

Montreal, and importing from Montreal the supplies with which they furnished the local merchants. As the imports were greater than the exports, the balance was met by bills of exchange on London from the commissariat officers, vouchers for pensions, and other miscellaneous bills coming from all parts of the province. The large importers in Montreal acted also as bankers for the wholesale men in the upper province, receiving deposits, making payments to order, and not infrequently advancing loans or credits to be met later on by produce, exchanges, or cash, though we find very little of the latter passing.

The data from which this outline sketch is drawn come from many sources, chief of which are the letter books of the Hon. Richard Cartwright. This gentleman was from 1785 to 1815 the leading wholesale merchant and forwarder of Upper Canada. He had constant relations with the chief Montreal and Quebec merchants on the one hand, and a great number of local merchants in all parts of Upper Canada, on the other. As a forwarder he acted for the North-west Fur Company and the other wholesale merchants in Western Canada. His business letter books are thus a perfect mine of information on all matters relating to trade and exchange during this period. I have also had access to many other business letters from the Bay of Quinte and the Niagara districts, throwing further light on the subject from the point of view of the local merchants. Lastly, the official reports from the Governors of the period, to be found in the Dominion archives, give us information from still another point of view.

As bearing particularly on the subject we have in hand, Governor Simcoe's report to the Lords of Trade on the condition of Upper Canada in 1794, is most interesting. In this report, as in many other ways, Simcoe exhibits at once his disinterested anxiety to promote the prosperity of the province, and his very imperfect acquaintance with the economic and social forces which were acting within his jurisdiction.

In that part of his report which refers to the conditions of exchange, he says that it should be a special object of the Government to supply the people of Upper Canada with sufficient cash, or other proper medium, to remove the difficulties which occur in bartering the products of the land for the manufactured