

Salle, fired with the dream of a great empire, considered this an important point in the extension westward of French power; Frontenac too felt the force of this argument and, further, the post would be of great advantage in diverting from the English the trade of the Iroquois to the south. With characteristic energy, Frontenac at once set his men to work to build a fort and four days later, when it was almost completed, held a conference with the Indians and gained their consent to its erection.

In 1675, La Salle was granted a seigneurie which included all the present city of Kingston and land some distance beyond, on the condition that he rebuild the fort of stone and keep it up. Around this fort, situated at about the gate of the present barracks, traders built their homes and cultivated small plots of ground, and this marks probably the earliest effort at colonization in what is now Ontario. It seemed as though Fort Frontenac was to be a permanent settlement, but the ill-feeling excited by the treachery of Denonville, one of Frontenac's successors, in seizing some Iroquois warriors assembled for a friendly conference, rendered necessary the withdrawal of the garrison and the destruction of the fort.

Frontenac, again sent out to save the colony, had the fort rebuilt and for seventy years it was an important post, the depot for supplies and for garrison reserves for the centres farther west. Fate, however, seemed not to favor French occupation of Fort Frontenac. During the war between England and France, Colonel Bradstreet, with batteries stationed on the present Market Square, made a vigorous attack on the fort, whose garrison

reduced in number, for Frontenac had been deemed secure from assault, was obliged to surrender the fort with its stores and the warships in the harbor, and a second time Fort Frontenac was left in ruins.

One hundred and eleven years after Count Frontenac had made his first impressive landing, a flotilla of different appearance, bearing people of different nationality and with different aim, entered the harbor. No dream of a vast empire led them there; they came with their wives and children, not to trade in furs, but to subdue the forest and gain thereby a livelihood. They were the United Empire Loyalists, forced because of devotion to the British crown to seek new homes in the wilderness.

A map of Kingston in 1790, shows Bagot marked as Rear Street, because quite at the back of civilization, and a line of block-houses connected by a palisade fence encircling the city; one of these may still be seen at the end of Lower Sydenham Street. Some years later, when the city limits had been much extended, the Martello towers, built at considerable expense, replaced the block-houses which by position and general structure were no longer sufficient for defence.

During the war of 1812, which meant commercial ruin to many towns, Kingston prospered, for the strength of its fortifications and garrison secured it from attack. It was both a military and naval headquarters and at Navy Bay a large dockyard was established. In 1841, the first united parliament of Upper and Lower Canada met in what is now the main building of the General Hospital. Previous to this, after the passing of the Constitutional Act, Lord