

called "Ordonnances," which could be passed as cash to the merchants and thus be redeemed in bulk either in card money or drafts.

This was the form that Bigot adopted, about the year 1750, as his currency. He continued the issue in ever increasing quantities until the close of the old regime when it exceeded 80,000,000 livres or nearly \$14,000,000—a fabulous sum when the limited trade and impoverished condition of the country is taken into consideration. If these had been used for paying the legitimate expenses of the government there might be some excuse for this enormous issue; but, employed as they were, to extract vast sums from both the government and the people, the issue of "Ordonnances" was a most criminal proceeding. Not even the reverses of war, or the fall of the capital, seemed to interfere with this speculation; for after the latter event "Ordonnances" were issued with "Quebec" erased and "Montreal" written in.

We can well understand that this excessive, nay, enormous quantity of worthless money forced upon the inhabitants by regulations in which they had no say in framing, and against which it was a crime even to grumble, let alone to appeal; a money issued by the ruler to cheat not only the merchant, but the tiller of the soil out of even his bare living: we can well understand, I repeat, that the "Ordonnance" was the chief factor which reconciled the people of Canada to the new order, with its ready cash in