

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

The having four Terms at Quebec and only two at Montreal, which is by far the most populous, and most commercial of the Districts, is an additional objection to that Mode proposed by the Instruction.

For these reasons, and after the most serious and deliberate consideration of the expediency of such regulation being put in force, our respect and attention to the rights of the crown, and our earnest wish for the welfare of his Majesty's Government, of which your Excellency, we hope, is sensible, oblige us to the necessity, though with the greatest Respect to the high Authority by whom the measure has been recommended, to differ so far in opinion.

We have further to add that the plan by which we have regulated our conduct, as the Legislative Council, has been to pursue those measures which appeared to us the best calculated to secure the province to his Majesty and to keep it dependent on Great Britain. We are sensible that some Alterations may and ought to be made in the Laws and Customs of Canada. But we apprehend that in the present critical state of the british Empire in America, Innovations in this province might be improper; And it is with regret we find ourselves obliged by our duty to the King, to mention to your Excellency the bad effects which the Reports circulated every summer of changes to be made in the mode of administering the affairs of the province have upon his service. They disquiet the Minds of the people and furnish plausible pretences to the Emissaries of the revolted Colonies and the other Enemies of the State, to insinuate that nothing is permanent under a british Government; and the Quebec Act, the result of the generous and tolerating spirit, which distinguishes an enlightened Age and Nation, was the effect of an interested policy, and would be repealed as soon as the ends for which it was made were effected.

H. T. CRAMAHÉ

P. L. C.

Council Chamber

7th March 1780.

HALDIMAND TO GERMAIN.¹

Lord Ge^o Germain

QUEBEC 25th October 1780.

MY LORD,

The Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council with the Ordinances² which have been passed and to which my assent has been given, are transmitted in the Danae Frigate, no safe opportunity having presented

¹ Canadian Archives, B. 54, p. 354. Given also in Q 17-1, p. 270. This letter gives Haldimand's report on the proceedings of Council from Jan. 27th to April 12th, 1780. Two subjects engrossed virtually the whole attention of the Council; First, the communication of the Governor's Instructions and the expediency of acting on that of July 16th, 1779; Second, the question as to the constitutional power of the Council to prohibit the export of grain, flour, and other food stuffs, or to fix an arbitrary price for them. Naturally Haldimand reviews these questions and the discussion of them in Council, from his own point of view.

² For the Minutes of Council, Jan. 27 to April 12, see Minutes of Legislative Council, Quebec, v. D., pp. 57-102. Copies are given in Q 17-1, pp. 329-383, and Q 17-2 pp. 384-458. The ordinances passed at this session are given in Q 17-2, pp. 459-657, also in printed form Ordinances of the Province of Quebec, 1763-91, pp. 100-123.