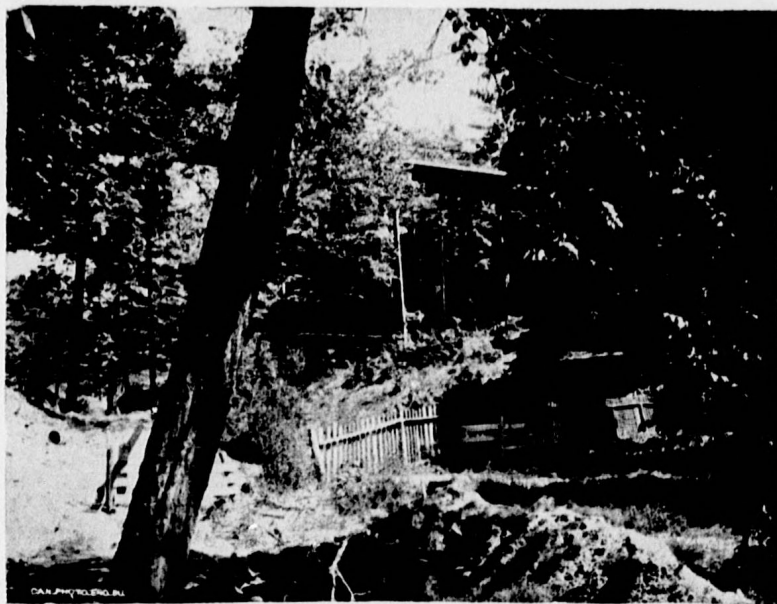


mother-land, though it may be said that, from a present-day point of view, it has not contributed to the prosperity, but rather to the disadvantage, of Lower Canada. As we have said, the measure naturally gave great offence to British settlers in the country. But dissatisfaction was especially expressed with it, in consequence of the extensive area throughout which the Act would have to be respected, for by its provisions the western boundary of Canada was to include a region so remote as the valley of the Ohio. In due time, however, the repeated protests of the Anglo-Canadians against the injustice of the Quebec Act

induced the English Ministry to make a radical change in the administrative machinery of Canada, so far, at least, as the western portion of the country was concerned. The incoming of English-speaking settlers from the territory of the new-born Republic increased the volume of complaint heard at the Colonial Office, and no doubt hastened the passing of the ameliorating measure.

By the Constitutional Act of 1791—as the Bill was called—the country was divided into two parts, designated Upper and Lower Canada, the boundary line being the Ottawa River. Each Province was to have its own Governor, and an Executive Council, appointed by the Crown, together with a Parliament, consisting of a Legislative Council and a Representative Assembly. The Government in both Provinces was unfortunately made responsible, not to the Representative Assembly, but to the Colonial Office in England—a mistake which,



HOWARD STREET BRIDGE, ROSEDALE.

in Upper Canada particularly, was in time to bring forth evil fruit. In Upper Canada, English law was to be established, and provision made in both Provinces for the support of a Protestant clergy,

by the setting apart of certain wild lands, called Clergy Reserves, an enactment which later on was to lead to much contention in the Upper Province. Freed from the trammels of connection with Lower Canada, the Upper Province took a leap onward in that path of progress which to look back on to-day seems as if it had come about by enchantment, so great has been the transformation and marvellous the development.



JUNCTION OF FRONT AND WELLINGTON STREETS, AT CHURCH.

From 1783, when the Revolutionary War closed, the Province promised to be invaded along the whole of its water-front at scattered points attractive to the settler. Up to 1791, however, with the exception of small communities along the St. Lawrence, the Bay of Quinté, the Niagara frontier, and the Detroit River—the bulk of which was of Loyalist settlement—there was no white population in the country, and the whole region was an almost trackless forest. The natural advantages of the