

When the vote was taken, no desire was expressed of placing on record the reasons for dissenting from the view of the majority. On a subsequent occasion, three of the minority asked to inscribe on the minutes the ground of their disagreement. Such a record on the minutes would have brought to the notice of the law officers of the crown in England the legal rights of the council in the emergency. The proposal was rejected, on the plea that it was at variance with the form followed in the council, an objection in itself frivolous, as there was no regulation in the council *quoad* form on any subject. The paper was, however, filed. The measure proposed was generally regarded as the one which could alone control speculation, and hence the opposition to it. Its legality was undoubted; it was, moreover, in every sense expedient, for it would have reduced to their just proportion the prices of the necessaries of life, which had been abnormally increased only by combination and contrivance.

The high prices, accordingly, continued for some months to the benefit of those who were maintaining them. The demand could not, however, be continued, for the harvest gave indications of being abundant; consequently, in August they commenced to decline, and by degrees the cause of discontent disappeared.

Haldimand clearly acted upon the dictates of his duty. In this case it was twofold; to secure cheap bread for the people, and to provide for the support of the troops, without the public purse being defrauded to pay the extreme prices exacted by the speculators. The course proposed would have been acceptable to the French Canadians. It was defeated, for it was distasteful to the majority of the council, many of them being engaged in operations in wheat.

To prevent any further attempt at erecting artificially high prices an ordinance was passed against the exportation of wheat for two years. An ordinance was likewise proposed

Caldwell, St. Ours, Longueuil, Baby and Holland—10. The nays: Cramahé, Finlay, Dunn, Cuthbert, L'Evêque, Collins, Pownall, Allsopp, de Léry, Harrison and Grant—11.

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