

9289 - 3

# Notes of Fort Monckton.

COMPILED BY

E. T. P. SHEWEN, M. CAN. SOC. C. E.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ✕

Among the documents at the Ministry of Marine in Paris, catalogued by the Dominion Archivist, is a memorial dated 1686 relating to "Beaubassin, or Chignecto and Baie Verte." The contents are not given, but this early reference to Baie Verte, and since Beaubassin is coupled with it, inferentially to the route across the isthmus afterwards so much used for military purposes, is worthy of note.

In the same collection is found a letter dated Quebec, 22nd September, 1692 from d'Iberville, captain of *Le Poli*, who had sailed from Rochelle in April, saying that he brought to Baie Verte provisions for de Villebon, the commanding officer in Acadia. The latter had been sent out from France in 1691 as Governor of Annapolis, then Port Royal, in succession to Menneval, who had surrendered to Phipps in the previous year. At the time d'Iberville wrote from Quebec, or shortly before, de Villebon, having retaken the seat of his government, from the chief sergeant (i. e. major) left there by Phipps, was engaged in operations against some small forts near Boston. He certainly does not appear, by his despatches, to have been at that period in the neighborhood of Baie Verte; hence although there is no positive statement that the stores left there for his use were transported by land to Beaubassin, it is possible that they were taken by that route to Annapolis.

It will be mentioned later, that the road from Fort Beausejour to Fort Gaspereau, was constructed in 1754, but it has been suggested by good authority that the work then done may have consisted in widening and making practicable for vehicles, an existing bridle-path; as it long before had been customary to drive cattle across from the Bay of Fundy for shipment at Baie Verte, and as it is recorded that about 1746 the Bishop of Quebec made the journey on horseback. Colonel Morse of the Royal Engineers reported in 1784: "There is a road from Cumberland to Baie Verte, still passable, though it has been long neglected, and in some places broken up, but in the time of the French was much used, and grain carried to Baie Verte for exportation, quantities of which were sent to Canada."