

war. The Legislatures of the newly emancipated States passed the most stringent acts against the Loyalists, confiscating their property and subjecting them to imprisonment, and in some cases to the penalty of death, in the event of their being found on the soil of the United States. Thus it was that New Brunswick obtained that fine body of settlers who have made it what it is, giving a character to its institutions which they have never lost. This Province would have waited long for the advent of such men as the Loyalists but for the folly of the people of the United States in their hour of triumph.

The first Loyalists began to arrive at St. John from New York in twenty vessels, which got into port between the 10th and 18th of May, and their landing is fixed by tradition on the latter day, although being Sunday there seems to be a possibility of tradition being in error. There were about 3000 persons in this first immigration to St. John. The spring that year was cold and backward, and as they had at first to live in tents and afterwards in log houses and huts, which they had to erect themselves, they necessarily suffered many hardships. The whole country was a wilderness, with the exception of the small clearings about St. John, so that the prospects of the new comers were dark indeed.

The British Government, although it had just ended a long, costly and disastrous war in which it had been fighting against France, Spain and Holland, as well as its own rebellious children, with a liberality which cannot be too highly praised, undertook not only to transport the Loyalists to their new homes, but to provide them with provisions, clothing and medicine for one year. It also provided them with mill machinery for both grist and saw mills, with nails, spikes, hoes, axes, and such farming utensils as they required, and gave them tracts of land from 300 to 600 acres for each family. Many of the Loyalists had been officers in the service of the Crown and they received pensions or half pay for the remainder of their lives. Many of them had lost valuable properties and they were compensated for them, not to their full value, but to the extent of the ability of the government. The British Government distributed about fifteen million dollars among the Loyalists who claimed to have lost property by the war, which is well described as "an unparalleled instance of magnanimity and justice in a nation which had expended one hundred and sixteen millions of dollars in the war."

The British Government did better for the St. John Loyalists in the way of provisions than it had promised, for besides giving full provisions for one year it gave two-thirds provisions for the second year and one-third provisions for the third year. About 1,200 Loyalists arrived in the fall fleet from New York, which reached St. John in November. It is estimated that the number of Loyalists who came to Nova Scotia during the year exceeded 30,000, all of whom had to be provided with dwellings and cared for in other ways. John Parr, who was then governor of Nova Scotia, seems to have been very active in the arduous work of settling the Loyalists and when, in December, 1783, a town was laid out at the mouth of the St. John River by Paul Bedell, it was named Parrtown. The original grantees of Parrtown and Carleton numbered upwards of one thousand and included the ancestors of a large proportion of the present inhabitants of New Brunswick. On the 18th of May, 1785, Parrtown and Carleton, with a strip of land north of Union street, were incorporated under the name of the City of St. John. On the 18th May, 1889, the original town was further enlarged by the annexation of Portland, the site of the first English settlement in this Province.

The same process of settlement which I have described in St. John went on in Charlotte and Westmorland Counties. In 1779 and 1780 several families located