Aftermath of the Rebellions of 18371838

On May 27, 1838, John Lambton, Lord Durham landed at Quebec to become the new Governor-General of Lower Canada.

Lord Durham



Durham had a mandate

- 1. To investigate colonial grievances after the rebellions of 1837, and
- 2. To examine and recommend the form and future government of the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada.

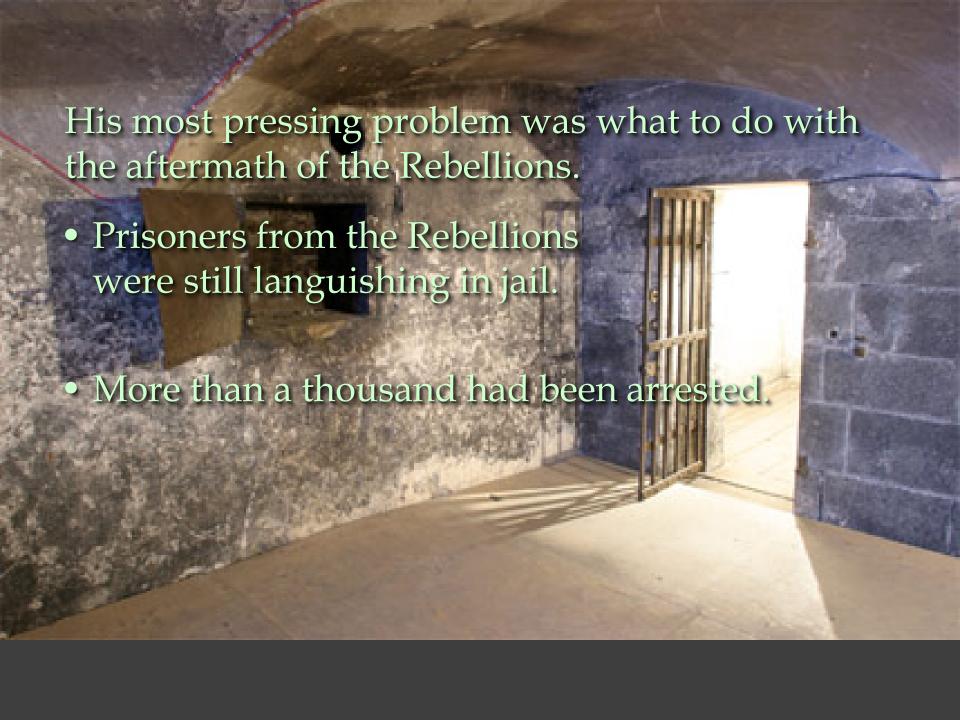
When Lord Durham arrived in the colonies, many Canadians were optimistic. He had earned a reputation as a progressive and forward thinking man who supported responsible government.



Durham quickly set to his task of governing:

• He dismissed the sitting Special Council and appointed his own five-man Executive Council, three of whom he had brought over with him.

- He believed that such a move would prevent protest from either the French or the English faction. WHY?
- However, his autocratic rule would soon land him in trouble. WHY?



He realized that it was virtually impossible to obtain fair trials or to secure guilty verdicts for the rebels from French-Canadian juries.

- Lord Durham then took matters into his own hands.
- After obtaining confessions from nine of the main Patriote leaders, he banished eight to Bermuda without trial, including Dr. Wolfred Nelson.



Durham then proclaimed a *partial amnesty* for 107 jailed rebels, but not for those patriotes still in the US, including Louis-Joseph Papineau

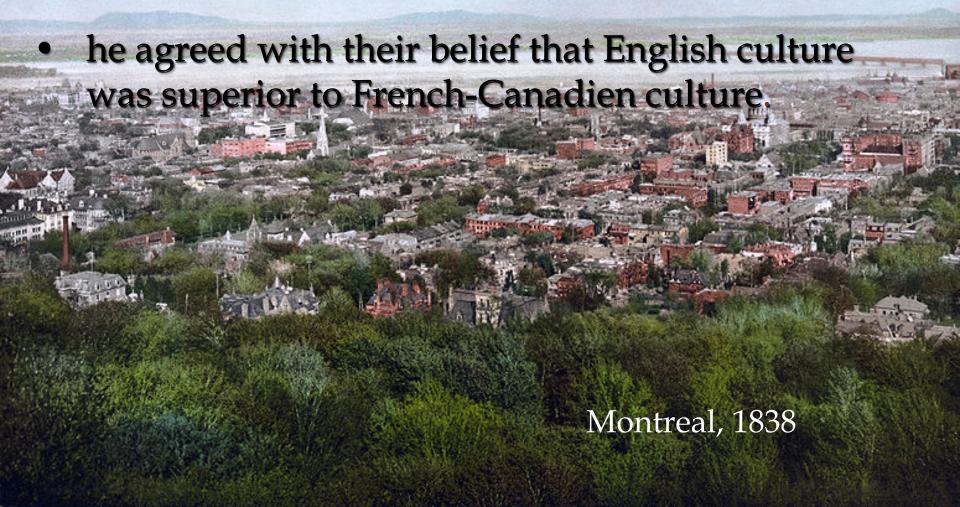
These decisions would have farreaching consequences as it led to his dismissal for having exceeded his authority.



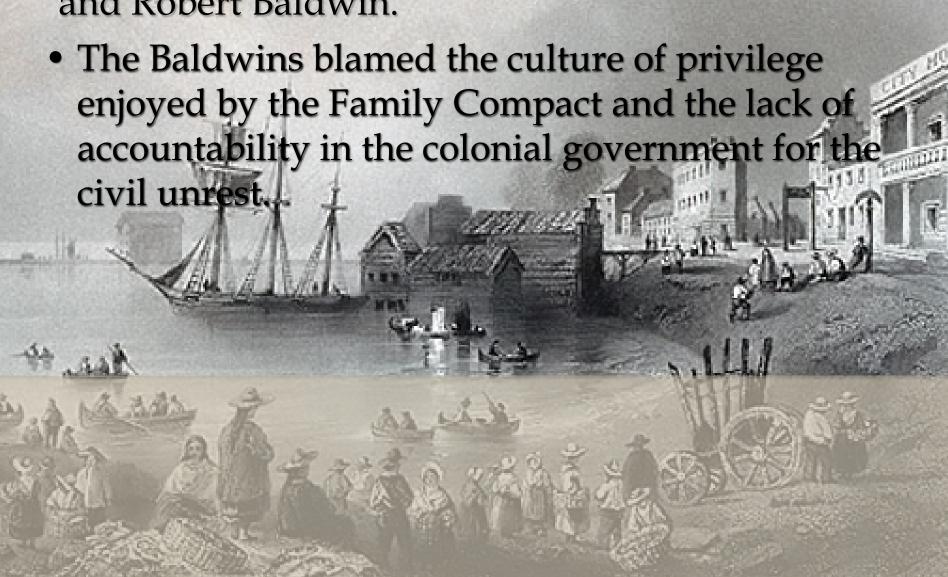
Louis-Joseph Papineau

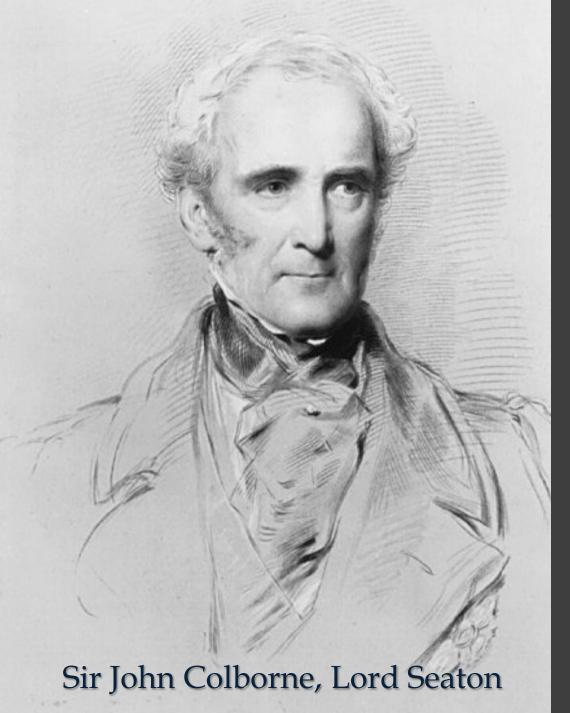
Unfortunately for the French, Durham did not consult with the French about their specific concerns.

 he spent most of his time with English merchants of Montreal



While visiting Upper Canada, Lord Durham met with the father and son team of reformers William and Robert Baldwin.

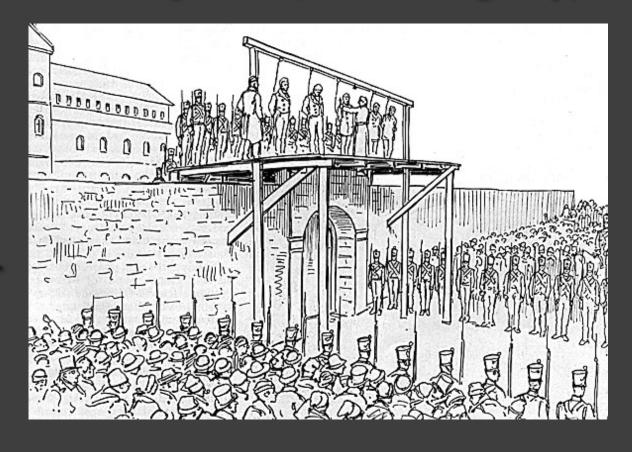




In September 1838, Durham learned that he was recalled to London. WHY?

He was replaced as governor by John Colborne, Lord Seaton until Jan. 17, 1839. On December 6, 1838, Governor Colborne began to try to French Canadian rebel leaders through a British military court.

- Nine of the men were acquitted (found not guilty).
- 99 men were found guilty and given the death penalty, but only 12 were executed.

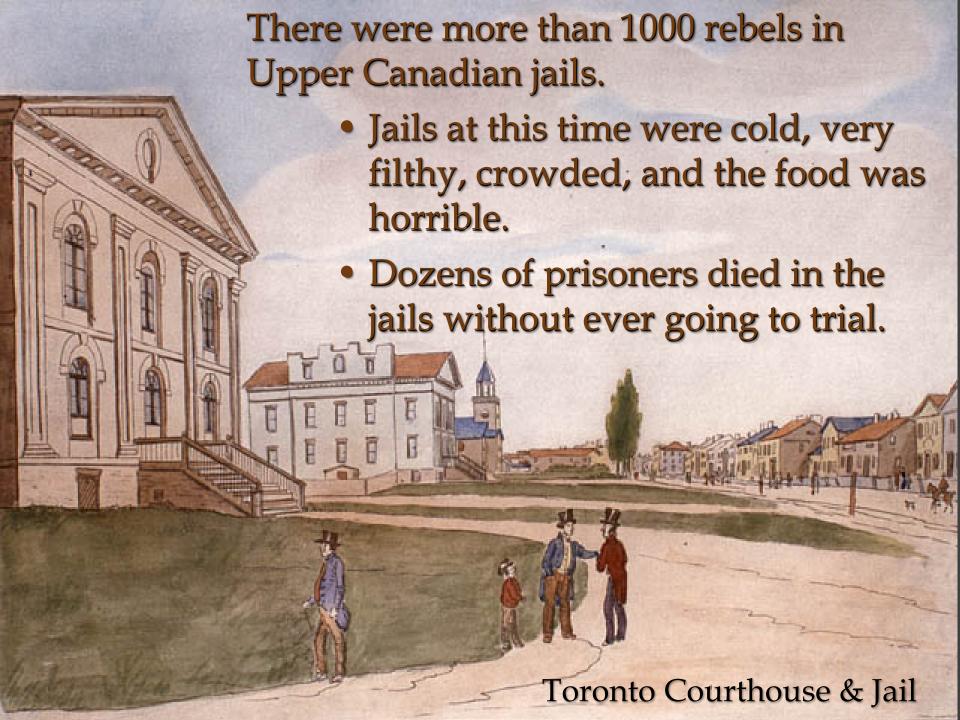


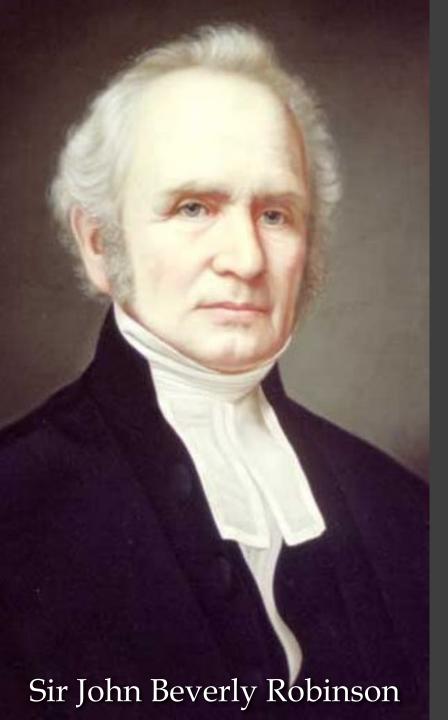


Upper Canada

Upper Canada received a new lieutenant-governor in 1838: **Sir George Arthur**.

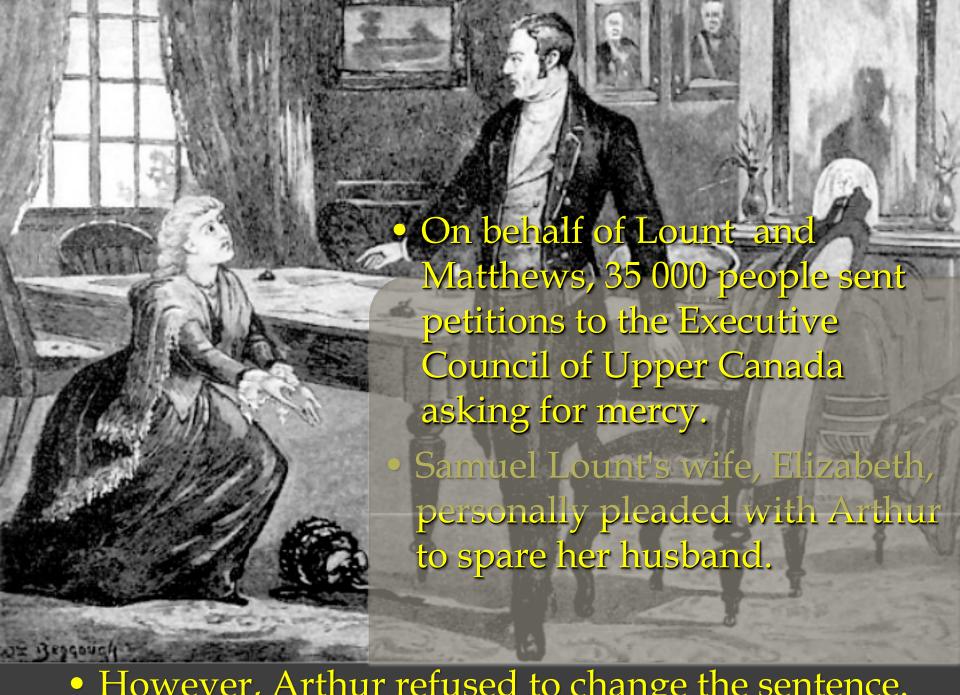






One of the first things
George Arthur did when he
arrived in the colony was
sign the death sentence for
two rebel leaders: Samuel
Lount and Peter Matthews.

 Although both men had plead guilty in their trials, the judge in their case,
 John Beverly Robinson, sentenced them to death.



• However, Arthur refused to change the sentence.

Durham only spent five months in Canada, during which he spent only eight days in Upper Canada.

- Although he spent little time in the colonies, Durham wrote a report for the British government →.
- Most historians today call it Durham's Report.

REPORT,

0.9

THE AFFAIRS

60

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA,

PERSONS THERE

EARL OF DURHAM,

HER MAJESTY'S HIGH COMMISSIONER,

dec. Sec. Sec.

TORONTO:

INDOCCURRIES.

Durham did *not* have any sympathy for the Patriotes in Lower Canada.

- He did recognize that a cause of the rebellions in Lower Canada was conflict between English and French-Canadians.
- Durham wrote in his report that,

"I expected to find a contest between a government and a people; I found two nations warring in the bosom of a single state; I found a struggle not of principles, but of races."

Durham came up with several recommendations to solve these problems.



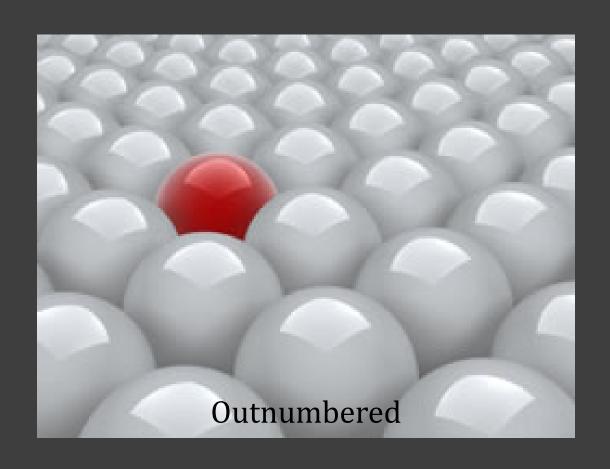
- A. First, he said Upper and Lower Canada should be joined together into one colony.
 - > This would be the **Province of Canada**.
 - This new colony would only have one government.

Lord Durham

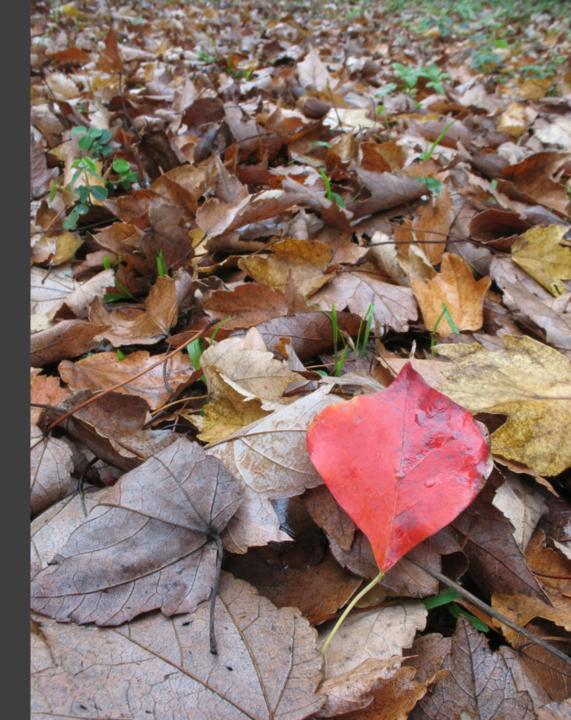
➤ Both Upper and Lower Canada would have an equal number of seats in the new government: each to be given 42 seats



- English should be the only official language of government.
- Union meant that English representatives from both colonies would outnumber the French.



 Durham hoped this union of Upper and Lower Canada would help assimilate the French. WHY?



- Durham also recommended that this new government be based on the idea of responsible government.
- •This suggestion, the British authorities chose **not** to adopt
- It would be nearly a decade before responsible government arrived in Canada.

In July, 1840 the **Act of Union** was passed, and later proclaimed on February 10, 1841, by the British Parliament, uniting Upper Canada and Lower Canada under one government

