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Bill to facilitate the execution of  
the Laws concerning the conces-  
sion of Lands in the Seigniories.

Preamble.

**W**HEREAS by a Decree or *Arrêt* of His Most Christian Majesty the King of France, bearing date at Marlay, the sixth of July one thousand seven hundred and eleven, it was enacted as follows, that is to say: The King being informed that of the Lands which His Majesty hath been pleased to grant and concede in Seigniorie to his subjects in New France, a part is not completely settled, and other parts have no inhabitants as yet settled thereon to bring the same into cultivation, and that also the persons to whom they have been granted, *en Seigneurie*, have not as yet began clearing in order to establish their Domains, His Majesty being also informed that some of the Seigniors refuse, under various pretexts to grant Lands to the Inhabitants who make application to them, with a view of having it in their power to sell the same, imposing on them at the same time the same rents as upon the settled Inhabitants, which is entirely contrary to His Majesty intentions, and to the clauses of the Deeds of grant, by which they are only permitted to concede Lands *à Titre de redevance*, whereby very material detriment is also operated to the new Inhabitants, who found less Lands to occupy in the more favourable situations for commerce; all which His Majesty intended to remedy hath in his Council ordained and doth ordain that within one year from the publication of this *Arrêt* as the only delay which will be accorded, the Inhabitants of New France to which His Majesty hath granted Lands in Seigniorie, who have Domain cleared and have no Inhabitants thereon, shall be held to bring them into cultivation and place Settlers thereon, in default whereof, at the expiration of the said time, it is His Majesty's pleasure that they be reunited to his Domain, at the diligence of the Attorney General of the superior Council of Quebec, and upon the Ordinances which shall be rendered in that behalf by His Majesty's Governor and Lieutenant General, and Intendant of the said Country; His Majesty does also ordain that all the Seigniors in the said Country of New France, do concede to the Inhabitants the Lands which they shall apply to them for within their Seigniories in consideration of Rent, and without exacting of them any sum of money by reason of the said grants: In default whereof he permits the said Inhabitants to claim of them