

limited range of one hundred and forty years, a comparatively short period in the history of a nation.

The effect of the transfer of flags and the introduction of a more business-like and more honest administration appears to have been almost instantaneous. Business at once began to show indications of activity which had been previously entirely lacking. Private adventurers began to flock into the country, and the increased demand for provisions, under the inspiration of more wholesome trade conditions and the abolition of official monopolies, led the "habitants" or farmers to increase the acreage of their farms. Many of the old colonists, particularly those of the official and military classes, returned to France, and it was inevitable that the inhabitants who remained should suffer inconvenience from the radical change in the country's administration. Naturally the first British administration

With commercial activity came the development of political troubles. The interests of the French Canadians or "King's new subjects," as they came to be known, clashed with those of the "King's old subjects," or the new English-speaking settlers. Blood is thicker than water, and it was hardly to be expected that a thorough understanding between conquerors and conquered would spontaneously develop. Friction arose, and more or less local ill feeling was consolidated into a wave of national discontent when the old French laws were replaced by English ones, early in 1764. Meantime, discontent in Britain's older colonies in America, from Massachusetts to the Carolinas, was gradually drifting on towards open rebellion. Disputes arose between the colonial governors and their people; the governed and governing classes became arrayed against one another. The home authorities certainly made a most absurd



In the Thousand Islands. On the Saint Lawrence River above Montreal

was a purely military one, the army officers calling upon the officers of the old French militia to assist them in the administration and interpretation of the old French civil laws, which, immediately after the occupation, were temporarily continued in force. The first British governors, being soldiers and not statesmen, may have been a bit rough in their methods but they appear to have been actuated by the honorable desire to deal justly by the conquered people and to make the change of allegiance as little distasteful as possible. Hands that are hard to wound are usually soft to heal.

With official monopolies and open official rascality had disappeared the constant dread of invading armies and marauding Indians. And the country showed it. An active lumber and ship building trade sprang up and developed rapidly. The year 1764 saw the first printing press set up in Canada.

attempt at administering by deputy the domestic affairs of some of the distant colonies. This produced irritation which was fanned into a flame of discontent when the British government imposed upon the colonies imposts to cover part of the cost of the expensive wars undertaken against the French power in America at the urgent solicitation of the English colonies. The colonists, naturally somewhat revolutionary in disposition as a result of their origin, were just then in a peculiarly self-reliant and bombastic mood, many of them having formed part of the prolonged military expeditions against New France and possessing the experience and training of the best regular soldiers of that day. Protests sent to England by the colonists received scant courtesy, bitterness developed and strife appeared inevitable to all but those who were blindly trying to govern a people they knew