

"For the foregoing reasons it has occurred to His Majesty's Servants here, that it might prove of advantage, if, whatever lands remain vacant in the interior parts of the province, bordering upon those where the old customs prevail, were henceforth granted on the like conditions, taking care that those at Gaspey and Chaleur Bay, where the King's old subjects ought chiefly to be encouraged to settle, were granted on such conditions only, as are required by His Royal instructions; And, upon this consideration, have some grants, in the interior parts, been deferred carrying into execution, until I could receive the sense of Government thereupon. (1)"

The British Government accepted the Governor's suggestion and, by additional instructions dated the 2nd July 1771, the King allowed him to grant lands in future as *fiefs* and seigniories in the same manner as it was usually done before the conquest (2).

Nevertheless, it does not appear that the old manner of granting land was much resorted to since the documents of the period mention only one under the system of seigniorial tenure, that of the seigniory of Schoolbred, in 1786. On the whole, it was not the restoration of the feudal regime that Carleton wanted, but official confirmation of the laws governing the old system.

Another source of trouble in the country parts was the excessive power the justices of the peace took upon themselves to exercise in connection with immoveable property.

Under the ordinance of 1764, the magistrates of the Court of Common Pleas, could render judgment in any case for an amount not exceeding ten pounds. Unfortunately, those magistrates, most of whom were ruined traders, took advantage of their position to try and repair their fortunes. By means of bailiffs whom they sent through the country parts and who watched out for any disputes that might occur, they brought on suits between the farmers and charged exorbitant amounts for settling their disputes. They even went so far as to take possession of properties when the unfortunate people were unable to pay the costs of the court in money (3).

The people subjected to all such annoyances, began to grumble and an uprising was to be feared.

Reports and petitions addressed to the Government of the metropolis and to the King himself, succeeded one another (4).

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(1) Const. Doc. (1759-1791), p. 209.

(2) Additional instructions to Carleton. Const. Doc. (1759-1791), p. 295.

(3) Carleton to Lord Hillsborough, 28th March, 1770. Can. Arch., Papers, State Q. 7, p. 7. This letter is printed in the report on the archives for the year 1890. App. A.

(4) Report of Attorney-General Grey and Solicitor-General Yorke, on the civil government of the Province of Quebec, 13th May, 1766. Const. Doc. (1757-1791), p. 174. Reports of Governor Carleton, Attorney-General Masères, for the province and Chief Justice W. Hey, in 1769. Const. Doc. (1759-1791), p. 276. Report of the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, concerning the state of the Province of Quebec, 10th July, 1770. Const. Doc. (1759-1791), p. 263.