

no complaint of its character in Montreal. Nevertheless, by the artifices of these speculators, wheat reached the price of ten shillings a bushel, which at the present value of money would be four dollars.

The magistrates of Montreal and Quebec had great difficulty in inducing the bakers to continue their calling; indeed, there was difficulty in procuring flour for daily consumption in the towns. With an ample supply of wheat and flour in the country, families were being threatened by famine. Bread, the ordinary food of us all, was becoming a luxury, and, like all luxuries, obtainable only by those who could pay for it. All classes with limited means, and they must always include the majority, suffered privation. So much anxiety was created, that on the meeting of the council in May, 1779, the extremely high price of wheat and flour became the matter of serious deliberation, especially in its relationship to the production of bread for daily use. It was then agreed, that the bakers should be required to enter into recognizances for the due performance of their calling, and that they should receive every reasonable support from the government. Further, that the assize of bread should be regulated by the price of flour; the magistrates were likewise directed to inform themselves of the cause of the extraordinary advance in the prices of wheat and flour.

Every artifice was resorted to by the holders of wheat to maintain its exaggerated market value. Agents passed through the parishes, ostensibly as buyers, to give every encouragement to the farmers not to sell, assuring them the value would increase. This course was particularly followed on the river Richelieu. Having its source in lake Champlain and passing by Chambly, it was the direction that an army invading Canada would follow. Some of the traders interested in maintaining the price were regarded as disaffected to the government and as favouring congress. In consequence, Haldimand inferred that their pertinacity in the maintenance of high prices had more significance than the desire of profit. Should the invasion take place, the farmers in the parishes

on the
were fur
of the
supplies

The p
dearness
had been
no chan
fore turn
interfere
a bushel
some vag

The co
mittee, a
an ordin
special p
engrossin
pable of
was no s
exportati
sition led
course co
council, u
and that
flour was
referred f
coincided
and vagu
the form
itself an
involved.

It was
the legali
decision w

* Monk's
That of Will
wheat and flo
† The aye