

a small share in the contest for Ottawa's ascendancy,—having in 1857 drafted the memorial to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria setting forth the reasons that should influence her judgment in favour of Ottawa and, subsequently, as member for the city, having taken part in shaping the policy that was adopted in 1859, in order to secure a reversal of the adverse vote of the Legislative Assembly which, in the session of 1858 by a vote of 64 to 50, had declared that “in the opinion of this House the City of Ottawa ought not to be the permanent seat of Government of this Province,” thus curtly setting aside Her Majesty's decision.

Quebec continued to be the capital of Canada after its cession to Britain up to the year 1791, when an Imperial Act was passed dividing the Province into two separate parts to be called Upper and Lower Canada. By section 13 it was declared that His Majesty might direct the Governor of each Province to summon the Legislature where he thought fit. No change was made in the Capital of Lower Canada. In the sister province the Legislature was first convened to meet at Newark now Niagara-on-the-Lake. Subsequently the capital was removed to Toronto where it remained until the passing, in the year 1840, of the Imperial Act to reunite the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada.

By section 11 of that Act the Governor was authorized by an instrument under the Great Seal from time to time to summon and call the Legislature to meet for the despatch of business at such place as he was advised. Accordingly Lord Sydenham convened the first Parliament to meet at Kingston on the 14th June, 1841.

This step was keenly felt by the inhabitants of Lower Canada, who had hoped that the Capital would be either Montreal or Quebec, both of which, as compared with Kingston, were large towns. The pressure from Upper Canada on this point, however, was overwhelming, and the Governor acceded to it. In fact Upper Canada would not assent to or even seriously entertain the scheme of a union of the Provinces, unless upon the express understanding