

prevented that proportion from being observed, it has happened that the same articles have become dearer, when purchased in paper, than when purchased in Specie, hence a difficulty, amounting nearly to impossibility, of obtaining Specie for paper; we have, with pain, beheld the paper decline in credit, and that after giving the fairest promise of being of the utmost advantage to Government, it now threatens to cease to be of any utility, notwithstanding the good intention of the House of Assembly, to communicate to it every possible degree of credit.

A short time before the declaration of War, the House of Assembly of *Lower-Canada* concurred in passing an Act, declaring every man between the ages of Sixteen and Sixty a Militia man; by this Law, the Governor is empowered to call out the whole or such part of the Militia, as he may deem expedient. There are, in consequence, at this moment, about six thousand men embodied, and taking into consideration the Carpenters, the other descriptions of persons employed in public works, and those employed on *Corvées*, for transporting the effects of the army, the number of persons constantly occupied in services relating to the War, appears to be, at least, Ten Thousand; add to these the several Corps which, within a few years, have been raised within the Province, as the 104th, the Canadian Fencibles, the Glengary Regiment, chiefly raised within the Province, the Canadian Voltigeurs Corps, also the men annually employed in the fisheries of *Newfoundland*, and in the service of the North West Company; and it will be found, that agriculture is, at this moment, deprived of more than Fifteen Thousand men; being one third of the effective male population. The approach of the enemy last Autumn, rendered necessary, in the midst of the season for tilling the ground, a Levy *en masse*, in the most populous District of the Colony, the greater part of the force thus levied, continued under Arms during two months, and the remainder during one month. In a Country, as yet covered with forests, it is palpable that such levies do considerably impede the cultivation of the soil; and the failure of our harvests may, in part, be reasonably attributed to a want of hands for tillage. The accumulation of so many evils, well may produce uneasiness among the Inhabitants of the Country, notwithstanding their zeal, their courage and their loyalty.

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