

to the Council, in France, June 14th, 1664, we find a characteristic French-Canadian request, to the effect that since the colony had now a little surplus grain his Majesty is asked to send out a regiment with money to buy and eat it in the country. They complain also that owing to the scarcity of money they can not get their debts collected. This was evidently true enough, because we find that on Nov. 17th a complaint is presented to the Council on behalf of the farmers living at a distance from Quebec. Owing to the want of mills in many districts the farmers were forced to come to Quebec to get their grain ground, and it was complained that the grain was seized upon by the merchants in payment of past debts. The Council forbade the seizures until mills should be erected.

Just here it may be noted that wheat was at one time a limited legal tender in Canada. By a determination of the Council of Quebec, July 30th, 1664, fixing the price to be charged for goods sent out by the king, a difference is made in some cases between the price in money and the price in grain. For instance, a tub of lard was valued at 80l. if paid for in grain and 75l. if paid for in money. Further light is thrown upon this point by a complaint presented to the Council to the effect that, there having been an *arret* established that wheat should be taken at the rate of 100 sols (5l.) per *minot* in payment of old debts, as also to facilitate the carrying on of business in the country, this was found to be very prejudicial to business, inasmuch as the price of wheat was inconstant. After considering this complaint the Council ordained, May 29th, 1665, that for the future those who were obliged to receive payment in wheat should be required to accept it only at current prices. The *arret* here referred to was evidently an ordinance of the Intendant Talon, who wished to provide an opportunity for the settlers to make use of their surplus products for the purchase of supplies. The making of wheat a legal tender at current prices was obviously a very indefinite settlement of the difficulty and could hardly have worked smoothly. At any rate we find, on March 19th, 1669, an ordinance passed, requiring the merchants to take the wheat of their debtors in payment at the rate of 4l. per *minot*. Talon brought the matter up on the ground that some creditors were refusing