

also confirmed the provisional regulation of the superior council in regard to tithes; but it added, that if the tithes were not sufficient to support the parochial clergy, the council should provide therefor by a supplement, to be furnished by the settlers and seigneurs. This never took place, however, because the king chose to grant, from his own domain, the sum of seven thousand six hundred livres a year to aid in supporting the parochial clergy.¹

1683.

Tithes.

Towards the end of the year 1683, another means was taken to satisfy the parochial clergy, to whom the last arrangement made by the council seemed insufficient. Mr. de la Barre, governor-general of New France, and Mgr. de St. Vallier, bishop elect of Quebec, wished to fix the suitable allowance² to be paid above the tithes at 500 livres; but the king, in a letter of April 10, 1684, addressed to the former, informed him that this regulation was not approved. "I have read," said his majesty, "the memoir which you have drawn up with the bishop of Quebec, on the distribution of parishes, and the maintenance of pastors, and I avow that the principle on which you have acted seems to me very prejudicial to the welfare of the colony. You fix the suitable allowance of a parish priest at 500 livres, and there are some even to whom you give more, in a country recently peopled by poor settlers. . . . You know that in France, where the same reasons do not exist, the highest allowances amount to only a hundred crowns, and that there is a very great number of parish priests who have only 150 livres, and yet manage to live and discharge their duties; and what is more vexatious on this point is, that the said bishop has so well persuaded the priests that they cannot live on less than 500 livres, that it will be difficult to reduce them to any other footing. Still, I wish those who have only 400 livres to accustom themselves to live on that."³

¹ Edits et Ordonnances, i., p. 231.

² Portions congrues.

³ This document is not given in New York or Canada Documents.

the collection of the Edits et Ordonnances, and does not appear in the