

as members of the Council, or officials, held on to their positions with a tenacity quite unknown at the present day. Up to the close of the century, only fifteen persons were sworn in as members of the Council. Twelve of these have been already named; the other three were George Leonard, John Saunders and Christopher Billop. Prior to the appointment of these three, three of the original members of the Council, James Putnam, Abijah Willard and Gilford Studholm, had died or retired.

The first Secretary of the Province, the Honorable and Reverend Jonathan Odell, held that office from the foundation of the Province until 1812, a period of twenty-eight years. Jonathan Bliss, the first Attorney General by Royal warrant, held that office for twenty-four years, or until he was appointed Chief Justice. The Solicitor General, Ward Chipman, held office from 1785 to 1809, when he was elevated to the bench. George Sproule, the first Surveyor General, continued in office for thirty-three years. The proceedings of the Council were but little affected by anything done in the House of Assembly, which was largely composed of the same classes that ruled the Council. Amos Botsford was Speaker of five successive Houses of Assembly, extending over a period of twenty-seven years.

What may be termed the official class controlled everything in those days. The four Judges of the Supreme Court, the Judge of Vice-Admiralty and the unremovable Provincial Secretary, were all members of the Council and passed laws as well as carried them out. All the good offices were held by a few families and it would have been regarded as little short of high treason for any outsider to aspire to one of them. When the Honorable and Reverend Jonathan Odell had to retire from the office of Secretary, owing to his age and infirmities, he was succeeded by his son, William Franklin Odell, who held the office for thirty-two years. When Ward Chipman, senior, gave up the office of Clerk of the Circuits and Advocate General, he was succeeded in both by his son, Ward Chipman, junior. And so the old families kept all the good things to themselves and the humble people accepted this state of things as meekly as if it had been decreed by Heaven from the beginning of time.

The Lieutenant Governor of that day, Thomas Carleton, held his office for life. He resided in the Province from 1784 to 1803, going back in the latter year to England, where he died in 1817. Governor Carleton continued to be the Lieutenant Governor of the Province until his death, the business of the office being conducted by no less than eight administrators during his long absence. It was a time of political stagnation in New Brunswick, such as we are never likely to see again. The only legislative event that assumed any political importance during Governor Carleton's residence in New Brunswick was a dispute between the House of Assembly and the Council on the claim of the former for 7s. 6d. a day for their services as legislators. The dispute produced a deadlock for a time between the two Houses, but the members finally got their pay and have contrived to obtain it ever since.

Under the system of government which then prevailed, a strong minded governor could do pretty much as he pleased. He was bound to a certain extent by the royal instructions and by despatches from the Home Government, but neither the Council nor the House of Assembly could effectually control him. This system of government answered well enough for a small community, but it was not well calculated to stand the strain of any great emergency when the people really began to feel that their rights were being ignored.

In 1793 war broke out between Great Britain and France, destined to be one of the most bloody and protracted in the history of the world. One of its first results was the formation of a Provincial Regiment, of which Governor Carleton was Colonel, and Beverly Robinson, Lieutenant Colonel. The Loyalists had lost much, but their