

In Canada, in particular, Vaudreuil and Bigot, both before and after the capitulation, had given the strongest assurances in the King's name that the Canadian paper would be redeemed after the peace. These pledges and assurances were, of course, used with effect in the peace negotiations which followed.

From the first, the Canadians were naturally clamorous before the English authorities in Canada, to obtain some definite decision as to the status of their paper money, both in commerce and with reference to previous contracts. The people in Montreal went so far as to send a petition to the British Government to secure the redemption of their paper, as it was practically the only money which they had. This was fairly correct as to the Montreal district, which had not the same opportunities for hoarding coin as those nearer Quebec. At the same time, it is true that the noblesse, the merchants and the government contractors were the chief holders of the paper money.

During the later days of French rule, there being no longer any coin in circulation, any increase in the savings of the peasantry had to be made in paper money. But the general distress and the arbitrary measures resorted to for securing supplies, prevented the possibility of much saving during the last three years. What was held by the country people was mainly in the shape of card money and ordonnances. The bills of exchange were chiefly in the hands of the French traders and noblesse, who, as Murray said, were likely to return to France, some of them to remain there, others to look after their interests.

The Treaty of Paris, by which Canada was ceded to Britain, was concluded on the 10th of February, 1763. The treaty itself did not include any article dealing with the outstanding claims on the French Government. But in a special declaration appended to the treaty the matter is thus dealt with :

“The King of Great Britain having desired that the payment of the letters of exchange and bills, which had been delivered to the Canadians for the necessaries furnished to the French troops, should be secured, his most Christian Majesty, entirely disposed to render to every one that justice which is legally due to them, has declared, and does declare, that the said bills, and letters of exchange, shall be punctually paid, agreeably to a liquidation made in a convenient time, according to