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Rachwick, Meloy
Divide text from notes by short lines in red ink.

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CANADIAN RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH HANSAARD

BY

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MANITOBA

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of History at the University of Manitoba, in
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degree of Master of Arts.

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INTRODUCTION

As a thesis is less a matter of narrative than of exposition and argumentation, a brief review of the historical background in England and Canada might serve to connect and clarify the points discussed in this essay.

From 1830 until 1835, ministries in England were made and broken on the "Irish rocks". The collapse of Lord Grey's reform ministry on the Irish Coercion Act, and the defeat of Sir Robert Peel's ministry of 1834 on the appropriation of Irish tithes, necessitated in 1835 the formation of Lord Melbourne's second ministry. The Colonial Secretary in this cabinet was Lord Glenelg. This Government depended very much for its existence on Daniel O'Connell's Irish and Sir Robert Peel's growing Conservative party. (1)

Glenelg's term at the Colonial Office coincided with a climax in Canadian affairs. The Act of 1791 had given to Upper and Lower Canada, each, a House of Assembly elected by the people, a nominated Legislative Council, and a Governor aided by a body of advisors known as the Executive Council. By the year 1820 it had become apparent that this constitution was not working smoothly as there was increasing friction between the Assembly on the one hand and the Executive and Legislative Councils, on the other. By 1827 matters had come

to such a stage in Lower Canada that a special committee of the House of Commons gave audience to a deputation from this

(1) In the elections of 1835, the Conservatives had increased their strength from 150 to 270.