

of occupation to the lands they had improved. They were therefore still disqualified to send representatives to the Assembly, not from any fault of their own, but simply because the Government would not give them grants. To remedy this grievance, the House passed a resolution on April 2, 1770, 'That no writ shall issue to the Island of Breton, because of the want of freeholders to make an election, and that the isle be deemed to be represented by the member for the County of Halifax, into which it has resolved and become a part thereof as heretofore.' This, you will observe, was no remedy whatever, as the inhabitants had no voice in choosing representatives for the County of Halifax. We may presume, however, that John Butler and Robert Campbell, who took their seats for the County of Halifax when the House met on June 6, 1771, looked especially after the affairs of Cape Breton."

There is a lurking suspicion in the minds of the people of the Island of Cape Breton that the privilege the people of Halifax obtained at that time has continued to exist ever since. I hope, however, that transpiring events will convince them that their suspicions are not well founded. Notwithstanding the great length of time during which the representatives of Halifax enjoyed the privilege of representing the island, I am happy to say that a public expression of opinion now in the city of Halifax convinces me that there is a growing feeling of sympathy for the island in that city, and I hope that feeling will be made manifest not only in the Local Legislature but in the Dominion Parliament. In 1774 another remedy was proposed for the very great wrong which was done to the island at that time. The historian says:

"We have now arrived at a momentous era in the history of the British Colonies—the breaking out of the American Revolution. As all the events of the war of independence must be quite familiar to you, I shall say nothing concerning them, except so far as they effect Cape Breton, which, happily, owing to its insignificance at that period, suffered less from the depredations and attacks of the enemy's privateers than the adjacent colonies. Energetic measures were, of course, taken by the Governor of Nova Scotia for the defence of the Province, not only against external but internal enemies also; for it was well known that there were many disaffected persons scattered through the country who had originally come from New England, disposed to aid the revolted colonies. On 28th August, 1775, a proclamation was issued, ordering light infantry companies to be raised throughout the Province. The total number of men required was only 1,010, of which 'Cape Breton Isle and Isle Madame' were each ordered to raise 'two companies of Acadians and others well affected,' of 50 men each—200 in all. It cannot escape your notice that Cape Breton, including Isle Madame, was not fairly treated in this apportionment. The whole population of the island, exclusive of the Indians, according to Governor Legge's census in 1774, was only 1,011, whilst that of Nova Scotia proper was, at the lowest estimate, 20,000; and yet the latter was called upon to furnish only 800 men, or one to every twenty-five, whilst the former was required to supply 200, or one in every five."

Thus you will see that Cape Breton was called upon to furnish five men to each one that Nova Scotia was required to furnish according to population, and I regret to find that that policy has been continued up to the present time. When fighting men are required, the military authorities are very anxious to look to the Island of Cape Breton for men to fight their battles; but when we are at peace, the Minister of Militia of this Dominion—and I regret that he is not in his place—fails to accord to us a fair apportionment of the public money devoted to that service. Now, Sir, I come to the most delightful era in the history of the Island of Cape Breton, that is, its separation from Nova Scotia in 1784. When I first visited that island there were many residents who recollected that particular time. There are many still living on the island who regret the day that it was made part of the Province of Nova Scotia, in 1820, and since these resolutions were made public I have received many letters from the residents of the island congratulating me on my efforts to secure the separation of the island from Nova Scotia proper, notwithstanding that the resolutions have no intention of asking for separation at present. As soon as it became known that Cape Breton was separated from Nova Scotia, many persons directed their attention to the island, and a large tide of immigration set in towards it in 1784:

"About 800 persons arrived, and settled in various parts of the island in the early part of the summer. It is stated by Desbarres that an accession of 3,397 speedily followed the publication of his proclamation on September 1st, describing the natural advantages of the

island and offering a liberal supply of provisions for three years to immigrants, with clothing for themselves and their families, lumber and materials for farm buildings, and tools and implements for clearing land."

Shortly afterwards, in 1785:

"The great rush of immigrants, and the bustling scene presented by so many people busily engaged in erecting barracks, storehouse and dwellings, seemed quite to have turned the head of the Governor, and made him fancy that Cape Breton would soon eclipse all the neighboring colonies. From the very first he appears to have imbibed an idea that the people of Nova Scotia were jealous of Cape Breton, and looked with dissatisfaction at its rising importance. Writing on August 17 to the Under-Secretary of State he says: 'New settlers are coming in fast; the New England people do not like the settling of the Island of Cape Breton at all; they know it will be the loss of every advantage they derive from the fishery. Nova Scotia is jealous, and don't wish with thorough sincerity the success of this Government, lest its growing importance and value should raise it to the first rank amongst His Majesty's and the national favorites.'"

We find at the close of its career as a separate colony its population increased very rapidly during its period of self-government.

"All the best lands fronting on the lakes, rivers and sea-coast were taken up previous to the year 1820; since that period the lands in the rear of front lots have been occupied by the later immigrants, who are in consequence distinguished by the name of 'Backlanders.' The great influx of Scottish immigrants (said by some authorities to have exceeded 25,000 souls), gave quite a new complexion to the population of Cape Breton, if it can with propriety be said that it was, before their arrival, distinguished by any complexion whatever, being composed only of a few hundred Micmacs, Acadians and English and Irish settlers. The island is now decidedly 'Scotch,' with every probability of its continuing so to the end of time. Although many of the first settlers came to Cape Breton sorely against their will, none, I believe, have had reason to regret the change from the wretched abodes they left to the comfortable homes they now occupy."

Unfortunately, in 1820, Cape Breton, without the consent of its people, was re-annexed to Nova Scotia by a proclamation. The proclamation reads as follows:

"DOWNING STREET, August 15, 1820.

"SIR,—I had the honor of intimating to you, previous to your departure from this country, the decision to which His Majesty had come of re-annexing the Island of Cape Breton to the Government of Nova Scotia; and you must have observed the alteration which had in consequence been made in your commission and instructions.

"His Majesty considers it most desirable that this arrangement should be no longer delayed, and has commanded me to instruct you to take into your immediate consideration the measures which may be necessary to give effect to His Majesty's instructions. For this purpose it will be necessary that you should in the first place direct the issue of writs for the election of two members from the County of Cape Breton, to sit in the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia; and in this you will follow the course adopted in 1765, when two members were actually so returned."

This proclamation was issued by Bathurst, and a proclamation was also issued by the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, shortly afterwards, which reads as follows:

"Whereas His Majesty, with a view to promote the welfare of his faithful and loyal subjects of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, hath been graciously pleased to direct that the Island of Cape Breton should be re-annexed to the Government of Nova Scotia, and the same island should from henceforth be and remain an integral part of the Government of Nova Scotia,—

"I do therefore, in pursuance of His Majesty's instructions and by and with the advice of His Majesty's Council, declare that the Island of Cape Breton is, and from henceforth shall be and remain, a several and distinct county of the Province of Nova Scotia, to be called and known by the name of the County of Cape Breton, and to be represented, and the civil government thereof to be administered, in like manner as the other counties of the Province are administered and governed.

"And in pursuance of His Majesty's instructions I have caused a writ in the usual form to be immediately issued, directed to the Provost-Marshal or his Deputy, resident in the island, for the election of two members to serve in the General Assembly of Nova Scotia, being the number directed to be summoned to such Assembly before the time when the said island was first separated from the Province of Nova Scotia.

"And I do hereby, in obedience to His Majesty's commands, dissolve the Council of the said Island of Cape Breton.

"And that the peace and good order of the said island may be preserved, and justice duly administered therein, until more effectual provision shall be made by the Legislature of Nova Scotia, or until further order shall be duly made therein, I do hereby authorise and require that all judges, justices of the peace, constables and other civil officers in commission in the said island do continue in the execution of their respective offices, agreeably to the several ordinances passed by the