ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT V: TABLE OF RENTS

The step graph is probably the most effective way of seeing at a glance the acceleration of money rents on the Tavanes estate. The first increases cluster around 1730, after at least a half-century of stagnation. The most spectacular rise was at Arc-sur-Tille, where rents almost quadrupled between 1730 and 1790. But even at Beaumont rents rose almost three times in the same sixty years, and at Tilchâtel two and one-half times. But it was after 1765 and especially after 1780 that the greatest acceleration can be detected. This increase was not compensated by any comparable rise in the prices of wheat, wine, or iron. No doubt the fermiers were better “armed” with seigneurial titles in the 1780s than in the 1750s, but these were not enough to justify (from the tenants’ point of view) increases of this dimension. Profit margins most surely narrowed in almost every case. The rise in rents, therefore, should not be interpreted simply as a reflex to prices of farm produce or an increasing demand for land. It was a result of the conscious policy of the counts of Tavanes in the last twenty years of the Old Regime.
THE HOUSE OF SAULX-TAVANES

MONEY RENTS (FERMAGE) OF THE SAULX-TAVANES

RENT (IN THOUSANDS OF LURES)

1680 1690 1700 1710 1720 1730 1740 1750 1760 1770 1780 1790 1800

TILCHATEL

ARC-S-TILLE

LUX

BOURBERAIN

BEAUMONT

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