

WHAT OF CANADA?

United Empire Loyalists have ever characterized Canadians and do today. We will not give up our share of the flag, but we must and will govern ourselves.

For more than quarter of a century the Mother country paid the whole expense of protecting and governing the young Province⁴ and it was not until 1816 that Upper Canada began to take the burden off her shoulders. Thus far the settlers were too much occupied in carving a way through the forests, in making a home for their families; and who in these days can adequately appreciate the toil and danger of the first settlers?—to take much interest in details of administration. Much of the administration of affairs got into the hands of a clique or class—at first immigrants but growing more and more of Canadian birth. The Lieutenant Governors sent out from London really governed as the Governor of American states do to this day, but they were largely guided in their judgment by the native official class. An agitation calling for the administration to be put into the hands of those who should be responsible to the people sprang up and at length it (in 1837) culminated in open rebellion. During all this time, the Administration in England had not interfered in the side of power; the Governors whenever they sought advice were always recommended to grant political rights as asked by the people—the Rebellion while in form against the young Queen was in fact against the Canadian official class. Open rebellion was too much for the majority in the Province;⁵ every British soldier had been sent to Lower Canada but the Upper Canadians themselves put down the Rebellion and drove back the Sympathizers with Rebellion who ventured to invade their land from the United States.

But while they thus showed their adherence to the one principle, "We will not give up our share in the old flag", they did not forget the other: "We will govern ourselves".

(4) It is hard for Americans who have been matured on the principles of the Revolution, who have been taught the wrongs under which their ancestors suffered at the hands of the King of England and his Ministers, to understand or to believe that Canada was acquired for the sake of the Colonies, and that after the Colonies had broken away from England, she continued to expend blood and money in protecting Canada. Hard pressed as she was, she did not spare men or means to make Canada happy and prosperous. Others may gird at England, Canada cannot.

(5) As open rebellion was too much for hundreds of thousands of Americans who sympathized with the claims of the Southern States.