

The motives for sending me here in the year Eighty six, and the policy then approved and adopted being now totally changed, I should in consequence have begged leave to retire from the Command, even if it had not been so broken and inverted, that Prudence requires I should temporize till the arrival of my successor and contract my interference within as narrow limits as possible. (Q. 71-2 p. 462).

He then urges his advanced age and his fifty three years service, as additional reasons for his applying to be relieved of his onerous duties so that he might retire into private life. Dorchester's dissatisfaction with the whole colonial system adopted after the division of the Province, may be seen by reference to his letter No. 22, of the 20th February, 1795, (Q. 71-2 p. 313); an extract from this letter will show its spirit. After stating his expectation that the Governor General would be the channel of communication for all the Provinces he continues:—

A different system has been since adopted, tending to revive the old colonial practice, which from an early period prepared, and gradually rendered all things favourable for leaders of Rebellion, to usurp from Government the confidence and gratitude of the people, and ended in revolt and dismemberment of the Empire.

The whole letter should be carefully read.

Whatever view may be taken of the propriety of his correspondence as a military officer subject to the orders of the Commander-in-chief, his superior officer, it is evident that according to the system adopted by the Colonial office, Simcoe acted as lieutenant governor in the most vigorous manner for the settlement of the country and spared no labour to become acquainted with the extent and character of the Province in an agricultural point of view, as a home for a vigorous population, and to ascertain and take advantage of the best methods of opening up communication throughout the country. The summary of his letters in the calendar will give a fair view of his ideas on the subject and of the means he took to carry them into effect. Even before his assuming office and whilst still in London, but after his appointment, he laid his plans before the ministry very fully (see Q. 278) and among his memoranda is the following on "The objects that may be worth the attention of the new settlers in upper Canada." (Q. 278, p. 338):—

1. Growing Hemp and Flax.
2. Supplying the Indian Market with Rum from parsnips, &c.
3. Discovering the best situations for Iron Forges.
4. Making salt at the Salt Springs in the High Countries.
5. In building all villages and even farm houses, they should have the idea of placing them in such a manner as they will admit of being defended by a few men against a number. This would be particularly necessary in those situations, where they are likely to be attacked by the Indians or N. Americans.

The proclamation, which stated the terms and conditions on which the waste lands of the Crown would be granted, did not appear to contemplate the intervention of middle men, or associated companies, to secure grants of large tracts of land to be disposed of by them to actual settlers, at a profit to the partners. An inspection of the correspondence and other documents will, however, show that immediately after the division of the Province, the system was in full vigour, and was attended with prejudicial consequences to the settlement of the country. Much of the hostility between Prescott, who succeeded Lord Dorchester on the 18th June, 1796, and his Executive Council, arose from this cause. The tone of Prescott's letters on the subject may be seen from the following extract in reference to applications for losses suffered by delays in issuing patents for lands:—