

general tax is still to be levied in order to provide a sinking fund to retire the paper in time, though fresh paper is to be immediately issued to replace the old, in its joint function of circulating medium and working capital. In these schemes the simple directness of the relation of means and end, the delightful inconsequence between the objects for which the money was to be issued and the sources from which the redemption fund was to be drawn, are strongly suggestive of the turn of mind and financial experience of a military man or a populist.

Nevertheless, it is quite evident that Murray was considerably influenced in his views as to the necessity for the government coming to the assistance of the needy French Canadians, by his intercourse with the Canadian aristocracy. As I have already indicated, it was the most natural thing in the world, considering their historic traditions and personal experience, that the distressed Canadian nobility, and the governors on their behalf, should be most anxious to induce the British government to provide a sufficient number of offices, military if possible, which they might fill with becoming dignity to the government and profit to themselves. As a sample of their views on this subject we may take the memoir dated May 1st, 1765, prepared by the principal French citizens, setting forth the present state and abilities of the province. They contrast the flourishing state of the colony under French rule, from 1749 to 1755, with the disastrous condition of the country since the peace. They attribute this decline to the lack of sufficiently large expenditure in the colony by the British government. The remedy proposed for this dangerous state of things consists of two alternatives, namely, that Britain should either support a sufficiently large standing army in Canada, or build frigates and other vessels at an annual outlay of 3,000,000 livres, to be issued in bills or paper money on the credit of the government, and payable in London. In other words, they advocate a complete restoration of the French system of administering the colony. The first alternative was evidently the one most to their liking, and many representations in its favor were forwarded to the home government by Murray and Carleton, and we know how the latter employed it in connection with the Quebec Act, and how, when the critical moment arrived, he