

assume the whole charge of civil government when that would mean an increase in the burden of taxation. But the very first year (1810) in which the returns showed an excess of receipts from all sources over expenditure, we find the assembly of Lower Canada drafting a petition "that the Legislature may be allowed to assume the charge of the civil government of this Province"; which of course meant nothing else than that all the public funds—the Crown revenues as well as the Provincial—should be placed under the Legislature's control.

The war of 1812-15 postponed the question for a time, and it is not until 1817 that it comes up again. The Crown revenues of Lower Canada of themselves were still insufficient. The war office objected to more expenditure for civil purposes in the colonies. The governor, therefore, turned to the legislature and asked them to make good their offer of 1810, and to supply the deficiency by a grant from the provincial revenues. The legislature complied, but upon the demand of a much larger sum the following year, before consenting to vote the supplies they insisted upon receiving from the executive a satisfactory account of the expenditure not only of the Provincial but also of the Crown revenues.

It would seem that the governor was in an awkward position. The Crown revenues were insufficient, and the Legislature would not vote more unless the whole budget was handed over to it. But on the other hand, the Crown revenues formed