

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

such Quorum, terming the same a Privy Council, or to excuse you from summoning to Council all such thereunto belonging as are within a convenient distance.—On the contrary that you do take especial Care to preserve the Constitution of Our said Province free from Innovation in this respect, to which intent you shall communicate this Our Royal Will & Pleasure to our said Council, that so the Trusts, Powers & Privileges which We have thought fit to vest in them by Our General Instructions may by this express Signification of Our Purpose, be in future ascertained & confirmed.

G. R.

George R.

(L.S.)

Additional Instruction to Our Trusty & Well beloved Frederick Haldimand Esquire Our Captain General & Governor in Chief in and over Our Province of Quebec in America, and of all our Territories dependent thereupon. Given at our Court at St James's the Twenty Ninth day of March 1779 In the Nineteenth Year of Our Reign.¹

C.O.
(Quebec 1768-1787
Vol. 1.)

Whereas it is fitting, and Our Royal Purpose, that Our Council for the Province of Quebec under your Government, should be fully informed of Our Gracious Intentions in the Constitution proposed for Our said Province, to the end, that they may jointly with You Our Governor and agreeably to the Powers vested in them by Act of Parliament carry Our said Intentions effectually into execution to the benefit of Our Service, & to the ease and security of all Our Subjects, Inhabitants of the said Province. It is Our Will & Pleasure and you are hereby strictly directed and required if you shall not have carried Our Royal Instructions for that purpose given already, into effect ; upon receipt hereof, by the first opportunity & without delay, to communicate to Our said Council, such and so many of Our said Instructions wherein their Advice and Consent are made requisite, with such others from time to time, as you shall judge for Our Service to be imparted to them.²

G. R.

¹ This Additional Instruction was also recommended by the Committee of Council in their review of the Livius case. See p. 701.

² Haldimand, who had adopted Carleton's policy, naturally did not relish the Instructions received, and in a despatch to Germain of 14th Sept., 1779, marked "Secret and confidential," after referring to other matters, he takes up the question of the additional Instructions: "From the State of the Province herein exhibited, your Lordship will please to consider, whether, consistently with the King's Service, the additional Instructions sent over this Spring, ought positively to be attended to, and followed, whether every Measure of Government ought to be exposed, and laid open to that mixture of People which compose our Council, and whether it is not more probable that the generality of its members will rather incline to the particular and concealed Interests, to which they lean, or which is more probable, be biased by what they conceive to be their private and particular Interest, than act upon Just and liberal Motives for the good of the State in general." Q 16-2, p. 591. See also Q 16-2, p. 616. He therefore withheld the two Instructions of March 29th and continued his previous course. When these facts, including Haldimand's explanations, were laid before the Board of Trade they passed judgment upon his conduct. See p. 722.