind corn and wheat. This returned a yearly net revenue of 500 crowns.

EARLY LAND RENTALS.

On the accompanying map I have placed numbers on the various lots to conform to the report made by Cadillac. They do not agree with the order of alienation, but all the transfers were made between 1707 and 1710. The names of the purchasers, arranged according to the numbers on the map, are also given, with the consideration for each parcel. The names are sometimes indefinite, for these Frenchmen had curious habits of changing their name, passing by different names at different times, and even in the little village Cadillac did not seem to know the first names of all his people, as frequent references are made such as "a man named Rencontre," "a man named Beauregard."

Generally, when a parcel of land was conveyed, there were two items in the consideration required. First, a fixed rental, payable every year and probably accepted in lieu of all taxes, except the tithes for maintaining the church, and second, a certain sum which Cadillac required for privileges extended to the purchaser, as for instance, suppose the purchaser was a blacksmith, Cadillac having the exclusive right of trading at the post, would grant this purchaser the right of blacksmithing to the exclusion of all others, and would receive an ex-

tra compensation for this privilege. The ownership of the land remained in Cadillac, and no man was entitled to his lot unless he took and maintained actual possession of it. If he abandoned it, it reverted to Cadillac, and he sold it to some other person.

From references in some of the conveyances, it appears that there were transfers made to parties not included in the report. We know that a man named Boucherville, and another named St. Aubin owned lands, but we do not have their deeds.

Cadillac's conveyances were not confined to the village. He granted a good many farms and the boundary lines of these tracts can be as distinctly traced as if made today. These farmers lived within the palisades, for it was sometimes dangerous to live, unprotected by soldiers. The farmers had rents to pay for the farm lands, similar to the inhabitants of the village. But where a farmer had two places, one in the country, and one in the city, a different and lower rate of rents was demanded. This list doubtless contains the names of the most influential of the first settlers of Detroit, and many of them are familiar as the ancestors of the families of French descent, still remaining with us.

I give the name of the lot owner, the number of his lot and the date of the conveyance and consideration paid.

(See Map on opposite page.)

DETROIT'S ORIGINAL COLONISTS.

1—Pierre Chesne, March 10, 1707, for 3 livres rent and 10 livres for other rights given up, all payable in furs, or in such coined money as may be current.

2—André Chouet, dit Camerand, March 10, 1707, for 3 livres rent and 10 livres for other rights

3—Pierre Taverau, dit La Grandeur, March 10, 1707, for 38 sols rent and 10 livres for other rights. This lot was afterwards conveyed to Robert Germain. A sol, or sou, was a small coin, or penny.