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THE EARLY HISTORY OF CANADIAN BANKING

III

FROM 1791 TO 1812

WITH the restoration of peace at the close of the Revolutionary War, the settlement of the Loyalists in Canada, and the revival of the north-west fur trade, agriculture and commerce resumed the quiet tenor of their way. The changes, however, which had taken place as the result of the struggle soon brought about an alteration in the country's economic and political centre of gravity. The new settlements in their formation made considerable demands upon the Government for supplies, and, in providing these, good local markets were afforded the earliest settlers. When the western districts began to produce a surplus it naturally found its outlet through Montreal, which was also the great distributing centre of imports from the west and north-west. Montreal thus became more than ever the emporium of Canadian trade.

In considering the economic future of Canada we must not