

be safe or secure as long as they are permitted to be snakes in our bosoms that would cut our throats on all occasions.'

In 1726 Armstrong induced the Annapolis people to take the oath and wrote on the margin of the document, in accordance with their request, that they would not be required to carry arms. This was, of course, an unauthorized proceeding, but it is the only colour that can be found for subsequent pretensions.

In 1730, Governor Phillips (reappointed) induced the whole body of Acadians on the Annapolis river to take what seemed to them a simple and unconditional oath. However the terms of it were objected to by the Lords of Trade, and a fresh oath came into vogue in 1688 under which the word 'heirs' being left out, a fresh oath had to be taken for every reign.

Armstrong followed as Governor. In 1731 he writes that 'the French inhabitants are a litigious sort of people and so ill-natured to one another as daily to encroach upon their neighbours' properties, which occasions continual complaints—yet they all unanimously agree in opposing any order of government.' He ordered a house to be built on the Basin of Mines, where he said: 'I design to fix a company for the better government of these more remote parts of the Bay of Fundy, and, as I hope, to perfect it, notwithstanding all the oppositions I meet from the rebellious spirits in those parts incited to oppose it by Governor St. Avril. * * * The Indians are also employed in the affair, and use for an argument, that although the English conquered Annapolis, they never did Mines and these other parts of the Province.'

In 1734, apprehensions of war arising, a report was made on Nova Scotia. It said, 'the French only esteem the oath of allegiance they have taken to bind them to become neutral, and they believe it will not even hinder them from joining the enemy when

attempts from Cape Breton and Canada shall be made, in conjunction with the Indians, to conquer the Province.'

Governor Phillips (who was in England) was consulted by the Lords of Trade. Said he, 'as to the present inhabitants they are rather a pest and encumbrance than of advantage to the country, being a proud, lazy, obstinate and untractable people, unskilful in the methods of agriculture, nor will be led into a better way of thinking, and (what is still worse), greatly disaffected to the government. They raise, 'tis true, both corn and cattle on marsh lands that want no clearing, but have not, in almost a century, cleared the quantity of 300 acres of wood land.'

The French, too, had their reports made. In 1735 the Du Vivier Mémoire upon Acadia reads. 'The inhabitants who remain there' (after the treaty of Utrecht) 'are now very numerous. They have preserved the hope of returning to their allegiance to the King. We may be assured of the affection of the savages of the country. The missionaries are incessant in keeping them in the disposition they feel for France. * * * One may reckon on the zeal of the inhabitants and of the greater part of the savages.'

In 1744 war was actually declared. Du Vivier, at Louisbourg, having early information, swooped upon Canso, carried the 70 or 80 soldiers and the few British inhabitants prisoners to Louisbourg. They were allowed to remain there for a year and were then sent to Boston. Stealing upon Annapolis came 500 Indians headed by M. le Loutre, their Jesuit missionary, but were kept at bay. Then, coming from Louisbourg through Mines, down rushed the French force under Du Vivier, but Governor Mascarene had the good fortune to escape capture, the French returning, owing to the non arrival of their supplies, by sea. In 1745 the New England people fitted out an army of 4,000 and with the assistance of a naval