Export Corn

Grain from Canada was going out to feed other nations 100 years before Confederation.

And the protection of this basic industry was proving a major concern of Sir Guy Carleton, first baron of Dorchester, who had been appointed lieutenant-governor of Quebec the year before this letter was written in 1767.

Sir Guy had been a friend of General Wolfe and was wounded on the Plains of Abraham but later was responsible in large measure for the Quebec Act of 1774 which protected the status of the French in Canada.

The original of this letter to Hon. Benjamin Price is in the collection of the Public Archives of Canada.

Carleton Sees Good Crop for Export

Quebec, July 8, 1767.

Sir:

Your favor relative to the grain received in due time for which I return you my thanks and have laid the same before the council.

From the very favorable prospects hitherto of the ensuing harvest I am inclined to believe we shall not be reduced to the disagreeable necessity of prohibiting the exportation of corn but as it is a matter of so serious a nature, I hope from time to time to receive your observation thereon and market prices at Montreal that we may regulate ourselves accordingly and take those measures which upon mature deliberation may be deemed most for the advantage of the community in general.

I am with regard
Sir, your most obedient
humble servant,

GUY CARLETON.

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