

sold or transferred his seigniory he was obliged to pay a part, usually (at least in theory) a fifth part, of the purchase money to such superior. He also had the glorious privilege of being eligible to be appointed a member of the Superior Council—if the authorities saw fit,—he might also have a commission in the militia—for in time of war all the inhabitants of Canada might be called upon to do service in the army under the Governor or other commander. Very often he did not own his land in the fullest sense—frequently the Crown reserved mines, minerals, oak-timber and masts for ship-building, such lands as might be required for military purposes, and the like.

The Seigniors had in theory the right of dispensing justice, but that right was exercised by very few, and very seldom even by them.

The habitant as "censitaire" (tenant) was under many feudal obligations familiar to readers of Blackstone—for example, he was bound to take his grain to be ground at the Seignior's mill, and to pay for such grinding. If he went to another mill, that did not relieve him from paying his Seignior all the same. If a habitant, being the feudal inferior, desired to dispose of the land which he held, he was obliged to pay a substantial part of the purchase money to the Seignior; and worse, the Seignior might himself take the land within forty days of the sale. He was liable to the *corvée*, or forced labor, for his Seignior, as in France; he must give the Seignior one fish out of every dozen of those caught in Seigniorial waters; wood and stone might be taken from his land by the Seignior to build or repair manor-house, church or mill.

But while the peasants had no part in the government of the country, and were inferiors, their lot was immensely superior to that of their brethren in the old land, as they themselves were essentially superior to the peasants of old France in intelligence and manners.

The Seignior's lot might not be though' a very happy one—removed as he was thousands of miles away from Paris; and not seldom with no one of his rank with whom to associate.

But they all loved Canada—"O! Canada, mon pays, mes amours"—as their descendants do still—and no one can under-