

it was a barren and precarious victory, identifying, as it did, the line of political cleavage with that of racial division. Metcalfe died in 1846. Lord Elgin came out as Governor in 1847, and with his administration the new era of self-government began under Baldwin and LaFontaine, who won the elections early in 1848.

The Conservative Ministry of 1845 had recommended the payment of losses caused by the destruction of property during the rebellion. In Upper Canada the French-Canadian party voted for this on condition that steps should be taken to pay just losses in Lower Canada. The Ministry agreed. Commissioners were appointed and made their report, and the Conservative leader, feeling the necessity of French-Canadian support, introduced a Bill for payment. But the Bill was not put through, and at the elections in 1848 the Reformers were successful, and Baldwin, LaFontaine, Hincks, Price, Blake, Malcolm Cameron, Papineau, and Nelson were returned as members. In 1849 LaFontaine introduced a Bill to carry out what the Conservative Ministry had promised. This caused great excitement throughout the country from Montreal west. The Conservative watchword, in which some Reformers joined, was "no pay to rebels", and the old race war was on, hotter than ever. To escape from French domination, as it was termed, the more violent Tory members of the Conservative party declared that they were prepared to go any length, even to annexation with the United States, a measure which, in the passionate excitement of the time, was openly advo-