

Gavray-Bourg's notebook of grievances

Meeting minutes

(The authentic report could not be found)

Date of the meeting: March 1 – President: JJN GUICHARD - Number of fires: 302 - Deputies: Jean-Jacques-Nicolas GUICHARD, viscount (4 days, 12 l. and 19 days, 74 l., Ref.); Jean-Richard LETANNEUR, lawyer (4 days, 12 l and 19 days, 74 l., Acc.); Jean-Michel LECERVOISIER, lawyer (4 days, 12 l and 19 days, 74 l., Acc.); Charles-François-Alexis LE MAITRE DE LA MORTIERES, lawyer (4 days, 12 l., Ref.).

List of demands

(Ms. Registry of the Court of First Instance of Coutances, exhibit No. 407. Original signed. Unpublished.)

The third estate of the village of Gavray, imbued with the deepest gratitude for the paternal kindness of the King, who in his wisdom determined to call at the feet of the throne the citizens of all orders of the state, to hear their grievances and listen to their opinions for the reform of the abuses which have reigned for a long time in the different parts of the administration, and procure the means suitable for lightening the burden of impositions, in a word to always make his faithful subjects happy, Has decided that he will be very respectfully represented to His Majesty,

by his deputies, and these are the wishes that they form: 1): In the next assembly of the Estates General it will be decided that in

the future no taxes can be lifted on the peoples than with the consent of the nation, the States General assembled; 2): To respond to the wish of His Majesty, that every citizen, of whatever order, exempt or non-exempt, privileged and non-privileged, contribute to the expenses of the state in proportion to his income, without any monetary exemption , a territorial subsidy will be established; 3): To achieve equality, every citizen will be required, or by people carrying his ad hoc powers, to make his declaration under oath of the annual and real

value of his property and income; 4): The large decimators will be similarly required, and also under the faith of the oath, to make their declaration of the annual and real value of their tithes in all species, and

the owners of the fiefs of the value of their wages required for a common year over the last five years, thirteenths and lod and sale rights collected or due to be collected by them; 5): The declarations of property will be received by the municipal officers of the cities, towns and villages, and those who are convinced of false declarations will be condemned by the judges of the places, upon the denunciation of the

municipal officers or any other inhabitants of the cities, towns and villages, in a quadruple fine, which will serve for the benefit of the community of the said cities, towns and villages, in addition to paying what they should have paid; 6): Duties on drinks and salt will be abolished; and to take the place of these rights, in the event that the tax which will be established on the lands and those which are collected by the administrators of the domain, which will however be reduced, without any soil for books, on the posts and

couriers, will not would not be sufficient to pay state charges, to replace the duties levied on drinks and salt, each city, town and village will subscribe, and the communities will tax themselves according to and in the manner that they will advise the most suitable; 7): All duties generally whatever, which will be levied in cities, towns and villages will be collected by one and the same collector, who, to prevent any abuse, will be required to send them receipts for the sums which will be paid into his hands by taxpayers, in accordance with the endorsements that he will be required to carry on his rolls.

For this purpose, the collection will be made by auction at a discount, for one or more years, by giving good and sufficient security by the successful bidder; and will be the auction prices imposed by the municipal officers at the mark per pound of the territorial tax; 8): There will be established in each

district a collector with sufficient wages, to whom the collectors of cities, towns and villages will collect their revenues from month to month on triple receipts.

This particular receiver will then have the funds received by him sent to the Royal Treasury by courier and free of charge, with a duplicate of the receipts sent by him to the collectors and countersigned by them;

9): The priests and major decimators will in the future be subject to the maintenance of repairs to the presbyteries, both large and small;

10): The special courts will be abolished, and in the future there will be only two levels of jurisdiction;

11): To bring litigants closer to their judges, so that they can go and return home on the same day, districts will be made, so that the litigant furthest from the place of his jurisdiction is not at the beyond three leagues or three and a half leagues;

12): The town of Gavray, by its position in the middle of the towns of Coutances, Saint-Lô, Vire, Avranches and Granville, is a place suitable for establishing a bailiwick, its distance from Coutances being nearly five leagues, and being distant from other towns by six and even seven leagues;

13): The district bailiwicks will know in the last resort, and in the number of seven judges, up to the competition of one thousand to twelve hundred livres, and they will come out by appeal to the presidial courts of their jurisdictions, who will know up to the competition of the sum of eight or ten thousand livres, to the number of nine judges, and for cases above the competence of the presidials, the bailiwicks will come to the Parliaments;

14): Judicial offices will only be granted to those who have given proof of honesty and capacity, and who have attended the bar, as lawyers, for at least five years;

15): To reimburse those with abolished offices, on the price of their contracts or on the price of their evaluation at their will, and to discharge the debts of the state, the property of religious houses which are not sufficient to receive the number of religious provided for by the statutes of their orders, and state property such as land and common and other property of the nature of those which (are) not in commerce, will be sold;

16): It will be established in cities and towns where there are none established, and in the most important parishes, hospices to receive the poor.

These hospices will be administered by gray sisters, a chaplain, a doctor.

For the maintenance of these hospices, in addition to the product of the work of the poor, there will be collected in each parish, from each inhabitant, the soil for pound of the territorial tax, and the priests and large decimators to whom the tithes have been granted for their food and that of the poor, who will find themselves by this means relieved of the responsibility of giving alms, will pay (to) the hospice of their district the fifth of their income, distraction

made from the bare portion; 17): A meeting will be held every three months at the general office of the hospice, where all the priests and trustees or other deputies (of) parishes (of the district) will be required to attend, to verify the accounts which will be made by the administrators, and to verify whether the poor in their parishes receive all the

necessary assistance in the hospice; 18): If in the parishes there were some poor fathers or mothers who fell ill and who could not be taken to the hospice, they would be provided, on the certificates of the priests of their parishes and the trustees, with suitable meat, linen, drugs

and medicines; 19): No poor person will be able to beg, and whoever is found begging will be arrested and taken prisoner as a vagabond and

without confession; 20): The town of Gavray, in the King's domain, is a place of passage for the troops who go from Brittany to the Cotentin, it is the seat of a very extensive viscounty and a very considerable market

Since the imposition of corvées for the construction of the main roads, the town of Gavray and the parishes of the canton have always paid very considerable sums, without having had the advantage of the main roads, whatever claims they have made .

The town of Gavray requests, which cannot be refused, and which the assembly of the department of Coutances has already granted it the construction of the main road from Coutances to Gavray, then from Gavray to the towns of Avranches, Vire, Saint-Lô and Granville.

He also asked that a road be made from Gavray to Bricqueville-les-Salines.

The construction of these roads will be a source of wealth for the entire canton, an advantage of which the country has been deprived until now; they will be an increase in the trade of which Gavray, by its position near a royal forest and on the banks of a large river, is susceptible.

The construction of these roads will facilitate the transport of sea fertilizers, suitable for fertilizing the lands of all neighboring parishes, whose soil is of poor nature, and which cannot be made fertile by the difficulty of obtaining

fertilizers; 21): Local roads will be maintained by the communities of cities, towns and villages, and all roads which are not of public utility will be eliminated; 22):

The third estate of the town of Gavray will end with a final observation. The lands which are close to the forest of the place are annually plundered and devastated by wild beasts and wild boars and other destructive animals. Often the plowman receives little or even no harvest; the King will be very humbly begged to allow them to run over and kill them, without incurring any penalty.

The third estate has also authorized its deputies to make such other observations as they consider most suitable for the honor and advantage of its order, that of all other orders, and for the prosperity and happiness of the nation. in general. What they did and decided, this March 1, 1789, in the assembly held in the auditorium of the Viscount of Gavray, before Mr. Viscount, in accordance with the King's letters of January 24, and the regulations annexed thereto, and in execution of the order of Mr. Desmarets de Montchaton, lieutenant general in the bailiwick of Coutances, also on February 13.

Signed: DUFOUR, King's prosecutor; ONFROY, King's lawyer; LETANNEUR, LECERVOISIER, LEFRANC, HERVIEU, lawyer; LEMAISTRE, LEFEVRE father, LEMAITRE son, lawyer; BRANDIN; ONFROY de LA PORTE; THE CORNER; LE MONNIER; GRITTON; GRITTON, lawyer; J. JOURDAN; Etienne PERROTTE; F. ECROIGNARD; YVER; GAUVRAY; J. HERVIEU; THE MONK ; DELAFOSSE; DELAFOSSE; LEMOYNE; MAILLARD; LECHEVALLIER; J. BADIN; LEMOUCHEL; VIBERT; LEMONNIER; PARIS ; LEFEBVRE; L. VIDIER; JL LESOUËF; J.

MANGIN; PARROTTE; J. LELOUP; LECROSNIER; BEHAUT; ANQUETIL; J-Marie LECHEVRAIN; P. LEVALLOIS; PARROTTE; PARROTTE; JS BERTRAND; LF SOUËF; G. CLEMENT; J. MARTIN; GUICHARD; Julien DOUBLET; OLIVIER.