

of law. The latter bore heavily on the people, and had become the cause of much complaint. Haldimand represented, that debts generally remained unpaid from the inability of the debtors to meet their obligations, rather than from any desire to evade them. Such may generally be considered the result of the experience of all time, here and there modified by the dishonesty of an unscrupulous debtor, when self-indulgent or reckless. The excessive cost of law had become so great a burden as to demand the interference of the government to restrain and adjust it.

Carleton, in 1770, had regulated the fees of the officers of the crown, but the order issued by him in 1774 had ceased to be observed except in the common pleas; the passage of the Quebec act had annulled the authority of his regulations. He had therefore seen the necessity of taking further action in this direction, and in 1775* had brought the matter before the council. Owing to Livius' conduct on this occasion, the council had been prorogued, and no ordinance had been passed. Under any circumstances, the determination of fees on a basis satisfactory to those who are to pay, and to those who are to receive them, is not a matter of easy arrangement. In this case, greater complications followed from the circumstance, that the officers whose fees were to be adjudicated were members of the council. The principal opposition came from Livius the deputy Surrogate of the admiralty, and Monk the attorney-general. The former declared that the fees of his court were beyond the power of the council and could be established only by the court in England. He was, however, silenced by the production of an official letter to the effect that the king had allowed the judge of the vice admiralty court a salary of £200 a year in lieu of all fees.

The attorney-general claimed all that his predecessors enjoyed, including the fees receivable from the Leward islands. In this contention he was supported by Finlay, Cuthbert, Allsopp and Grant. The ordinance, however, was passed and received the governor's assent. It was the best arrangement

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