

Upper House were nominated by the Crown and those of the Lower House were elected by popular vote.

In Upper Canada the Legislature had acquired a certain power over the finances, but the Government or Executive Council was not responsible to it and the Legislature therefore lacked that control over the Government which the House of Commons enjoyed in England. It was thought at that time that colonies should be governed in accordance with the views of the Home Government and not necessarily in accordance with the views of the colonists.

In Lower Canada a similar state of affairs existed. In Upper Canada the Executive Council was regarded as, and called a "family compact" and one of the chief grievances of that Province appears to have been due to the feeling that this "family compact" was prone to monopolize the offices of the Crown, and to be too intent on furthering the interests of themselves and their friends. In Upper Canada, too, the question of the Clergy Reserves had come to be warmly agitated, and the Imperial Act authorizing them was regarded very widely as making an unjustifiable appropriation of the public lands of the Province for the aggrandizement of one particular religious organization, and that not the most numerous one. While in Upper Canada the causes of discontent were mainly political, in Lower Canada it appeared to Lord Durham that the racial question was very largely the occasion of unrest, and in that Province the causes of discontent were mainly due to the efforts of French and English to gain ascendancy over each other.

The disposition of the Crown Lands was also found to be a fruitful source of jobbery throughout Canada.

It was to try and find some way out of this political mess that Lord Durham was sent to Canada; and his celebrated report set forth both the results of his inquiries into the politics of the Country, and also his suggestions for overcoming the difficulties which he found to exist in the way of peace and prosperity.

His suggestions included first the application to Canada of the English system of Ministerial responsibility to the Provincial Parliament and the committing to Canadians themselves