

Much of Carleton's time was occupied in trying to bring into order and system the laws of the Province, regarding which there were disputes from the beginning of civil government. One of his earliest acts was the issue of a proclamation announcing that he had relinquished all the fees and perquisites that had previously been exacted by the Governors. Writing to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, he says that besides the general principles that lead him as Governor General to refuse what a private gentleman ought to decline, there are special reasons applying to Canada which enforce this sentiment, adding that there is a certain appearance of dirt, a sort of meanness in exacting fees on every occasion. The proclamation did away with all the fees payable to the governor, except those for liquor licenses, it being announced that the latter "shall not be appropriated to his private use, but shall be paid into the hands of the Receiver General of His Majesty's revenue in this Province, and considered as a part of the revenue and accounted for accordingly." He recommended also, as a measure for the good of the people, that this tax should be largely increased and that the proceeds should be used for the relief of distress, the relief to be given in the King's name, and not as the private charity of a governor. It will be seen by the correspondence that this action of Sir Guy Carleton was taken by General Murray as a personal reflection on his conduct.

In December of 1767, some progress had been made in preparing a summary of the laws of Canada as they existed previous to the establishment of civil government in 1764, and in a letter by Carleton of the 24th December of that year, he called attention to the confusion in the administration of the law by the different courts, the great delay and expense as compared with former immediate and inexpensive decisions; advised the repeal of the Ordinance of 1764, leaving the Canadian laws almost entire; the appointment of a resident Judge with a Canadian assistant; and sent the draught of an Ordinance on the subject which he had prepared but not submitted to the Council. In the following January (1768), he suggested the addition of Canadian members to the Council, the raising of a Canadian Corps, and the bestowal on the French Canadians of offices in the King's service. The old subjects were moving to obtain a House of Assembly, but he could not induce them to lay down any laws for its guidance or scope. In March, it was officially notified to him that the proposed Ordinance had been approved of by His Majesty.

The British Ministry were engaged in framing a bill for the government of Quebec, which did not, however, become law till 1774, and Carleton continued to urge the admission of French Canadians to the Council and to other offices, the justice of which was admitted, but it was feared that faction and prejudice would prevent their employment in the military line, although there were great advantages in their being so employed.

In the summer of 1770, Carleton left for London, and H. T. Cramahé, lieutenant governor, administered the government of the Province during his absence. As might have been expected from the restricted powers of the lieutenant governor, no change in the administration of affairs was made during his administration, but the agitation for a House of Assembly still continued, and Francis Maseres, the late Attorney General, acted as agent in London for the promoters of this movement, although he advised them to confine their efforts for a few years to obtaining a Legislative Council, consisting only of Protestants, not removable by the Governor, but only by the King-in-Council. The correspondence gives no details of the pro-