

The currency is very varied—sometimes Quebec, Halifax or Provincial currency, or currency of the Province—in this £1 equals \$4 of our present money, and 1 shilling equals 20 cents; sometimes New York Currency—in this £1 equals \$2.50 of our present money, and 1 shilling (known even in my day as a “York shilling,” or “Yorker”) equals 12½ cents; sometimes livres and sols, the old Canadian French currency—according to a proclamation of Lieut. Col. Irving, 5th July, 1765, 24 livres equal £1, making the livre equal 18½ cents (about).* The “Upper Canada Act” of 1796, 36 George III, c. 1, makes the livre equal 11 1/9 pence Canadian Currency (equal 18½ cents, about). A computation by the Clerk in one case makes the livre equal 17 cents (about). Probably the valuation was somewhat elastic—the livre in any case is about one franc.

The practice of the Court is very interesting from a historic point of view. In a case of £10 or over, “The plaintiff by his attorney, Walter Roe, filed his declaration.” The defendant is called—he generally appears in person. He may admit the debt, in which case judgment is entered up against him—or he may claim a set off. If this be admitted by the plaintiff, judgment is entered for the balance. For example, July 23rd, 1789, Meldrum and Park sue Dominique LaBrosse, of the Parish of St. Anne, the declaration is filed, the defendant appears and acknowledges the debt, but claims an account for work done for the plaintiffs to the amount of 180 livres ancient currency of Quebec. Judgment is recorded against him for the balance.

Or the defendant admits the debt, note or otherwise, but objects that he never agreed to pay interest—a day is set some time

selling the King's lands, and demanded an opportunity of justifying his conduct—there seems to have been nothing in the charge.

In July, 1792, we find him with Elliott and Girty accompanying a deputation of upwards of twenty Indians who waited on the Commissioners of the United States, who were on an island in the Detroit River, and demanded an explicit answer to the question whether they were authorized by the United States to fix the Ohio River as the boundary between the Americans and the Indians.

In August, 1792, he was granted Lot No. 12, First Township, North Side River La Franche (Thames)—and next month Lots Nos. 49 and 50 on the Petite Cote. In 1796 he was elected member of the Legislative Assembly (the Second Parliament of Upper Canada) for Kent, but continued to reside at Detroit for some time, practising as a surveyor. He died at Sandwich in 1833. In one of the documents preserved of the Hesse Land Board, he is described as “Lt. M.” i.e., Lieutenant in the Militia, and it seems clear that he actually had that rank.

*The pound sterling was considered equal to \$4 4/9—that is the “old par” and is still the nominal par. E.g., when sterling exchange is at intrinsic and actual par—that is the pound sterling is equal to \$4.8667—exchange is said to be 9½ per cent. premium (1.09½ of 4 4/9 equals 4.8667).