

point, and they wished to go home to consult their people. This was refused; they retired to consult, and, returning, said they were ready to take it conditionally. They were told the conditional oath had been disapproved of by the king, and the council could not accept any oath but an absolute one such as all other subjects took. They still declined, were allowed that night to reconsider, and in the morning refused again.

The council, after consideration, were of opinion 'that directions be given to Captain Murray to order the French inhabitants to choose and send to Halifax new deputies, with the general resolutions of the said inhabitants in regard to the oath, and that none of them for the future be admitted to take it, having once refused to do so, but that effectual measures ought to be taken to remove all such recusants out of the Province.' In about three weeks the resolution of 207 Annapolis River people came in: 'We here send thirty delegates, but we enjoin upon them not to engage upon any new oaths.' The deputies were called in, and said they could not take any oath, 'except what was formerly taken, which was with a reserve that they should not be obliged to take up arms, and if it was the King's intention to force them to quit their lands, they hoped they should be allowed a convenient time for their departure.' They were told they must either take the oath without any reserve or else quit their lands, for that affairs were now at such a crisis in America that no delay could be admitted, and if they would not become subjects, to all intents and purposes, they could not be suffered to remain in the country. They replied they were determined, one and all, rather to quit their lands than to take any other oath than they had done before. A week later, memorials came in from Pizequid (Windsor), signed by 102 inhabitants, and from Mines, by 203, both refusing peremptorily to

take the oath of allegiance to the King of England. After mature consideration, it was unanimously agreed that to prevent, as much as possible, their attempting to return and molest the settlers that may be set down on their lands, it would be most proper to send them to be distributed amongst the several colonies on the continent, and that a sufficient number of vessels should be hired with all possible expedition for that purpose.

About this date, Lieut.-Governor Phips, of Mass., in a letter to Col. Lawrence, commenting on the defeat of Braddock, says: 'I must propose to your consideration whether the danger to which His Majesty's interest is now threatened will not remove any scruples . . . with regard to the French neutrals, as they are termed, and render it both just and necessary that they should be removed.'

Lawrence, writing to Moncton, mentioning the resolve of removing the French of Mines, Annapolis, &c., says—

'And as to those about the Isthmus, most of which were in arms, and, therefore, entitled to no favour from the Government, it is determined to begin with them first.'

The distribution was to be very systematic:

From Annapolis,	300	were to go to	Philadelphia.
	200	"	New York.
	300	"	Connecticut.
	200	"	Boston.
From Mines,	500	"	N. Carolina.
	1000	"	Virginia.
	500	"	Maryland.

Lawrence further writes:—

'The inhabitants, pretending to be in a state of neutrality between His Majesty and his enemies, have continually furnished the French and Indians with intelligence, quarters, provisions, and assistance in annoying the Government, and while one part have abetted the French encroachments by their treachery, the other have countenanced them by open rebellion, and 300 of them were actually