

these had little reverence for British institutions. Nor were the manners and associations which they found in Canada to their taste; consequently, several were the propagandists of theories of personal independence and freedom from control not in accord with the principles on which the government was being conducted.

There had hitherto been no political agitation in the newly settled province. The small population had been intent on clearing and improving their farms, making the means of living easier, at the same time driving a profitable trade with their neighbours. The number of representatives in the legislature was sixteen. The maximum number of the council was nine. In the twenty years which had passed since the peace, the community had been too busy to consider any abstract theories of government. What was sought was substantial liberty of life, protection by law and the maintenance of order. The continual expectation of war with the United States until the settlement of the points in dispute by Jay's treaty, succeeded by the prospect of an attack by Indians of the Mississippi, fomented by Adet's agents, had led men to think more of the means of defending their hearths and families than of entering into the discussion of abstract political rights. Indeed, there was no ground for such argument, except on the question of personal liberty and undoubted wrong. The revenue was entirely insufficient to meet the expenses of civil government, and what was required to carry it on was supplemented from the imperial exchequer. Thus, there could be no attempt to check the expenditure of the executive by any vote of supply; and there was no public opinion to be appealed to, to effect the establishment of uncontrolled self-government.

The lieutenant-governor, consequently, in this condition of matters exercised great power, absolutely without opposition, except what might arise from the want of accord with members of the council. The turning point to a different political theory came after the days of Hunter. During the six years of his government, a spirit which declared itself on