

CHAPTER XXII.

Debates in the assembly, 1808-1810—Talk of war—Preparations for defence, 1808—Sir James Craig and his surroundings—Trade, navigation, finance—Trouble with the assembly—*Le Canadien* suppressed, 1810—Elections—Sir James recalled, 1811.

A song composed in Quebec alluded to the Milnes-Ryland-Sewell anti-Canadian party as pretty fair tyrants, but quite a small battalion to meet the Americans—and the chorus ran: "They will rely on our arms." These lines are a perfect picture of the time.

The House opened 28th February, 1807. Subjects of debate: War in Europe; state of affairs with the American Republic; the Jews in the assembly; contested elections; monetary circulation; inspection of wood and lumber; the judges elected members of the legislative assembly; importation of liquor; public works; taxes on notarial deeds, land surveyors and copies from public archives; pilotage; Three Rivers hospital.

The assembly took into consideration the expediency of having an authorized agent, resident in Great Britain, for the purpose of attending to the interests of the province, when occasion should require, and determined that it would be highly advantageous to have such an one legally authorized and resident there. No other action was taken on this subject.

An effort was made in 1807 towards obtaining an allowance for defraying the expenses of the members of the assembly who resided at a distance from Quebec, but the subject was postponed.

"That the Canadians at this time were loyal to Great Britain, and out of all sympathy with the course of events in France, is shown by their enthusiastic celebration of Nelson's victory at Trafalgar."*

"From the beginning of the war comparatively large amounts were contributed by Canadians of all creeds and classes towards the funds necessary for its prosecution. Among the names on the first subscription list are

*W. H. P. Clement: *History of the Dominion*, p. 147.

those of the leading English-speaking merchants, who gave liberally, the French-speaking inhabitants being also worthily represented. The religious institutions and the clergy joined heartily in the movement, the Seminary of St. Sulpice giving £500 as a gift and engaging to contribute £300 annually during the war, the largest single contribution, the annual subscriptions of the others ranging from £5 up to £25. Some time after Sir Robert Milnes forwarded the following letter from Lieut.-Colonel de Longueuil: Sir,—I have the honour to enclose to you a bill of exchange on the paymaster general for five hundred pounds sterling, with my humble request that Your Excellency will be pleased to transmit the same to His Majesty's treasury, as a contribution from the officers and privates of the 1st battalion of Royal Canadian Volunteers, towards the support of the present war. I am, etc.

“The victories at sea over the French navy had the effect of securing peace for some time, and during that period no great alacrity appears to have been shown in volunteering for military service, the danger seemed so far off and the probability of its near approach very slight. But as soon as the indications were that the United States had some intention to enter the field the martial spirit that was latent became aroused, and Colonel Isaac Brock expressed no doubt of being able to raise an efficient force in both provinces, to whom arms might safely be entrusted.”* Colonel Brock was in command of the forces since 27th September, 1806.

Lieutenant-Governor Francis Gore, who had taken charge of the forces in Upper Canada, although he held no military rank, was actively preparing for the defence of that province. He went to Montreal to consult with Brock, during the summer of 1807.

Quebec had no fortification worth mentioning. The works constructed by Captain Twiss in 1779-1783 were decayed and could not resist an enemy's fire. They have erroneously been regarded as the ruins of the French construction. The citadel built at that time was never intended for a permanent structure. In 1802 or 1803 the attention of Mr. Pitt being called to this state of things, a plan was made by which we see that in the citadel there was an ordnance store, constructed in 1800 and a powder magazine built in 1801. In 1804, another plan was drawn up for the construction of

*Dr. Douglas Brymner: *Canadian Archives*, 1892, IV.

three Martello Towers, then quite a favourite mode of fortification with the military. Towers No. 1 and No. 3 were commenced in 1805 and finished in 1810. Tower No. 2 was commenced on the 11th May, 1809, but was not completed until 1818. Tower No. 4 was not completed until 1823. Additions were made to the citadel in 1816. The present citadel was constructed in 1823 on the basis of the plans of Holland and Twiss, by Lieut.-Colonel Durnford, and supplementary works by Colonel Mann.

St. John's Gate was built under Frontenac; removed by de Léry in 1720; rebuilt in 1791, and again in 1867; and demolished in 1898.

Palace Gate, first built under Frontenac, was restored in 1720 and again in 1790. It was rebuilt in 1823-1832 in imitation of the Nola and Herculaneum Gates of Pompeii. It was demolished in 1864.

St. Louis Gate was built under Frontenac, appearing first on his plan of 1693. It was rebuilt in 1721; altered in 1783; again rebuilt in the scheme of 1823-1832, and replaced by the present arch in 1873.

Hope Gate was built in 1786. It was altered in 1823-1832, and strengthened outward in 1840. It was demolished in 1874.

Prescott Gate was built in 1797; rebuilt in 1823, and demolished in 1871.

Chain Gate forms a part of the work undertaken in 1823-1832, and protects the road to the citadel, known as Citadel Hill.

Dalhousie Gate, which forms the entrance to the citadel, was erected in 1827, during the administration of Lord Dalhousie.

Kent Gate was built in 1879, Her Majesty Queen Victoria contributing to the cost, in memory of her father, the Duke of Kent after whom it was named.*

Captain Mann, of the Royal Engineers, had reported (1791) that the walls round the City of Montreal were no longer required as military works, and that their ruinous condition made them rather a nuisance than a benefit. Citadel Hill, he considered, should be levelled and barracks built on part of it, or by levelling the hill to an easy slope Notre Dame Street might be opened to the suburbs called Quebec. This was agreed upon by the Imper-

*Dr. A. G. Doughty: *The Fortress of Quebec*, pp. 68-80.

ial authorities, but they asked that the governor ascertain what claim the citizens may be expected to prefer in the matter, as the French government had erected these fortifications on private property without allowing any indemnity to the respective owners. Petitions then began to come in from the various proprietors and it was not before 1801 that a bill was passed by the assembly for the removal of the walls, also to make the ground revert to the rightful owners or their legal representatives.

The commissioners appointed to superintend the removal of the walls who were still busy with that matter in 1813 were: James McGill, John Richardson, Jean-Marie Mondelet, Louis Chaboillez, secretary.

During the summer of 1807, says Christie, "there were serious apprehensions of war with the United States, whose interests were suffering between the two great belligerents in Europe. The feeling of hostility throughout the Republic was aggravated by the affair between the *Leopard* and the *Chesapeake*, in which the former had fired upon the latter . . . for the purpose of searching her, and had taken from her four deserters, unhappily killing six men and wounding twenty-six others."

As the inhabitants of the United States talked of walking into Canada, Mr. Dunn wished to make a counter demonstration of the public pulse in the province. Accordingly, towards the end of August, 1807, he gave directions for draughting a fifth part of the whole militia, with orders to hold themselves in readiness to march whenever it might be found expedient. "The command was no sooner given than accomplished. Never was order obeyed with more cheerfulness, alacrity and patriotism than it, by all classes of His Majesty's subjects, and not to obedience merely, but to emulation. The Roman Catholic Bishop, Mgr. Plessis, issued a *mandement* or pastoral letter on the occasion, which was read in all the churches of the diocese, and a *Te Deum* sung in each throughout Lower Canada."*

Mr. Joseph Bouchette, the surveyor-general, knew that Canada was quite unprepared for war and that the British authorities did not believe in the possibility of offensive or defensive operations. His opinion on this subject is embodied in a letter addressed to Mr. Cooke, the under-secretary

*Christie: *History of Lower Canada*, I., 258. He also quotes an article of the *Mercury* in the same sense.

for the colonies. Alluding to the plan of the Americans who wished to place General Moreau at the head of 6,000 men for the purpose of attacking Canada in the event of war, he wrote: "I conceive he can have but a very little chance of succeeding, as a much greater force will be required to ensure the Americans any degree of success whatsoever. If they talked of fifteen or twenty thousand men, divided as follows, I should feel more alarm, that is to say, six or seven thousand men headed by General Moreau to proceed to Montreal, an equal force up the Kennebec River and down by the River Chaudière to take post before Quebec, erecting batteries opposite to the town at Point Lévy, and three or four thousand to go down by the River St. Francis (Lake St. Peter) with an intention of forming a junction with Moreau's army at Three Rivers in case of his success in taking Montreal." This had been the campaign of 1775 so far as the movement of the American troops was concerned. The attitude of the Canadians made the invasion rather easy at that time, but in 1807 things were different in that respect. Bouchette advised to take the following steps: "By augmenting the military force in the two Canadas to ten thousand strong, if no more can be spared, added to about twenty or twenty-five thousand active militia in Lower Canada and about twelve or fourteen thousand in Upper Canada, besides the Indians, the Americans would find it a very difficult task to take either of the provinces, but more especially Lower Canada. With respect to Upper Canada, they have more in their power and less militia to oppose them, and also the advantage of turnpike roads leading to the different garrisons which they at present occupy on the frontier, a circumstance highly in their favour. Nevertheless, I am convinced that by a judicious distribution of troops and militia of that province and augmenting the naval force on the lakes, added to the state and commanding position of Fort George, situated on the west side of the Niagara River, a most powerful resistance can be made, and I trust that time will show that Canada is not so easy a prey to the Americans as they consider it to be." These prophetic lines turned out to be true five or six years later.

Sir James Henry Craig left England with the impression that war was imminent and that an attack on any other point than Quebec could not be met with effectual resistance. Lord Castlereagh was doubtful if a pro-

longed resistance were advisable; he was in favour of the formation of independent companies of Canadians, officered by gentlemen of the country, as preferable to more numerous corps.

Sir James arrived in Quebec on the 18th October, 1807, but on account of illness did not take the oath of office till the 24th. The news he brought was the cause of much anxiety. After Jena and Friedland the prestige of Napoleon was greater than after Austerlitz. There was a certitude that the United States would frame their action depending on this powerful ally, in case of a rupture of their diplomatic relations with Great Britain.

By the end of October, as previously ordered by Dunn, a muster, or review of the militia took place and it was estimated that with the 5th Battalion ordered to hold itself in readiness, there would be a total of 37,000 militia. Military stores were entirely insufficient. Of small arms only 7,000 were available because 4,000 or 5,000 had been sent to Upper Canada and that province was asking for 7,000 more. Accoutrements did not exist. Of flints the supply even for the regulars was insufficient.

Sir James had come with a full knowledge of the danger arising from the prospect of a war with our neighbours. He was a man of letters and a good military officer, which was enough to guide him safely, even in such a delicate position as he had here, but his temper, his character and the old stock of absolute principles he cherished made him the most likely person to create dissatisfaction among the people. Happily the latter were under a strong impulse of patriotism and could listen to the clergy who set aside all other considerations and spoke directly to their hearts. Things, nevertheless, would not have gone so well as they did at the hour of fighting if the same governor had been then in authority, but he was removed just in time.

Sir James found in Canada some men of his particular stamp and these surrounded him immediately. The result was that he joined with the anti-Canadians and the small party of the late *Courrier de Quebec* under the leadership of Judge de Bonne. These were styled *Chouayens* by the Canadians, because they reminded them of a band of traitors who had made a name for themselves at the taking of Chouagen (Oswego) in 1756.

The days of Milnes and Craig (1800-1811) are well called "the reign

of terror," because the government during those eleven years was in the hands of the council, and that council was mostly composed of petty tyrants. Among them were some Canadians. Birds of the same feather will flock together. For the same reason the Canadian party in the House found some supporters among the English-speaking population.

Craig asked for the repeal of the Act of 1791, in order to replace the province under a council named by the Crown; or such an adjustment of representation in the assembly as should give the English-speaking minority a preponderance in that house, for instance, by depriving several classes of Canadians of the right to vote, thus reducing the "new subjects" to a figure below that of the "old subjects."

"Ryland, who had been secretary to each succeeding governor since 1796, was well known for his antipathy to everything French and Catholic—and Craig's policy may be inferred from the fact that Ryland wrote of him as 'the vèry man for this country.'"*

Jonathan Sewell, the anti-Canadian was speaker of the legislative council, after the death of Henry Allcock. The members of that corps under Sir James Craig were: The Bishop of Quebec (Reverend Jacob Mountain), Thomas Dunn, Paul Roch de St. Ours, François Baby, Joseph de Longueuil, Charles de Lanaudière, Sir George Pownall, R. A. de Boucherville, Henry Caldwell, Chief Justice Monck, Sir John Johnston, Chartier de Lotbinière, Gabriel Elzear Taschereau, Jenkin Williams.

The executive council was composed of the Bishop of Quebec, Thomas Dunn, P. R. de St. Ours, François Baby, Joseph de Longueuil, James McGill, Chief Justice Monck, P. A. de Bonne, John Lees, John Young, Jenkin Williams, John Craigie, P. L. Panet, John Richardson, James Irvine.

This council or cabinet, as well as the legislative council, or upper house, or senate, derived their appointments from the Crown. Seven members of the legislative council were also in the executive, Mr. de Bonne was in both of them, besides sitting as a member of the assembly.

The session of 1808 was remarkable for the nature of the questions brought forward, such as the true spirit of self-government, and even the responsibility of the ministers or executive councillors. Whether Mr. Pierre

*W. H. P. Clement: *History of the Dominion*, 147.

Bédard intended that the ministers should be designated by the House and responsible to that body is not quite clear, but he maintained that their actions could not be imputed to the sovereign—only to themselves. No such principle had yet been expressed in England, and both countries had to wait forty years more before it was recognized and adopted. Five or six orators of ability, science and temperament supported Mr. Bédard: Denis-Benjamin Viger, Louis Bourdage, M. P. D. Debartzch, Joseph Papineau, Louis-Joseph Papineau, J. T. Taschereau, J. L. Borgia.

“While the quarrel about the judges was still going on, Craig asked the assembly to provide more money for the expenses of government. It promptly offered to pay the government officials, hoping thus to gain control over them. But the offer was not accepted, and the salaries were paid, as before, from money received from the sale of wild lands and from duties placed by the British government on goods brought into Canada. With this the assembly could not interfere, but to meet the cost of making bridges and roads, and putting up public buildings, it was allowed to tax the people.”*

It is a noticeable fact that whilst the assembly stood as the representative of liberal ideas in the country, it took such a determined stand against a Jew recently elected as a member of that body, but the inconsistency was only in appearance not in fact. Mr. Ezechieel Hart was an intimate friend of the governor, who had gone so far as to reside in the house of that gentleman during the election time. Strictly speaking, the opposition that followed was directed against Sir James in the person of his friend. It is well known that the governor cut short the debates on that subject and others, by calling general elections in two consecutive years, but without gaining an inch of ground. He avenged himself by dismissing several officers of the militia, including four members of the House: Mr. Panet, the speaker, François Blanchet, Pierre Bédard, J. T. Taschereau and Joseph Levasseur Borgia.

“The extraordinary state of affairs in Europe, with the American non-intercourse and embargo system, operated favourably for the Canadian trade, particularly in the article of lumber, which, owing to the quasi-

*Emily P. Weaver: *Canadian History*, 167.

exclusion of the British from the Baltic, took about this time a prodigious start, evincing at once the independence of Great Britain on a foreign power for that article, and consequently the value of her North American possessions, taking in return for their timber, large supplies of British manufacturers.'*'

The revenues of 1806 amounted to £36,417 currency, and the civil expenditure, £36,213 sterling, including £2,000 to General Prescott and £1,500 to Sir Robert Shore Milnes; also £850 to Mr. Dunn. After the arrival of Sir James Craig, Mr. Dunn retired with a pension of £500 a year.

The public accounts for 1807 showed a revenue of £35,943 currency, against an expenditure of £44,410 sterling, besides those of the legislature, amounting to £2,821 currency.

The revenues in 1808 were £40,608 currency, and the expenditure, £41,251 sterling.

Exportations.	1796	1799	1802	1807	1808
Wheat, bushels ...	3,106	128,870	1,010,033	234,543	186,708
Flour, bar.	4,352	14,475	28,301	20,424	42,462
Biscuits, cwt.	3,882	20,535	22,051	28,047	32,587

Vessels to the number of 334 cleared from Quebec in 1808, loaded with wood, potash, coaltar, turpentine, wheat, flax, staves, hemp, peral-ashes, flour and provisions of all kinds.

In the year 1810 the number of vessels entered and cleared at Quebec was 635, with a tonnage of 138,057. The vessels built at that place and cleared numbered 26, with a tonnage of 5,836. The revenue of the province was £68,000 and the expenditure £42,000.

In 1809 the House sat from April 10th to May 15th: threatening war with the United States; trouble with Sir James Craig; antagonism between the council and the assembly; responsible government advocated; the judges elected for the assembly; the militia. Having to give assent to some bills, the governor went in state to the assembly, on the 15th May, and read a novel sort of speech containing passages such as this: "I am sorry to say that I have been disappointed in all I expected from you. You have

*Christie: *History of Lower Canada*, I., 277.

wasted in fruitless debates, excited by private and personal animosity, or by frivolous contests upon trivial matters of form, that time and those talents, to which, within your walls, the public have an exclusive title. This abuse of your functions you have preferred to the high and important duties which you owe to your sovereign and to your constituents; and you have, thereby, been forced to neglect the consideration of matters of moment and necessity which were before you, while you have, at the same time, virtually prevented the introduction of such others as may have been in contemplation. . . . So much of intemperate heat has been manifested, in all your proceedings, and you have shown such prolonged and disrespectful attention to matters submitted to your consideration, by the other branches of the legislature, that whatever might be the moderation and forbearance exercised on their parts, a general good understanding is scarcely to be looked for without a new assembly. . . . I shall abstain from any further enumeration of the causes by which I have been induced to adopt the determination, which I have taken, because the part of your conduct, to which I have already referred, is obviously and in a high degree, detrimental to the best interests of the country, such, as my duty to the Crown forbids me to countenance, and as compels me to have recourse to a dissolution, as the only constitutional means by which its recurrence may be prevented. . . . I have an entire confidence in the electors, to whom I shall recur; trusting that by the choice of proper representatives, further mischiefs may be obviated, and the important interests of the colony considered in next Parliament with less interruption, and happier effect. . . . I offer you, gentlemen of the legislative council, the acknowledgments that are due to you, for that unanimity, zeal and unremitting attention, which you have shown in your proceedings. . . . To a considerable portion of the house of assembly, my thanks are equally due. I trust they will believe that I do them the justice of a proper discrimination, in the sense I entertain of their efforts to avert that conduct of which I have so much reason to complain.”

The surprise of the members after this censure à la Louis XIV. spread through the country and created at first an impression that the House had deserved such an unusual act of severity, and if the days for the polls had

been appointed within a month or two some strange results might have been seen, but the general elections only took place in October, after the people had realized that the assembly had been dissolved for having espoused their interests in opposition to the encroachments of the governor and the upper house upon the public rights. Returns were as follows:—

Gaspé.—.....

Cornwallis.—Joseph Robitaille, J. L. Borgia.

Devon.—François Bernier, J. B. Fortin.

Hertford.—E. Feréol Roi, François Blanchet.

Dorchester.—P. Langlois, J. T. Taschereau.

Buckinghamshire.—François Legendre, J. B. Hébert.

Sorel.—Edward Bowen.

Richelieu.—H. M. Delorme, Louis Bourdages.

Bedford.—John Jones.

Surrey.—Joseph Beauchamp, Joseph Bédard.

Kent.—L. J. Papineau, P. Dominique Debartzch.

Huntingdon.—Jean Antoine Panet, Stephen Sewell.

Montreal county.—Le Roi Portelance, J. B. Durocher.

Montreal East.—Joseph Papineau, James Stuart.

Montreal West.—D. B. Viger, Thomas McCord.

York.—Pierre St. Julien, John Mure.

Effingham.—Joseph Meunier, Joseph Duclos.

Leinster.—Bonaventure Panet, J. T. Taschereau.

Warwick.—James Cuthbert, Ross Cuthbert.

St. Maurice.—Michel Caron, Louis Gagy.

Three Rivers.—Matthew Bell, Joseph Badeaux.

Hampshire.—François Huot, A. J. Duchesnay.

Quebec county.—P. Amable de Bonne, R. Gray.

Quebec upper town.—Claude Dénéchau, J. Blackwood.

Quebec lower town.—Pierre Bédard, John Jones.

Orleans Island.—Jérôme Martineau.

Northumberland.—Thomas Lees, jr., Joseph Drapeau.

In all: 1 return not complete; 36 Canadians; 15 new members.

The arrival at Quebec of the *Accommodation*, on the 11th November,

1809, deserves to be noted. This was the first steamboat on the St. Lawrence. M. John Molson had built it in Montreal, two years after the one launched by Fulton on the Hudson River. In 1811 M. Molson floated the *Swifture*, in 1812 the *Malsham*, in 1817 the *Lady Sherbrooke*.

The first session of 1810 (29th January to 26th February) was partly a continuation of the debates of the preceding year: the judges elected to the assembly; rumours of war; the fiftieth year of the reign of George III.; an agent of the province in England; revenues and expenditure of the province; the House offering to meet public expenses, also to take the control of finance. At this last proposal Mr. Ryland was deeply alarmed and went to London in order to represent his own views of the situation, which meant the policy of Sir James and his party. Several months elapsed without any satisfactory result in the sense he desired it. The reading of his letters to the governor amply show that he was given the cold shoulder in official circles. Finally, he had to come back carrying the news that his master was recalled.

But Sir James in his absence had done marvels. The sudden prorogation of Parliament on the 26th February he explained as follows: "The house of assembly have taken upon themselves, without the participation of the other branches of the legislature, to pass a vote, that a judge of His Majesty's Court of King's Bench (P. A. de Bonne) cannot sit nor vote in their House."

The elections of March, 1810, introduced to our notice the members who composed the assembly during the eventful years 1810-1813:—

Gaspé.—George Pyke.

Cornwallis.—Joseph Levasseur Borgia, Joseph Robitaille.

Devon.—François Bernier, J. B. Fortin.

Hertford.—Etienne Féréol Roi, François Blanchet.

Dorchester.—Pierre Langlois, J. T. Taschereau.

Buckinghamshire.—François Legendre, J. B. Hébert.

Sorel.—Jacob Pozer.

Richelieu.—Louis Bourdages, H. M. Delorme.

Bedford.—Alexis Desbled.

Surrey.—Joseph Bédard, Pierre Amiot.

- Kent.—L. J. Papineau, Pierre D. Debartzch.
 Huntingdon.—Jean-Antoine Panet, Edme Henri.
 Montreal county.—Le Roi Portelance, James Stuart.
 Montreal East.—Stephen Sewell, Joseph Papineau.
 Montreal West.—Norman McLeod, Etienne St. Dizier.
 York.—Pierre St. Julien, François Bellet.
 Effingham.—Joseph Meunier, Joseph Beausoleil.
 Leinster.—Joseph Archambault, D. B. Viger.
 Warwick.—Ross Cuthbert, Louis Olivier.
 St. Maurice.—Michel Caron, François Caron.
 Three Rivers.—Matthew Bell, Thomas Coffin.
 Hampshire.—F. X. Larue, François Huot.
 Quebec county.—Louis Gauvreau, J. B. Bédard.
 Quebec upper town.—James Irvine, Claude Dénéchau.
 Quebec lower town.—John Mure, Pierre Bruneau.
 Orleans Island.—Charles Blouin.
 Northumberland.—Thomas Lee, Augustin Caron.

In all 50 members; 20 of them had not belonged to the last assembly. Five of the twelve English-speaking members were elected by rural counties.

The violent and unjust attacks of the *Mercury* were less calculated to circulate in Canada than in England, where the editor expected to find support and assistance, but in 1809, *Le Canadien* had also made its way there and opened the eyes of several men of influence in the political spheres of the metropolis. Ryland had found that out and he expected to be able, by means of personal interviews, to counteract the effect of such publication. But *Le Canadien* had paved the way to a different conclusion than that of the Ryland party.

In virtue of an order from Sir James the printing office of *Le Canadien* was sacked on the 17th March, 1810, by a squad of soldiers, and M. M. Bédard, Taschereau, Blanchet, Borgia, sent to gaol. Viger, Laforce and others could not be found when search was made for them. Several arrests were made in Montreal also. The oligarchy was triumphant—but the country was on the verge of being lost. The imprisonment of British subjects and members of Parliament who were pleading for British liberty produced on the intelligence of the population a far greater effect than it would

have done many years before, on account of the advance of political education throughout the masses. The essential French weapon called "songs" was brandished everywhere. Terror reigned no more; it was indignation and not fear that succeeded it. The Canadians were decidedly ripe for political liberty. Those who styled this "rebellion" were simply behind the time. Now the House was supported by the bulk of the population. It has been said that the perspicacity of Sir James saw that at a glance; that foresightedness came after the event—too late.

A groundless rumour was put in circulation by the anti-Canadian party to the effect that the French minister at Washington had supplied large sums in gold to promote the views of the seditious in Canada, and that the whole of his correspondence had been intercepted by some agents of our government. These reports were evidently intended to prepare the public mind for another crisis. But, news from England destroyed such hopes. The prisoners were released. The absolutism of the last few years was disallowed. The political atmosphere became clearer.

At the opening of the seventh Parliament, 10th December, 1810, Sir James was no more like the autocrat who had brutally prorogued the previous sessions. He told Charles de Lanaudière, writes M. de Gaspé, that he had been wretchedly misled, which was not a compliment to Lanaudière.

The House took the management of the Alien Act from the hands of the governor, and decided that no judge or public functionary could sit as a member elected by the people. Then the assembly voted certain taxations to cover government expenses, meaning evidently that this was a step in the direction of the financial control—the council protested at first, but had to keep quiet after that and look pleasant.

Under the Parceval administration—November, 1809, to May, 1812—several changes took place in the ministry and it is difficult to say when and by whom was made the proposition to remove Sir James Craig, but when he left Quebec, on the 19th of June, 1811, he must have known that his successor was appointed. The fact that Sir James explained his departure without leave, by the poor state of his health and that the Regent answered him not to mind that, shows that the excuse was accepted. Sir James died soon after his return to England. Mr. Dunn, acting on precedent, took over the administration of the province.