

to end here, and much more serious consequences soon followed.

To understand the political condition of the country, it will be necessary to revert to 1760, when England assumed the administration of affairs.

For the four years immediately following the conquest, Canada remained under military jurisdiction, with Major Gen. James Murray acting as governor in chief in immediate succession to General Amherst, to whom the surrender of the country was made. The French peasants accustomed to military dominancy did not find his rule at all irksome. He was moreover largely guided in his legal decisions upon civil matters by the advice of the French advocates, notable among whom was François Joseph Cugnet, a very able and talented Canadian, who exercised for years after this immense influence with the British governors, and this tended to render his administration very popular with the people. Cugnet's influence extended even beyond the limits of this province, his opinion being sought by the English ministry in all questions affecting the old inhabitants.

In 1763, after the treaty of peace had been signed by which the conquest of Canada for the British Crown was ratified, King George the Third issued his royal proclamation putting an end to the military regime and substituting for it English laws and customs. The words used are :—
 “That in the meantime, and until such assemblies “ (referring to a preceding section in which the governor was authorized to summon and call general assemblies of the people) ” could be called, all persons inhabiting in, or resorting to His Majesty's said colonies “ (referring to the distributing of his American conquests into four colonies, Quebec, East Florida, West Florida and Granada) ” might confide in His Majesty's royal protection for the enjoyment of the benefit of the laws of his realm of England.....for the hearing and determining of all causes, as well criminal as civil,