

ington, at this time in his second term as President of the United States, requested the French Government to recall Genest, and the request was complied with. The war fever he was fostering subsided considerably upon the recall of the French agitator, but while it lasted it caused considerable excitement in Canada, particularly in the infant Province of Upper Canada, which considered itself, as it were, between two fires—the zealous hatred of the tyrannical democracy of the United States on the one hand, and the, to them, questionable fidelity of the French-Canadians of Lower Canada, on the other.

And there remained after the recall of Genest other causes for threatening agitations and war talk in the United States. The western Indians were firm in their demands that the Americans withdraw from the country north of the Ohio, and, of course, the United States would do nothing of the kind. It was claimed that the obstinacy of the Indians was due to British interference based upon a desire to keep the Indian country under the British flag. The retention of Detroit and the western posts was pointed to as proof of Britain's determination to keep the United States hemmed in to the westward. Britain had no such designs, for she repeatedly called upon the United States to do their part towards fulfilling the articles of the treaty of peace of 1783 with respect to the confiscated property of the expelled loyalists and the debts due them, promising that as soon as that was done the British troops would be withdrawn from the western posts. The out-and-out democrats agitated and "talked war" and the conquest of Canada, and probably only the great personal influence of Washington preserved peace at this juncture. Jefferson, Madison, and the whole of their party were wholly in sympathy with the French Revolution, and adopted even the extravagant dress and symbols of the Sans-Culottes of Paris.

The anxiety naturally created in the minds of the Upper Canadians by this agitation for war in the United States was increased by a scheme for the invasion of Canada from Louisiana by the French, Spanish and Indian forces via the Mississippi and Michigan. The project never materialized, as President Washington, much to the indignation of Jefferson, Madison and the Democrats, refused to allow a French-Spanish army to traverse United States territory to attack the colony of a friendly power.

It was under these circumstances that the Militia Act of 1794 was passed with a view of making the Upper Canada militia more efficient. Heretofore the militiamen had been expected to provide their own arms. During 1794 there was a considerable distribution of arms throughout the Province at the public expense. A general Indian war had been in progress in the western part of the United States, and General Wayne, after defeating the Shawnees with great slaughter at the battle of the Maumee, declared his intention to attack Detroit and the other British posts in the west. It was as much as Washington and his Government could do to persuade the general from carrying out his threat.

Governor Simcoe, while this invasion was threatening, acting on instructions from Lord Dorchester, the Governor-General, quietly called out 600 of the Upper Canadian militia for active service. Two hundred of these men were placed in garrison at Detroit, the remaining four hundred being disposed along the Niagara frontier.

This force remained on duty until the signing of the treaty concluded by John Jay, Washington's special ambassador, and Lord Grenville in 1794.

This same year of anxiety and threatened invasions (1794) also saw the organization of the Royal Canadian Volunteer Regiment, the first battalion of which was recruited exclusively in Lower Canada; the second battalion of nine companies drawing some of its officers and recruits