

financial scheme, under a change of circumstances perhaps unparalleled in financial history, so that before coming to any decision as to his political acumen, we must examine what the state of Canada was in 1841, when he took office.

The very limited improvements which had been undertaken in the Upper Province had involved her in debt, the English market was almost closed against her, her trade was fettered by Imperial regulations, and her supplies were, of necessity, drawn from Montreal; while her revenue was not only very trifling but was collected in a most careless manner. Large fortunes were amassed by smuggling, and the country was annually deprived of large sums through the carelessness, if not worse, of collectors. This system had grown in strength, and as the chief places were held by the relatives and friends of persons high in executive power, any attempt to change it was naturally looked upon with great disfavour, so that it required no little courage to enter on the task.

Lord Sydenham, no mean judge in such matters, sought for some person qualified to aid him in a re-organization of the system, and Mr. Hincks, then, if we mistake not, managing the affairs of "the Farmers Bank," was selected. We know not what particular circumstance brought that gentleman under his Lordship's observation, but we happen to know that from the very first interview the governor general placed the most implicit reliance in the financial talents of Mr. Hincks and in his capability to assist him.

For the position which he then assumed his education and experience fully qualified him; he had evinced these qualifications in investigating the affairs of the Welland Canal company when Mr. McKenzie attacked the management and brought charges of misconduct against Mr. Merritt. He was afterwards manager of the Farmers' Bank which, however, had but a short existence. This may be accounted for by the shock which all our monetary institutions received by the outbreak of 1837.

The intimacy which existed between Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Hincks laid the latter open to the charge, that he was cognizant of the intended revolt, and that if he did not actually encourage, he certainly did not discourage it. That when he first arrived in Canada, Mr. Hincks leaned to the conservative side we have little doubt, for even in after years, when he acted with the purely radical party, there was always, more particularly in the later years, a strong dash of conservatism in his arguments.

When Lord Durham's mission kindled new hopes in the radical ranks, Mr. Hincks very materially aided them by the publication of "The Examiner" newspaper, in which some of the articles were written with great power and force, but often in a very reprehensible style,