

for the navy had been marked. A fine of ten livres for each tree, and the confiscation of the timber was the penalty for violation of this regulation.

As like arrangements have been done in every part of the continent ever since, these first reservations caused trouble between the government and the cultivator. In case oak trees were numerous, in order to fulfill his obligations to have the land cleared within a given time,

Under the French regime the land could be held only under feudal tenure. The country was under rule of the Hundred Associates, which exercised a colonizing and trading monopoly. As is well known, it was not successful, and in 1663 was dissolved. The system of seigniorial tenure was then introduced by Richelieu, by means of which the land was divided into portions of from 100 to 500 square miles, in most cases with a certain amount of



the tenant was forced to destroy them. Burning the timber was the usual way of solving the problem apparently. There were often suits by seigneurs against settlers for making the trees into boards for their own use; but at last by order of the governor the tenant was left unmolested where the timber was cut for the actual purpose of clearing the land. The party was to be fined, however, when the trees were cut for timber, and not with the actual intention of clearing.

river front, and given outright to younger noblemen, clerics and court favorites. These men resembled immigration agents, as they were obligated to subgrant to colonists. The colonists became really serfs or retainers of the seigneurs, as rent and service were exacted from them, and nearly absolute jurisdiction exercised over them. In 1854 this condition ceased, and by the Seigniorial Tenures Act an adjustment of rights was