

tion by the British Orders-in-Council of United States commercial intercourse with Europe! The Orders were repealed in England almost upon the very day that the protracted exasperation which they had caused produced, in the United States, a declaration of war. The other cause of the war was the British assertion of a right to stop United States vessels on the high-seas, and to impress therefrom into the British navy, men who were said to be British subjects! That claim was persisted in, and the war proceeded. Earl Grey (above referred to) has said that the war was:

"entirely brought upon her (Canada) by our most impolitic conduct towards the United States" (a).

And Kingsford in his history of Canada says:

"The war was forced on Canada as a member of the imperial system of Great Britain, without a single act of dereliction on her part, without even any sentiment of active unfriendliness" (b).

At the same time the British ministry had

"entirely failed to understand the position of Canada, and had neglected to prepare for the war, on all sides in America known to be imminent" (c).

The population of the Canadas did not at that time exceed 425,000; that of the United States was nearly 6,000,000 (d); and

"All the regulars in the country were 4,450 men; of this number, 1,500 only were above Montreal. What was equally important, there was but little specie in the public treasury" (e).

Not only so, but a despatch (10th August, 1812) from the Colonial Secretary stated (as summarized by Kingsford)—

"that owing to the extended warfare in which Great Britain was engaged, the capability of defending Canada was limited. Should Canada be invaded, it was hoped that the known valour of the troops would meet the emergency. No hope was given that the requisition for specie would be met . . . Arms for 10,000 men were being forwarded" (f).

"Legislation in Upper Canada provided for the issue of army bills to the amount of \$6,000,000, of which about \$4,820,000, was used" (g)

—an act that was applauded by the Lieutenant-Governor, who said.

"However small a proportion they may bear to the requisite expenditures, you have the merit of giving them all you had" (h).

Had the war been popular in the New England States, Canada

(a) Evidence before Select Com. of House of Commons: *Com. Pap.* 1861, XIII, p. 253.

(b) *Ibid.*, p. 280.

(c) *Ibid.*, p. 194. And see p. 125.

(d) *Ibid.*, pp. 183-4.

(e) *Ibid.*, p. 183.

(f) *Ibid.*, pp. 182, 3. And see pp. 125, 6.

(g) *Ibid.*, p. 184.

(h) *Ibid.*, p. 437.