

On his arrival at Niagara, one of Simcoe's first measures was to continue the jurisdiction of the existing courts of justice and magistrates until new arrangements could be made. The battalion of Queen's Rangers were temporarily quartered at the "new landing on the Niagara river," (Queenston, in huts built by the men themselves. It was his ultimate intention to establish military posts at Toronto, Long Point and some suitable position on the Thames. He made an investigation of some salt springs between Niagara and the head of the lake, which had been already worked and considered then worth developing. Scarcely had the rangers taken possession of their camp site at Queenston, than possession of the land was disputed by Samuel Street, a well known trader in the vicinity. The Attorney General was promptly instructed to defend and judgment was given for the Crown. It was ascertained at the same time that many other Crown reserves were occupied by squatters.

Of the three residents of the district named by Sir John Johnson for appointment to the Legislative Council only Robert Hamilton had been selected. At the elections for the Legislative Assembly, the following members were returned:—Nathaniel Pettit for Durham, York and the 1st riding of Lincoln; Benjamin Pawling, for the 2nd riding of Lincoln; Isaac Swayze for the 3rd riding, and Parshall Terry for the 4th riding. All of them had borne arms in the service of the Crown during the revolution.

During the session, a bill for the prevention of smuggling seems to have become the subject of considerable debate and on the 29th of September a motion was passed "that Mr. Colin McNabb, as Preventative Officer, be ordered to attend at the Bar of the House to-morrow to give information respecting the Contraband Trade carried on in this district as far as the same has come to his knowledge." His evidence was apparently not very conclusive as on the 1st of October, the bill to prevent smuggling was read a second time and committed. The report of the committee that further consideration of the bill should be postponed for three months was then adopted without a division.