

that, while he had put up proclamations in all the Districts of the province, it was for the General to consider whether it was advisable to continue the prohibition "or whether the quantity of grain in the country will render it prudent to recall it by a subsequent Proclamation which he has it in his power to issue whenever he pleases. . . . Now not a gallon of whiskey or other spirits can be distilled and it becomes important to consider whether the army have other means of supply."

The suggestion contained in this letter was promptly acted upon; a fresh proclamation was issued withdrawing the prohibition—and the former trouble revived at once. On November 1, 1813, Robinson wrote to General de Rottenburg submitting "the expediency whether the state of the army will *now* allow a general prohibition of the distillation of grain. The demand for whiskey enables distillers in this part of the country [Robinson wrote from Toronto, then called York] to offer from 12 to 15 shillings, New York currency¹ [\$1.30 to \$1.87½] per bushel for wheat, the natural effect of which will be to raise very considerably the price of flour, an indispensable article and of greater consumption. I suppose the same evil exists in other parts of the Province and it would be well if, consequently with the supply of the troops, a remedy could be provided by a total prohibition." A full supply having been laid in for the troops, the General issued a proclamation forbidding until March 1, 1814, the distillation of any grain.

On March 5, 1814, Robinson wrote to Captain Loring, secretary to the new Administrator, Sir Gordon Drummond, calling his attention to the fact that the prohibitory proclamation had expired, March 1, and added that if it were intended to continue the prohibition he should be informed of the time to be limited in the new proclamation. But the prohibition was permitted to lapse, and we hear no more of it: there was no government to be assailed or voted against, and the first Canadian war-time prohibition measure passed into the limbo of oblivion.

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¹ The New York shilling. "York shilling" or "Yorker" was 12½ cents, the York pound, \$2.50. In my boyhood near Cobourg the ordinary method of estimating prices was by York shillings: there was no coin for the York shilling, but the English sixpence passed as such. The use of this method of counting began to wane about sixty years ago and has now almost completely disappeared.