

October, 1759, the entire amount of exchange drawn that year remained unpaid, and a like fate overtook at least three-fourths of the exchanges of 1758, and at least one-fourth of those of 1757.

There remained unpaid, also, the whole of the card money, ordonnances and certificates held in Canada, and which General Murray, in his report of June, 1762, estimated at twenty-two millions of livres. The whole of the unpaid Canadian paper, Murray estimated at eighty millions at the least.

The settlement or disposal of this debt was a very important detail in the peace negotiations which led up to the treaty of 1763. Had these claims remained unsettled, in proportion as distress resulted to Canada, the security of the English possession of it would have been weakened.

These claims left uncertainly hanging in the wind, it would always be open to France at any future crisis to promise to pay them, on condition that the Canadians should return to their ancient allegiance. Hence it was necessary to make some final settlement of them if possible.

Murray himself was so impressed with the necessity of getting the Canadian claims out of the way, that he proposed to the British Government the taking over, at a large discount, of all the paper still remaining in the possession of the French Canadians, except the exchanges on France, which were mainly in the hands of merchants who expected to leave the country, or the noblesse who could go to France to look after their own interests. He proposed to give in return English paper money to the extent of 10, 15 or 20 per cent. of the face value of the French paper. Murray's general report on the country furnished to the British Government the data upon which to proceed in the negotiations with France.

Meantime the uncertainty was great. France desired, if possible, to avoid payment, both because she was losing the colony which had been the occasion of the outlay, because of her financial exhaustion, and because she was not particularly anxious to relieve her great rival of all embarrassment in her new acquisition. At the same time there were Frenchmen who