

the distance of the places, and to what shall be possible, taking care, however, that the bills and letters of exchange which the French subjects may have at the time of this declaration, be not confounded with the bills and letters of exchange which are in the possession of the new subjects of the King of Great Britain."

This somewhat Delphic deliverance, instead of leading to a definite settlement of the French debt in Canada, was but the beginning of a long and fruitless diplomatic contest in which the French as usual got the better of their British competitors. Once the crisis was over and the treaty signed, the French Court knew that the English were not likely to go to war over a vague appendix to the treaty, dealing with the Canadian debt.

With a cheerful ignorance of French methods, the English traders and others interested in Canada understood the latter part of the declaration to mean that the paper money held in Canada was to be much more favourably treated than that held in France.

Acting on this supposition, efforts were at once made in the districts of Quebec, Three Rivers and Montreal, to get a record of the paper money held in those sections, as it was expected that considerable paper money and exchanges held in France would be returned to Canada in order to take advantage of the more favourable treatment secured for the Canadian holders. This, however, was soon found to be a baseless apprehension.

The next alarm was sounded by Lord Halifax, in the end of 1763. In a despatch to Murray he says he has been informed that some persons employed by the French Government have been insinuating to the people of Quebec that the Canadian bills will never be paid. Under cover of this they were understood to be purchasing from them considerable quantities at a very low price. He asks Murray to make immediate inquiry as to the truth of this report. But this, too, proved to be a groundless alarm. The French Court was very far from having either the funds or the inclination to purchase at any price its past Canadian promises to pay.

For the comfort of the Canadians Halifax reports that the English ambassador at Paris and himself are exercising them-