

Book of grievances of Saint André du Valjouais

Meeting minutes

(The authentic report could not be found)

Date of the meeting: March 1 – Number of fires: 24 - Deputies: M^o François-Charles ANQUETIL, plowman (3 days, 9 l., Acc.); Thomas LE BALNOIS, plowman (3 days, 9 l. Acc.).

List of demands

(Ms. Registry of the Court of First Instance of Coutances exhibit No. 491. Original signed. Unpublished.)

The parish of Saint André du Valjouais, assembled by order of Mr. the bailiff of Cotentin, to draw up a list of complaints, grievances and requests, to be placed before the eyes of His Majesty in the Estates General, takes the liberty of

representing to him: 1°) That the people are miserable, and that they could not provide all the taxes they are obliged to pay, if they did not deprive themselves of the necessities and impose on themselves the harshest privations. The slightest setback he experiences, whether an illness in which he often lacks the necessary help, or a bad harvest, or some loss,

puts him into begging and unable to support himself; 2°) That the multiplicity of taxes from country parishes, without providing more to His Majesty, costs the people much more than if they were reduced to a single one, both

because of the different collectors and all the incidental costs; 3°) That the rights of salt and tobacco farms and aid are exorbitant; that it would be inconceivable that they cost so much to the people and returned so little to the King, [if] we did not know that these farms are full of an infinity of receivers, controllers and clerks, who

absorb almost all the product, and who are so many leeches of the state and the people; 4°) That in addition to all the taxes that subjects pay to the King, there

is still one in each parish and which is considerable: that of the maintenance of churches and presbyteries; 5°) That the way of rendering justice to the people is too long and expensive; consequently t

- **To reduce all taxes into one, to make the lands and tithes of the beneficiaries, as well as those of the nobles, liable to them, to eliminate the receivers of the finances, and to establish a way of collection less onerous to the people and to the 'state ;**
- **To also remove all assistant clerks, gabelles, both superior and subordinate, to relieve the people of the repairs of the presbyteries, and to make only its decimators susceptible;**
- **To reform begging, to create hospices both at the expense of the big decimators and of communities not complete in religious, where there are even very few, and which nevertheless possess considerable property;**
- **Finally, to eliminate all the exceptional courts, which are very onerous for the people in all respects, both by their distance and the excessive costs they cause, to combine their jurisdictions with the other seats, to make districts so that the judges are at reach of the people, and that they can obtain justice without cost and without travel.**

The parish of Saint André du Valjouais also adheres to the fact that others, more enlightened than it, will request the kindness of the King, for the happiness and relief of the people; she joins her wishes to theirs for the preservation of the sacred person of the King.

Have signed: P. SAINT-ANDRÉ, Ch. ANQUETIL, D. DUCHESNE, Jean BLOUET, Th. LE BALNOIS, Pierre BLOUET, J. GROU, P. DUCLOS, LE TENNEUR, Pierre FREMENT, G. QUESNEL.