

tion of thistles. The privilege of nominating officials seems not to have been enjoyed by the grand juries of New Brunswick.

French and English

Feudalism in Acadia, as in old Canada, was a mild copy of that of old France. The Governor was all-powerful and the seigniors were feeble and few. Governor Philipps, writing to the Duke of Newcastle in 1730, said, "Here are three or four insignificant families who pretend to the right of seigniories, that extend almost over all the inhabited parts of the Country."¹ In 1703 the King of France confirmed grants of seigniories at Cape Sable, Port Royal and Mines.² Mention is also made of seigniories at Cobequid and Chignecto. The rights of the seigniors in Nova Scotia became little more than claims for rents which, under English rule, were transferred to the Crown.

From the capture of Port Royal in 1710 the mainland of Nova Scotia was subject to the English. Protests and resistance on the part of the French, however, made government extremely difficult and finally led to the expulsion of the Acadians. Finally the second capture of Louisbourg in 1758 left the English the undisputed masters of the peninsula and the island. Prior to the founding of Halifax in 1749 there were two British garrisons—one to overawe the Acadians around Annapolis and the other at Canso to protect the New England fishermen. The seat of the government was at Annapolis, near the French settlements at old Port Royal (now Annapolis), Cobequid and Chignecto. The Governor's task was by no means an easy one. The willingness of the Acadians to comply with his demands varied inversely with their distance from the cannon of the fort, and the collection of rents and the settlement of disputes about land were the causes of perennial trouble.

The French were governed through elected deputies. Each community was required once a year, early in October, to select a number of deputies from the "ancientest and most considerable in lands and possessions." The community about Annapolis was required to select twelve, the other communities at least four

¹ Murdoch, *op. cit.*, Vol. I., p. 462.

² N.S. Archives, Vol. II. (Edited by MacMechan).