

are such strong inducements that no threats of the enemy will intimidate them, nor they will be deluded by any insidious efforts they may make.

"Froud of the confidence Your Excellency is pleased to place in the exertions of His Majesty's Canadian subjects and in the courage and loyalty of the militia, we confidently promise to ourselves a happy and fortunate result to any hostile attempt that may be made on this colony, whilst that courage and loyalty have the aid and support of the tried valour, skill and discipline of His Majesty's regular forces."

No time was lost in presenting to the House two private and confidential messages; one of which requested their consideration to the urgent necessity of vesting the Governor General with extraordinary powers to suppress any attempt to excite disorder or insubordination and for the summary punishment of all offences tending to disturb the public peace. He frankly stated that he hoped the legislature would have less hesitation in sanctioning this proposal from the knowledge that he could at any time by virtue of his commission exercise the power of declaring martial law in its fullest extent, and that it must be evident to the members that by his action in requesting them to authorise the exercise of this power in a limited degree, he could have no other object than to ensure the welfare of the province with the least detriment to the interests of the inhabitants. His second message stated the want of specie to meet the demands of the military situation and the absolute of procuring money to the amount required by government bills of exchange. It was accompanied by a report from the Executive Council recommending an issue of paper money, to be designated Army Bills, to the amount of £250,000.

The Assembly showed their aversion to the Governor General's proposal to legalize a modified declaration of martial law by quietly ignoring his message on that subject but endeavoured to make amends by unexpected readiness and liberality in the enactment of a law to facilitate the circulation of the Army Bills. The interest for five years upon Army Bills to the amount proposed was made a charge upon the Provincial Treasury together with an additional annual sum of £2,500 to pay the expenses of an office. Bills of the face value of twenty-five, fifty, one hundred and four hundred dollars each were made payable in Government bills of exchange on demand at a rate of exchange to be fixed every fifteen days or in cash at the expiration of five years with interest at six per cent. until paid. They were declared a legal tender to stay arrest and execution upon the person and property of a debtor and made receivable in payment of all public dues. All contracts in which any distinction should be made between Army Bills and cash were declared void. It was made a felony without benefit of clergy to forge them. Interest at six per cent. per annum was payable