

Mons. de Colbert has tested the quality of the ore and with favorable results. I have sent a small quantity to Mons. Arnoul, who can give you an account of it. There is a large stream in the vicinity of this mine."

In 1685 the Marquis of Denonville was appointed governor, and on the 18th of November, the following year, in a despatch to the government of France, he says :

"I have this year again had the iron-mine near Three Rivers thoroughly examined. I am convinced that there is a much larger quantity of that metal than the colony requires. The great desideratum is the discovery of a stream or water-power, which can be used in winter, and it is in this respect that we require an able experienced man, who could see what could be done for the establishment. Last year I sent a sample of this iron to France, and the iron-workers, who found it of good quality and percentage, wish to have fifteen or twenty bariques to give it a thorough trial as to quality; it would be well to satisfy them on this point next year. If our Northern Company should succeed there would be no difficulty in accomplishing this desirable object."

On the 4th of April, 1725, Pierre Poulin made "Foi et Hommage"* in the castle of St. Louis in Quebec for himself, and also on his brother's account, for the *fief* and *seigneurie* of St. Maurice and on the following day "L'aveu and Denombrement" of the seigneurie was made.

The mining rights and minerals do not seem to have been granted with the land; for King Louis XIV., on March 22d, 1730, granted a license to a M. Francheville to work the mines, and a partnership was entered into by him with Peter Poulin, Gamelin and Cugnet, for this purpose, the deed of partnership being dated the 16th of June, 1733. It seems probable that a forge was now built, but the enterprise did not prove a success; the principal, Francheville, having died, his widow and the other partners, on the 23d of October, 1735, surrendered their rights to the crown.

The iron-ore was a bog-ore, the deposits being on the surface, or only a few inches below the soil, so that the work of collecting the ore was more digging than mining, and it was necessary to have access to a considerable area of land. We find that on the 15th of October, 1736, Poulin, Louise de Boulanger his wife, and Michel Poulin his brother, a priest, sold the *fief* and *seigneurie* St. Maurice,

* See Parkman's *Old Regime*, p. 216, also Lemoine's *Quebec Past and Present*, p. 121, for a description of "Foi et Hommage."