

They had sacrificed everything to save Canada for France; they had shed their blood on the battlefields; they had given all they had to aid the kingdom's exhausted treasury. Great then was their indignation when they learned that the French Government refused to redeem the card money and Bigot's famous ordinances. They realized that the last bonds that united them to France were broken, and there was no doubt that they were abandoned to their fate.

The economic situation of the country was excellent. On the morrow of the capitulation of Montreal, Amherst had declared that trade was free of duties, and had enacted that all sales should be paid in ready money and specie. (1)

Traders went through the country parts, buying wheat and grain which they paid for in gold and liberally; the people lived in comfort hitherto unknown to them; a large fleet of vessels came to the port of Quebec which Marriott hoped would be the St. Petersburg of America. (2)

The population increased; according to the census which Murray had caused to be taken before he left Canada, there were, in 1765, in the Province: 110 parishes with a population of 69,810 souls. Only 19 Protestant families lived in the country parts and there were only 500 English in all in the country. (3)

The instructions to Murray said that in future all concessions of land were to be in free and common soccage. The seigniorial tenure was not abolished, however, and concessions under the old regime remained subject to the laws governing the feudal system. Governor Murray, himself, departing from the line of conduct traced out for him, had

(1) Const. Doc., (1760-1791), p. 33

(2) The great lines of union of Canada to the realm of Great Britain are drawn at present by virtue of the conquest. . . . The cultivation of lands and attention to commerce (unknown before) are increasing every day. The back settlements extend themselves; and the inhabitants of New York and Canada are approaching nearer to each other: some French families who disliked the English proceedings, and many of the first English settlers at Quebec, who were, severa of them, upon speculation, adventurers from England, Scotland, and Ireland, or factors for considerable merchants in London and elsewhere, have retired from the colony; not finding that the advantages of the opening of trade there answered the sanguine expectations of the earliest comers, who overstocked it, or who found a military government in too great a degree of vigour, for the advantage and security of commerce; and their place is daily supplied by another sort of men, such as English officers of the army and navy, and actual merchants. A great iron foundry has been established, (the St. Maurice forges), warehouses are built, one house for distilling only has cost five thousand pounds, and such great purchases of landed property have been made of the native Canadians by Englishmen, that some of the principal seigniories at this day are in the actual possession of the latter. There are about two or three thousand British born settlers besides the troops. Every year, with the accession of commerce, in the nature of things, must increase their numbers and consequence, if the laws are well fixed and administered, and a military government, if possible, is avoided or controlled. For notwithstanding the natural indolence and ignorance of the people and their present poverty, notwithstanding the circumstances of the pretended difficulties attending the navigation of the river Saint Lawrence, at all times, from its rocks and shoals, magnified by the inexperience or policy of the French, and the long time it is frozen, for full six months: yet when we consider the prodigious increase of population, the exceeding fertility of Montreal, the healthiness of the air, and the vast woods of Canada, capable of supplying naval stores and lumber for the West Indies and for the mother-country, the produce of horned cattle, sheep, hogs, wool, corn, hemp, flax, furs, pot-ash, iron, &c., and the situation of the river St. Lawrence, so adapted for the fishery, and increase of seamen, objects little pursued by the French government, totally taken up with military operations, it is reasonable to think that all these circumstances will, in course of time, conspire to make Quebec the Petersburg of North America.

Report of Advocate-General James Marriott, on a plan of a Code of Laws for the Province of Quebec, 1774. Const. Doc. (1759-1760), p. 318.

(3) Census of Canada, 1871, Vol. IV, p. 80.