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Le Page du Pratz 1750

Memoire de la decouverte qui a esté faite à la Louisiane d'un Mine de Cristal de roche, et des moyens d'en faire usage.

La personne qui a fait cette decouverte etait à la Louisiane, est a present a Paris, pour tenter la voye le plus convenable pour cette entreprise tandis que l'Europe est en paix.

Cette Mine en est connue que de lui seul.

Elle n'a esté découverte que par son tres grand azard.

Comme sa fortune n'est pas suffisante pour une telle entreprise, voicy ce qu'il propose pour y parvenir.

Que l'on m'avance environ trente mil livres en argent, pour acheter les ustancilles nécessaires, provisions de vivres, hardes pour les ouvriers qu'il doit emmener, fournire aux frais du voyage, et la majeure partie de cette somme estre employée en Pacotille propres a faire un gros profit, puisqu'elles pourront estres rendues (or vendues) trois cent pour cent; ce qu'il a appris par le long sejour qu'il a fait en cette colonie.

Il demande trois annés de credit, a cause des voyages et travaux qu'il faut faire avant d'envoyer de cette matieres en france.

Comme tous les hommes sont mortels, et qu'il seroit au desespoire de laisser dans la peine ceux qui lui auroient faits ces avances; il demande que l'on lui donne une personne de confiance et capable, le quel sera porteur de procuration, pour en cas d'accident s'emparer des effets, et en disposer au profit de ceux qui auroient faite ces avances.

Dans ce cas mesme il y auroit beaucoup a gagner en suivant les instructions qu'il donneroit avant de partire mais il [laige? laisse?] que l'on lui cautionne cette personne de confiance, parce que ayant tout en main, pour n'en disposer que sur les ordres que lui en seront donnees, dont il tiendra Journal et livre en regle; pour quoi il lui sera payé des apointements honeste et la Table.

Au bout des trois années les dix mils livres seront payés la quinze mils livres de benefice pour l'interest, ce qui fait en tout 45000.

Voila toutes les conditions en abregé.

Un memoire plus détaillé seroit assez inutile, puis qu'il se réserve a donner verbalement les eclairecissements necessaires a ceux qui voudront faire ces avances. Il se fera connaitres aisement.

De plus celui qui fait cette proposition a l'honneur d'estre connus personnellement depuis plusieurs années du Ministre de la Marine, et y est recommandée par Madame la Marquise de la Carte qui est Mere de ce mesme Ministre.

par Le Page

[the name looks like his signature, but I don't believe he wrote this himself, thought he does use the first person pronoun once]

[the ministre de la marine in 1749-1750 was Antoine Louis Rouillé, but french wikipedia doesn't say who his mother was. He succeeded Phélypeaux, who had held the job for 30 years or more. Perhaps LPDP thought he would find more favore with this new administration?]

English translation :

Memoir of the discovery, made in Louisiana, of a mine of rock crystal, and the means to make use of it.

The person who has made this discovery was in Louisiana, and is now in Paris, to seek out the best way toward this enterprise, while Europe is at peace. The mine is known to him only. It was discovered only at great risk. As his fortune is not sufficient for such an undertaking, here is how he proposes to bring it about: that others shall advance me about thirty thousand livres in silver to buy the necessary equipment, provisions and supplies for the workers he must take with him, to pay their passage for the voyage, and a great part of this sum will be expended on trade goods, which will return a great profit, since they can be traded (or sold) at three hundred percent, as he has learned after his long residence in that colony. He asks for the loan for three years, due to the lengthy voyages and work that must be made before sending the material back to France.

As all men are mortal, and as it would be hopeless for him to take on alone all the responsibility for the sums that will have been advanced to him, he

asks that he be assigned one person, trustworthy and capable, who will have his power of attorney, in case of accident to assume his property, and to dispose of it for the profit of those who have made him these loans.

Because in this eventuality he would have a great deal to gain by following the instructions that he will be given before departing, he [Le Page] wishes to caution this person of confidence, that he follow only the orders that will be given him, because, he shall have everything at his fingertips, including the journal and the funds and contracts. For all this he will be paid an honest wage up front.

At the end of three years the ten thousand livres will be paid back fifteen thousand with interest, which makes in total 45000.

There are all the terms, in outline. A more detailed memoir would be rather unnecessary, because he [Le Page] reserves to himself the right to furnish all necessary explanations verbally to those who wish to make him these loans. He will fully brief them. What's more, he who makes this proposal has the honor of being personally acquainted for several years with the Minister of the Marine, and is recommended to him by Madame la Marquise de la Carte, who is the mother of this same Minister.

by Le Page

[note: the ministre de la marine in 1749-50 was Antoine Louis Rouillé. He succeeded Phélypeaux, who had held the job for 30 years or more. Perhaps LPDP thought he would find more favor with this new administration.]