

second and Third
Assemblies in
Nova Scotia, 1759,
and 1761

Cape Breton ceded
to England, 1762.

Royal Proclamation
of 1763 annexes
Cape Breton to the
Government of
Nova Scotia.
Extracts

On the 1st of August, 1759, another Session of the Assembly of Nova Scotia was opened, a dissolution followed, and a second Assembly was called; this was dissolved by the death of King George the Second, on the 24th October, 1760. A third Assembly succeeded, and was called on the 1st of July, 1761. The Province having been previously divided into Counties and Townships, the last Election was had up on an entire new principle of representation apportioned to the several Towns and Counties of the Province. A very considerable emigration to Nova Scotia had now taken place as well from the Old Colonies as from the Mother Country.

In 1762, February 10th, by the Treaty of Paris, France renounced and guaranteed to Great Britain, "All Nova Scotia or Acadia, and likewise Canada, Cape Breton, and all the "Islands in the River and Gulph of St. Lawrence."

On the 7th of October, 1763, the celebrated Proclamation of the third year of the reign of George the Third, was issued, annexing the Islands of St John (now Prince Edward's) and Cape Breton to the Government of Nova Scotia.

The following Extracts from this Proclamation relate to the present inquiry:—

"We have thought fit, with the advice of our Privy Council, to issue this our Royal Proclamation, hereby to publish and declare to all our loving subjects that we have, with the advice of our said Privy Council, granted our Letters Patent under our Great Seal of Great Britain, to erect within the Countries and Islands, ceded and confirmed to us by the said Treaty, four distinct and separate Governments, styled and called by the names of Quebec, East Florida, West Florida, and Grenada, and limited and bounded as follows, viz:—

"First, the Government of Quebec, bounded," &c.

"Secondly, the Government of East Florida, bounded," &c.

"Thirdly, the Government of West Florida, bounded," &c.

"Fourthly, the Government of Grenada, comprehending the Island of that name, together with the Grenadines, and the Islands of Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago.

"And to the end that the open and free Fishery of our subjects may be extended to and carried on upon the Coast of Labrador and the adjacent Islands, we have thought fit, with the advice of our said Privy Council, to put all that Coast, from the River St. John to Hudson's Streights, together with the Islands of Anticosta and Madelane, and all other smaller Islands lying upon the said Coast, under the care and inspection of our Governor of Newfoundland.

"We have also, with the advice of our Privy Council, thought fit to annex the Islands of St. John and Cape Breton, or Isle Royale, with the lesser Islands adjacent thereto, to our Government of Nova Scotia.

"We have also, with the advice of our Privy Council aforesaid, annexed to our Province of Georgia all the lands lying between the Rivers Attamaha and St. Mary's.

"And whereas it will greatly contribute to the speedy settling our said new Governments that our loving subjects should be informed of our paternal care for the security of the liberties and properties of those who are and shall become inhabitants thereof, we have thought fit to publish and declare, by this our Proclamation, that we have in the letters patent under our Great Seal of Great Britain, by which the said Governments are constituted, given express power and direction to our Governors of our said Colonies respectively, that so soon as the state and circumstances of the said Colonies will admit thereof, they shall, with the advice and consent of the Members of our Council, summon and call General Assemblies within the said Governments respectively, in such manner and form as is used and directed in those Colonies and Provinces in America which are under our immediate Government; and we have also given power to the said Governors, with the consent of our said Councils, and the representatives of the people, so to be summoned as aforesaid, to make, constitute, and ordain laws, statutes and ordinances for the public peace, welfare and good government of our said Colonies, and of the people and inhabitants thereof, as near as may be, agreeable to the Laws of England, and under such regulations