

5-6 EDWARD VII., A. 1906

"intentions with respect to us, we all take the liberty of representing to His Excellency, and to all the inhabitants, that we and our fathers, having taken an oath of fidelity, which has been approved of several times in the name of the King, and under the privileges of which we have lived faithful and obedient, and protected by his Majesty the King of Great Britain, according to the letters and proclamation of his Excellency Governor Shirley dated 16th of September 1746 and 21st of October 1747, we will never prove so fickle as to take an oath which changes, ever so little, the conditions and the privileges obtained for us by our sovereigns and our fathers in the past.

"And as we are well aware that the king our master, loves and protects only constant, faithful and free subjects, and as it is only by virtue of his kindness, and of the fidelity which we have always preserved towards his majesty that he has granted to us, and that he still continues to grant to us the entire possession of our property and the free and public exercise of the Roman Catholic religion, we desire to continue, to the utmost of our power, to be faithful and dutiful in the same manner that we were allowed to be by His Excellency Mr. Richard Philipps.

"Charity for our detained inhabitants, and their innocence, oblige us to beg your Excellency, to allow yourself to be touched by their miseries, and to restore to them that liberty which we ask for them, with all possible submission and the most profound respect.

Signed by two hundred and three of the said inhabitants of Menis and the River Canard.

The said Deputies were then called in and peremptorily refused to take the oath of Allegiance to His Majesty.

The deputies of Annapolis also appeared and Refused the oath.

Whereupon they were all ordered into Confinement.

As it had been before determined to send all the french Inhabitants out of the province if they refused to take the Oaths, nothing now remained to be considered but what measures should be taken to send them away, and where they should be sent to.

After Mature Consideration it was unanimously Agreed, That to prevent as Much as possible their attempting to return and molest the Settlers that may be set down on their Lands, it would be most proper to send them to be distributed amongst the several colonies on the Continent, and that a sufficient number of Vessels should be hired with all possible Expedition for that purpose.

CHAS. LAWRENCE.

JNO. DUPORE,
Sec.-Conc.

Extracts from a letter of Gov. Lawrence to Col. Robert Monckton.

HALIFAX, 31 July, 1755.

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Whereupon the Council advised and it is accordingly determined that they (the French Inhabitants of the Province) shall be removed out of the Country as soon as possible, and as to those about the Isthmus who were in arms (a) and therefore entitled to no favour from the government it is determined to begin with them first; and for this purpose orders are given for a sufficient number of Transports to be sent up the Bay with all possible dispatch for taking them on board, by whom you will receive particular instructions as to the manner of their being disposed of, the places of their destination, and every other thing necessary for that purpose.

In the mean time, it will be necessary to keep this measure as secret as possible, as well to prevent their attempting to escape, as to carry off their cattle &c.; and the better to effect this you will endeavour to fall upon some stratagem to get the men both young and old (especially the heads of families) into your power and detain them till the

(a) "Terms of capitulation which are granted to the commandant and garrison of Beauséjour, June 16, 1755."

"4th. As to the Acadians, since they were compelled to take up arms on peril of their lives, they will be pardoned for the part they have lately taken."