

of the Governor and the Government, surrender to His Majesty his right to all fines & forfeitures, which should arise or happen in the said Province, as also one full fifth part of all such Rents, revenues & profits, as should from time to time arise to him, his heirs, or Assigns, out of the said province.

The property of the lands here was some years afterwards sold by Mason to one Allen whose heirs or Assigns are now in possession of them.

The number of people in this Province upon the arrival of Colonel Shute, the present Governor, in the year 1716, was computed at about 9000, of which there were 1500 men, very few white servants, and 150 blacks: the increase during the last four years, was about 500.

The Indians, that bordered upon this Province, are those which are called the eastern Indians, entirely in the french interest.

Lumber, Fish, Masts for the Royal Navy, & Turpentine are the chief produce of this Province; they build some ships, but not so many since the last war as before; they have some mines, which produce very good Iron, tho' but little of it hath been hitherto forged; there are likewise great quantities of Stone, in which 'tis believed there may be silver. The annual produce of these commodities is very uncertain, the price falling & rising according to the demand there is for them, seldom exceeding £50,000 per Annum of New England money.

This Province would produce hemp & flax if proper encouragement were given for it, & the people had good seed for the first sowing.

They export their Lumber, & some part of their fish to the neighbouring Governments of the West Indies, & to the Western Islands, from whence they get their Wines. They likewise have sent some Lumber, tar & Turpentine of late to this Kingdom, in exchange for linnen & woolen manufactures; but they have some supplies of this kind from Ireland also, either directly or by way of other plantations. Their best & most merchantable fish is exported to Portugal & Italy & the produce of it generally remitted to this Kingdom except what is returned in Salt for the fishery.

Their fishing is much increased since the Peace with France, but the Lumber trade decreased, by reason of the low price it bears in the West Indies, & the little encouragement there is to send it to this Kingdom, because of the duties on that commodity here.

The Ships, trading directly from this Province to foreign parts, are now very few, not exceeding 20 in number, but they have about 100 fishing vessels, & the number of sea faring men is near 400, tho' many of them not settled Inhabitants there; and there are no manufactures carried on in this province.

There is but one fortification in this Colony, called Castle William and Mary which is situate at the mouth of the harbour of Piscattaway, on which there are forty two Guns mounted, & it is in a tolerable state of defence.

The constitution of this Province is the same with all others, immediately under your Majesty's Government in America. They have a Governor, Council & Assembly.

The Governor & Lieutenant Governor for the time being, are appointed by your Majesty, as is the Council, which consists of twelve persons. The Assembly are elected by the people, & consists of fifteen, but the Revenue of this Province is hitherto very insignificant.