

The initial troubles of settlement safely over, they soon joined with the English element already in the country in renewing the agitation for the repeal of the unfortunate Quebec Act. In this they were soon successful, at least as far as Upper Canada was concerned, for the Constitutional Act of 1791 permitted the Upper Province to re-establish the English law as it was known in the colonies from which the Loyalists came.

The large sums of money which the Revolutionary War had brought to Canada were not of course in the hands of the Loyalists, most of whom came to the country with very limited means or none at all. When the direct Government support of the first few years was withdrawn, and the people were left to provide for themselves, they had neither a great deal of ready money, nor the means of procuring it. There were several military establishments in the western settlements, and others at the Indian trading posts, all of which required considerable supplies, so that there was for a time quite a flourishing local market for the surplus provisions of the more thrifty settlers. It was estimated that the British Government spent, in the early nineties, about £200,000 on the military and Indian establishments in Canada. It also supported the greater part of the civil administration, and supplied a number of pensions.

The Honorable Richard Cartwright, one of the most intelligent, shrewd, and far-sighted of the early settlers, in a letter, in 1792, to Mr. Isaac Todd, his friend and business correspondent in Montreal, has this to say of the condition of the country at that time:—"To what is to be ascribed the present  
"state of improvement and population of this country? Certainly not to its natural advantages, but to the liberality  
"which Government has shown towards the Loyalists who  
"first settled it; to the money spent by the numerous garrisons and public departments established amongst us; and  
"the demand for our produce which so many unproductive  
"consumers occasion on the spot. As long as the British  
"Government shall think proper to hire people to come over to  
"eat our flour, we shall do very well, and continue to make a  
"figure, but when once we come to export our produce, the disadvantages of our remote inland situation will operate in  
"their full force, and the very large portion of the price of our