

be given to the copies of the presents, collated by one of Our beloved, trusty secretary-councillors, as to the originals themselves; FOR SUCH IS OUR WILL AND PLEASURE.

Given at St. Germain-en-Laye, the 19th day of the month of February 1670, and of Our reign the xxvii.

(Signed,)

LOUIS,

By command of the King

COLBERT.

*“Sealed with yellow wax under double label.”*

ORDER FROM THE STATE COUNCIL.

*St. Germain-en-Laye, 24th March 1670.*

The King having by his declaration of the 19th February 1670, ordered that coins of silver and copper to the amount of one hundred thousand livres be struck at the Mint of Paris, to be made use of in the islands and mainland of his possessions in America, so as to facilitate trade and commerce for his subjects in the said places, and the general directors of the West India Company, having represented to His Majesty that the fulfilment of the said declaration would suffer a remarkable delay and which would be very detrimental to the commerce of the said islands, and the increase of the colonies unless the difficulty of procuring cake silver and copper, was overcome for the manufacture of the above coins, and if the striking of these coins was only done at the Mint of Paris, and having heard the report of Sieur Colbert Councillor of the King, in his advice to the Royal Council, comptroller general of finances and after due consideration.

HIS MAJESTY with his Council has ordered and orders that his declaration dated 19th February 1670, shall take effect according to its reading, and wishing to facilitate and advance the manufacture of the said coins, mentioned above to be made use of in the islands, mainland of America, which form part of his possessions; it is permitted by His Majesty that silver coins of three livres and others of smaller denominations shall be melted in the Mint of Paris and that doubles tournois of copper be melted in the Mint of Nantes for the composition and manufacture of the above coins, according to the said declaration, ordaining that the Court of the Mint and all other judges to do all in their power for the accomplishment of the present, which His Majesty commands to be executed, as laid down, and further forbids no matter what appellation or opposition that should arise, and reserve the cognizance to Himself and His council and interdicts and forbids the same to all other judges.

LOUIS.

TERRITORY OF OPERATIONS OF THE WEST INDIA COMPANY.

The West India Company was formed by patent letters on May 1664; Louis XIV granted to the Company to trade over all the territory of the mainland of America, from Amazonia to the Orinoco, French West India, Canada, Acadia, Newfoundland and other northern islands, in the country that extends from Canada to Virginia and Florida; also on the African coasts, from Cape Verde to Cape of Good Hope.

Besides that, the King granted these countries to the Company in all signiory, property and justice. [Ferland Page 51, volume II].

