

Canadas. Driven from their homes the British Government gave them lands in Canada, for those they had lost, and in lieu of pensions, also. It is well to remember these facts. The settler paid for his land on easy terms. The Loyalists had their grants with additional help for past services, losses and present needs. Rapid surveys were made to meet these exigencies. During the Revolution many went to New York in the hope peace would restore their homes and vocations of the past, but a different fate awaited them. A fleet of twenty vessels carried seven thousand of these exiles to St. John, New Brunswick, in 1783. Twelve thousand had previously arrived. To Nova Scotia also came thirty thousand.

The sudden influx of so many people to the Provinces whose natural productions were of a limited kind, produced circumstances most disastrous.

Those who are living in the "Garden of Canada" can not imagine the misery this influx produced. A few went to England and the West Indies. The British Government made supreme efforts to help needy subjects. To Lower Canada came twenty thousand, to Upper Canada ten thousand. To these food, clothing, and blankets were given, for every necessity of life was needed. Land grants taxed every energy from 1783 to 1791. Employment, too, was to be found, tools to work with, and seeds to plant. Guns were given to help provide the supply of food. Four million dollars were spent in surveys, and the aid was so efficient that in a few years the land was cleared and substantial buildings erected. Commissioners were appointed to examine the claims for losses. These were of various kinds and the examination was conducted in a manner that met the approval of the claimants. The Commissioners appointed were John Wilmot, Daniel Parker Coke, Robert Kingston, Thomas Dundas, John Marsh, and Mr. Pemberton. Colonel Dundas and Mr. Pemberton came to Canada. Two-thirds of the claimants were from New York State. Those who had large fortunes went to England to have them adjusted. At first soldiers were allowed forty per cent. on their claims, and civilians thirty, and finally no distinction was made. Great Britain spent thirty million dollars upon the Loyalists for food, clothing, compensation, and annuities. The claimants of all classes expressed their gratification to the Commissioners for the manner in which they had performed the important trust committed to their charge, in these memorable words: "It will be the business of our lives and that of our offspring, to render ourselves worthy of the patronage and protection of the best of sovereigns, and to manifest our gratification to that nation who notwithstanding the weight of her own burdens, has so often and so cheerfully contributed to lighten ours."