

FREE REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS.

The loyalists were not the pioneers of Acadia. When they arrived they found settlements already in existence. A representative government had been established for a quarter of a century based on principles recognized at the time as most liberal. Courts of law had been established and the same security to life and property was afforded as in any of the older communities of the Empire. This had been accomplished by the efforts of the first immigrants from New England, who had remained steadfast in their loyalty. When the province of New Brunswick was created in 1784, the founders there had little to do but duplicate the governmental institutions long in successful operation.

Nothing occurred after the declaration of peace 1782 to check the growth and prosperity of Chignecto; in all material aspects it has been one of progressive advancement. The war of 1812 in no way hindered the ordinary pursuits of the people, though the feuds engendered during the Eddy conflict produced an aftermath in 1812. The settlements along the Bay of Fundy were kept in constant alarm, by armed schooners and whale boats, which carrying letters of marque, scoured our shores. In some cases, they were piloted by former inhabitants of the country, who fled when the Eddy incursion collapsed. They made some captures of vessels and looted homesteads but did no permanent damage.

The development of our country has proceeded by well defined stages. At first the fur pelt and fishing business attracted a roving population. This was followed by the mast and square timber trade, which, requiring but an axe in the way of machinery proved profitable. And then followed in due course the construction of vessels for coastwise trade, the first square rigged vessel launched in Acadia was built by a Mr. McNab at Wallace, N. S. The utilization of water mills for sawing lumber opened up an immense business with England. In 1786, the Government paid a bounty of £20 each for the construction of 22 saw mills, one being to Mr. Charles Taylor, Dorchester, and another to Mr. Pettis of Parrsboro. The clearing of land led to the raising of