

Department of Agriculture—Archives.

Into the early disputes respecting the ownership of the territories now forming the Dominion of Canada, it would be obviously out of place to enter. The French on the one hand and the English and Scotch on the other advanced their claims on the ground of prior discovery and settlement, but all such arguments seemed to resolve themselves into the old method, "that he should take who has the power and he should keep who can." The abortive attempt to settle Sable Island, the fate of the unfortunate criminals left on that sand bank by De la Roche, with the intention of taking them back to France, and other incidents of the early attempts at colonisation have been so fully dealt with, from Charlevoix downward, that it is superfluous to add anything on the subject, previous to the date of the first document in the calendar.

In November, 1603, a patent was granted by the King of France to de Monts for the settlement of La Cadie, Canada, &c. The derivation of the name Cadie or Acadie is very obscure, no two writers, who have made original researches, agreeing on the point. The powers granted to de Monts were very extensive and of these he appears to have made full use. The effect of this was to arouse the inhabitants of various sea ports in France, on whose representations much of his powers was curtailed and his affairs were reduced to a low ebb, although he still persevered in his efforts, but turned his attention to Quebec and vanishes from the history of Nova Scotia.

The first real settlement made by the French was in 1604 on an island in Passamaquoddy Bay, but so great was the mortality during the winter that another place had to be sought for and Port Royal, now Annapolis, was fixed upon next year; this appears to have been the first permanent settlement made by the French on this side of the Atlantic.

The early papers respecting the grant of New Scotland, so called in contradistinction to New England, but translated into Nova Scotia, the name by which it is now known, in the patents of 1621 of James VI. of Scotland and of 1625 by Charles I., are not numerous among the English papers, the country having been annexed to his Scottish possessions by James VI. Information had, therefore, to be sought for largely among the Scottish records. From these it would appear that Sir William Alexander, afterwards created Earl of Stirling, was more engrossed with the business of trading than with plans for the settlement of the extensive grant with which he had been endowed. By the establishment of the order of Knights Baronets of Nova Scotia, on the model of a similar order in Ulster for the settlement of the North of Ireland, the settlement became subsidiary to the raising of money by the sale of titles, the holders of these being released on the payment of not very considerable fines from the obligation of sending settlers and provisions to the proposed colonies. Much information on this subject may be obtained from a volume published in Edinburgh in 1867, entitled "Royal letters, Charters and tracts relating to the Colonization of New Scotland and the order of the institution of Knights Baronets of Nova Scotia, 1621 to 1638." It contains copies of the original letters, orders, &c., from Kings James and Charles, claims of de la Tour, with notes on the claims of the Crown and Temple families and reprints of pamphlets. One on Newfoundland dated 1620, by John Mason, is an entirely different pamphlet from that published by Richard Whitbourne the same year. The latter (a copy of the original is among the archives) is dedicated "to the high and mightie Prince James, by the Grace of God King of great Brittain, France and Ireland, Defender of the