

In 1744 the unsuccessful expedition sent from Louisburg against Annapolis landed at Baie Verte. In May 1746 Governor Shirley called attention to the necessity for watching Baie Verte and Chignecto, repeating the warning in November of that year. Shirley's foresight can be recognized, when it is remembered that on the 8th of January, 1747, the expedition so fatal to Colonel Noble's detachment at Minas, set out from Beaubassin. In the following June, one Moses Bennett furnished the English Government with a list of French ships then at Baie Verte, where de Ramezay was strongly posted, with the design, it was supposed, of attacking Annapolis. Notwithstanding the occasional use of Baie Verte as a naval station and a *depot* for provisions, no regular entrenchments appear to have been made there up to that time; and in fact the more important settlement of Beaubassin was then without defensive works, though they were soon to follow.

Considered strategically, the isthmus of Chignecto has been, and ever will be, of the utmost importance. The part played in the last century by the waters of the Missiquash, and the Mic-Mac portage, or later by the French Road, will, in the warfare of the future, be undertaken by the Ship Railway and the Cape Tormentine Railway. Traces of that portage were seen near the head of the river, many years ago, by Mr. Munro, the veteran Crown Land Surveyor, and Civil Engineer, who describes it as being about ten feet wide, and hollowed to trough shape by wear. Doubtless their first efforts in the direction of roadmaking, were applied by the French to the improvement of the two miles of portage, at the beginning of which indeed, remains of an old Acadian settlement may yet be seen. Until transcripts are made of the French Archives relating to Acadia, the earlier history of Chignecto cannot be told, but the glimpse afforded by the précis of them, furnished by the Department of Agriculture, indicates that it is full of incident and interest.

The establishment in 1749, by De La Corne, of the French military post which developed into Fort Beauséjour, on the south side of the Isthmus of Chignecto, was immediately followed by the erection of Fort Lawrence, 2 miles distant, on the British side of the Missiquash. The Acadians apparently were not actively hostile to the measure, for on Sept. 27th, 1753, M. Prevost, Comptroller of Louisburg, informed the French Minister of War that the English had disembarked 2,000 men at Beaubassin to form a settlement there, and that the Indians desired to disturb them, but that the Acadians refused to do so, preferring to retire to the woods, pending the settlement of the boundary question. In fact it appears they were inclined to preserve peace upon the Isthmus, for in the following November they stated to the Governor of Louisburg that Fort Lawrence was of little importance; and the French despatches of June 1751 report their continued resistance to Le Loutre's efforts to transplant them to the Island of St. John, "because they await a settlement of the boundaries."