

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

the City of Quebec, the Fourth Day of March, in the seventeenth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, and in the Year of Our Lord One thousand seven hundred and seventy seven.

By His Excellency's Command.

J: WILLIAMS
C.L.C.

PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE CITY & DISTRICT OF QUEBEC.¹

Art. 1st

The chamber of commerce to be composed of all the merchants and traders in this city & district, willing to become members thereof, french & english without distinction.

Art. 2nd

Every member of the chamber of commerce shall pay on his admission the sum of eight spanish dollars towards the support thereof, and continue to pay yearly, so long as he may chuse to remain a member, his proportion of what may be thought sufficient, by a majority of the subscribers, to defray the annual expences of the chamber.

Art. 3rd

Twenty five directors, including a president, vice-president, treasurer, and clerk, shall be elected, without delay, by a majority of the subscribers.; and they shall be deemed a full board for the space of one year, and any five or more of the directors, but not less, shall have power to sit and do business.

¹ Enclosed in the despatch of May 9th. Canadian Archives, Q 13, p. 99. The object of this plan was to avoid bringing commercial matters into the regular courts where, under the Quebec Act, the French and not the English civil law was made the basis of decision. On the occasion of the final reading of the Ordinance to regulate the proceedings in the Courts of Civil Judicature, Mr. Harrison had moved the following amendment to the 7th article "And the judges are hereby directed to determine upon the evidence, both as to the Law and the Fact, agreeable to the Laws and Customs of England; and that in all actions above the value of £10 sterling, Juries shall be allowed, at the option of either of the parties." Minutes of Leg. Council, vol. D., p. 13. This, however, was defeated by 7 to 5. At the following meeting of the Council, on February 25th, the five members of the minority, Messrs. Finlay, Dunn, Harrison, Allsopp, and Johnson, were appointed a committee "To prepare a scheme or plan of such rules and regulations as may be proper for an establishment of a chamber of commerce, to be laid before His Excellency in council; and that, for that purpose, they meet and confer with such of the english and canadian merchants of the province, as they shall think proper." Ibid. p. 14. On March 29th, there was presented and read the report of the committee on the proposed Chamber of Commerce. Copies of this were to be made for the Governor and the various members of the Council. On the same day the Governor closed the session of Council, and officially nothing more was heard of the plan, until the Report of 1787.