

deferring of payments in Canada was simply a partial expression of the general attempt to ward off an utter collapse, and the complete suspension, in October 1759, of all payments on Canadian account, was not merely an expression of the abandonment of Canada to her fate, after the capture of Quebec.

In the last article a table was given showing the amount of the exchange drawn upon France during the closing years of French rule. From that it will be seen that the most remarkable increase in the expenditure took place in the years 1757-8-9. But, by the system of deferred payment then in force, one-fourth of the value of the exchanges drawn in any one year, was to be paid the following year, one-half the second year after, and one-fourth the third year after being drawn. When, therefore, the payment of the Canadian exchanges was wholly suspended in October 1759, the entire amount of exchange drawn that year remained unpaid, and a like fate overtook at least three-fourths of the exchanges of 1758, and at least one-fourth of those of 1757.

There remained unpaid, also, the whole of the card money, ordonnances and certificates held in Canada, and which General Murray, in his report of June 1762, estimated at twenty-two millions of livres. The whole of the unpaid Canadian paper, Murray estimated at eighty millions at the least.

The settlement or disposal of this debt was a very important detail in the peace negotiations which led up to the treaty of 1763. Had these claims remained unsettled, in proportion as distress resulted to Canada, the security of the English possession of it would have been weakened.

These claims left uncertainly hanging in the wind; it would always be open to France at any future crisis to promise to pay them, on condition that the Canadians should return to their ancient allegiance. Hence it was necessary to make some final settlement of them if possible.

Murray himself was so impressed with the necessity of getting the Canadian claims out of the way, that he proposed to the British Government the taking over, at a large discount, of all the paper still remaining in the possession of the French Canadians, except the exchanges on France, which were mainly in the hands of merchants who expected to leave the country,