

(4) Niagara, cutting off communication between Canada proper and the Great Lakes.

Of these four, that against Beausejour alone was successful. Braddock led his troops to an overwhelming disaster; the battle of Lake George was won by Sir Wm. Johnson without gaining Crown Point, and the expedition under Shirley to Niagara was abandoned.

Thus, while England and France were at peace, the Massachusetts assembly was making preparations to make war on the French on this Isthmus. The French appeared to be laying claims to Nova Scotia and treating the English as intruders there; their Indian allies were harassing and destroying posts and settlements and killing and scalping settlers. Their trail was marked by fire and blood. The French were preventing the Acadians from taking or obeying their oath of allegiance; they were forcing them from their homesteads and lands on British soil and keeping them in a state of restless disaffection and hostility, in order that they might not furnish English posts with aid or supplies, and to enable them to be used in the first hostile movement made. The French official despatches, between Du Quesne, Governor General at Quebec and La Loutre, shew it was the intention of the French to make a pretext for attacking Fort Lawrence.

From 1749 to 1756—history was making fast in Acadia, especially at Chignecto.

The British Government exhibited renewed activity in their possessions here. They sent Cornwallis to occupy and settle Halifax. This was followed by the change in the seat of Government from Annapolis to Halifax. Preliminary steps were taken to check the encroachments of the French. By the treaty of Utrecht in 1713, Acadia was ceded to Great Britain. The bounds of Acadia were not defined, perhaps from lack of exact geographical knowledge. While the English at once demanded submission of the Acadians in New Brunswick as part of Acadia, the French