

salaries. These figures are in sterling money. The salary of the collector of St. John was then £1,500 sterling; or considerably more than double that paid to the present official, who presides over a port which collects annually almost a million dollars in customs duties. This system survived until the year 1848; when it was abolished, and the customs officials, who had been appointed by the imperial government, were pensioned off.

The Lieutenant-Governor, although he had a council, did not always take its advice, and frequently acted without consulting it. In 1845 the province was agitated greatly by the appointment of a Mr. Reade to the post of provincial secretary, an office which had been filled for sixty years by the Odells, father and son. Mr. Reade was the private secretary of Lieut.-Governor Colebrooke, and therefore an utter stranger to the province. The appointment was cancelled as a result of the agitation which it caused; and thus another step was gained in the direction of responsible government.

Singularly enough one of the things which stood in the way of the full realization of responsible government was the reluctance of members of the House of Assembly to give up the right to move money grants. Before responsible government was established a person might rise in his place in the House and move that a certain sum of money should be appropriated for a certain purpose. Such a system could not exist when responsible government was established, because the initiation of money grants by the executive lies at the very foundation of the system of responsible government. The provincial government did not take full control of the initiation of money grants until the year 1855; and from that time down responsible government may be said to have prevailed in this province to the fullest extent.

Under the system now in force the people have the entire control of their own affairs, the government is the creature of the legislature, which is elected by the people, and no government can exist for a day unless it has legislative support. The functions of the governor have been reduced to the formality of signing his name to the official documents. He does not pretend to take an active part in public affairs; and so under this system all the old grievances which formerly existed have been removed, and the people are contented, prosperous and happy.