

government, and not that of New England, was practically brought into operation in this province. This was mainly through the influence of Governor Simcoe, aided by the justices of the peace already in the field, who naturally wished to enlarge their powers. Hence the municipal administration of the country centered in the Courts of Quarter Sessions, whose members being appointed by the Governor-in-Council were responsible to the Executive alone.

The various acts passed for local administration simply enlarged the powers of those courts to deal with municipal matters. In course of time certain towns obtained special charters and with them a measure of local self-government varying in range from town to town. But it was only after the struggle for responsible government had resulted successfully, that representative municipal institutions, such as we now know them, were introduced and applied to the whole Province.