

The Americans, driven from the Province of Quebec in the spring of 1776, continued the struggle on the great lakes and in the western provinces, which finally turned to their advantage.

On the 3rd September, 1783, the British plenipotentiaries signed the treaty of Paris, recognizing the independence of the American colonies. Canada lost a vast territory. The rich Ohio valley, the whole region of the great lakes and lake Champlain itself were ceded to the new republic. A great error was committed in leaving the boundaries between Canada and Maine undefined; later on, inextricable difficulties arose in connection with this and the Province of Quebec was dispossessed of a fine portion of its territory through Lord Ashburton's concessions.

Great changes occurred in the Government of Quebec during the war of Independence. Carleton, at variance with the Secretary for the Colonies, Lord Germain; offended by the preference given by the Imperial authorities to Bourgoyne regarding the command of the troops and, above all, indignant at the more or less arbitrary proceedings of his councillors, had asked for his recall in June, 1777 (1).

On the 30th June, 1778, Haldimand replaced him with the title of Administrator. He was Swiss by birth, and well knew the country he had to govern. On the morrow of the conquest, he had succeeded Burton as Governor of Three Rivers. It seems that, at the outset, he wanted to govern with the same moderation as his predecessors. Shortly after his arrival, he wrote to Lord Germain that he considered the Canadians as the people of this country and that, in the administration of laws, regard should be paid to the sentiments and manner of thinking of 60,000 men rather than of 2,000—three fourths of whom were traders and could not properly be considered as residents of the province (2).

Probably the fear of seeing the Canadians embrace the cause of the Americans, owing to the appeal addressed them by the Count d'Estaing (3) and Lafayette (4), compelled him to change the line of conduct he had first traced out and to act with inflexible severity. The Canadians were overburdened by forced labour and many were cast into prison without any kind of trial.

If the charges brought by DuCalvet, who was imprisoned by the Governor's orders, must not be too readily believed, it is none the less true that terror reigned throughout the country and there were signs of uneasiness everywhere.

(1) Can. Arch., State Papers, Carleton to Germain, 27th June, 1777, Q. fol. 297.

(2) Haldimand's letter to Germain, 25th October, 1780. Const. Doc., p. 488.

(3) Count d'Estaing's proclamation to all the French in America, 28th Oct., 1778. Can. Arch., State Papers, Q. 16, fol. 297.

(4) Lafayette's letter urging Canadians to rebel, 20th Oct., 1780. Can. Arch., State Papers, Q. 17, fol. 175.