

Mr. CAMERON (Inverness). It is not my intention, as has been suggested, to read the history of Cape Breton; but it is my intention to call attention to sections of its history, which relate particularly to the injustice that has been done to the island by political parties in the past. This history was written by an English gentleman, who resided in the island for forty years, and it can therefore be considered an unbiased history. The facts were obtained from official sources, and from sources which were not prejudicial to the interests of the island. The name of the gentleman who wrote this history was Richard Brown an English gentleman, who was familiar with all the resources of the island as well as with its people. In 1869 he published the history and dedicated it to the youth of the island, whom he addressed in this language:

"When I first visited the island, more than 40 years ago, my professional duties led me into various districts, at that time quite destitute of inns and the ordinary means of locomotion. Thus I was frequently compelled to ask from the inhabitants both shelter and subsistence, as well as aid in moving from place to place. I need hardly say that in the comfortable houses of the merchants and the farmers—in the log huts of the new settlers—in the wigwags of the wandering Indians—in short, everywhere I received a hearty and hospitable welcome. In later years, during a long residence at one locality, I had the happiness of enjoying the friendship of a wide circle of neighbors of all ranks."

That is his opinion of the people then resident upon the island, and of whom the present stock are the descendants. He obtained his information from the most reliable sources, as will be seen from the following:

"For the great bulk of the most important matter embodied in the following letters. I am under great obligations to Sir Roderick Murchison, for free access to the extensive library of the British Museum, and to His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos for permission to examine and make extracts from voluminous colonial documents in the Public Record Office. To the courteous and obliging officers of both these truly noble national institutions, I beg to tender my sincere thanks for their valuable aid in guiding me in my researches."

This conclusively proves that this history is a reliable one. It may be said, that Cape Breton progressed as rapidly as any other section of the Province of Nova Scotia or the Maritime Provinces; but this does not, however, prove that sufficient attention has been given to affording facilities to the people for prosecuting the various industries of the island. I find that as early as 1758, the fishing industries of that island were far in excess of what they are at the present day, and it is not only very interesting, but highly necessary to quote the statistics of that day, in order to show that notwithstanding the progressive increase of population in the island, it is not owing to any special attention, or in fact to any attention at all, having been paid to that island since that particular time. The historian says:

"The loss of Cape Breton was a severe blow to the navy of France, as the fishery on the coast was one of the chief nurseries of her seamen. According to a document placed in my hands by the late Chief Justice Dodd of Sydney, about forty years ago (in 1829) no less than 15,000 were employed in the fisheries of Cape Breton, when Louisbourg was taken in 1758. I cannot do better than give you the following copy of this document:

"State of the fisheries carried on by the French in the Island of Cape Breton previous to the British taking possession in 1758.

	Decked Vessels.	Shallops.
Egmont Bay, near Cape North.....	.....	30
Niganish Bay and Cove.....	.....	245
Niganish Island.....	.....	30
Port Dauphin, or St. Anne.....	100	.....
Entrance of Great Bras d'Or.....	20	40
Petit Bras d'Or.....	.....	60
Spanish River, or Sydney.....	6	.....
Indian Bay, or Lingan.....	.....	50
Scattarie Island.....	.....	200
Main à Dieu.....	.....	190
Lorambec.....	.....	80
Louisbourg.....	300	300
Gabarus Bay.....	.....	50
Fourché.....	.....	50
St. Esprit Island.....	.....	60
Grande Rivière.....	.....	60
L'Ardoise.....	.....	14
St. Peter's.....	100	.....

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	Decked vessels.	Shallops.
Petit de Grat, Isle Madame.....	.....	100
River and Bay of Inhabitants.....	100	.....
Different places in Gut of Canso...	100	.....
Totals.....	726	1,555
726 decked vessels, at 8 men each...	5,808	
1,555 shallops, at 6 men each.....	9,330	
Total.....	15,138 men	
726 decked vessels, at 700 quintals..	508,200	
1,555 shallops, at 300 quintals.....	466,500	
Total.....	974,700 quintals.	

In 1878 the total number of men employed in the fisheries of the island was 4,491; the number of boats, 3,226; the number of vessels, 98; the tonnage, 2,691 tons, and the value of the fisheries, \$1,276,193. In 1758 there were 15,138 men employed; number of vessels, 726; shallops, 1,555; and the value of the fish taken at that time was more than double that of the fish taken in 1883. This conclusively proves that one class of the inhabitants of the Island of Cape Breton will be largely increased in number for some period of time yet, because if the ability to maintain the fishermen on the island will be equal to what it was over 100 years ago, it would treble the present fishing population of the island. That the island was considered important at that time is proven from the following fact which the same writer refers to:

"There can be no stronger proof of the value of Cape Breton in, the estimation of the French, than the fact, when negotiations for peace were mooted in the year 1761, the French Minister, the Duc de Choiseul, offered to cede the whole of Canada to England upon certain conditions, of which the most important was the restitution of Cape Breton. As Mr. Pitt would not consent to this condition the French Government broke off the negotiations and recalled their agent from London."

Just because the British Government at that time refused to restore the Island of Cape Breton to the French Government, the war was continued two years afterwards. Peace was, however, declared in 1763, and the Island of Cape Breton was annexed to Nova Scotia. After Cape Breton was annexed to Nova Scotia it was ordered that two representatives be elected for the island—which was constituted into one county—to the Legislature of Nova Scotia. At that time the population of Cape Breton was about one-third of the population of Nova Scotia, but notwithstanding this, only two representatives were allowed the county of Cape Breton, which embraced the whole island, in a House composed of forty representatives. This shows how utterly impossible it was for Cape Breton at that time to procure any show of fair play in the Legislature of Nova Scotia; and notwithstanding that only two representatives were allowed for the island, they were refused the privilege of taking their seats in the Legislature because there was no homesteads on the island. The franchise of Nova Scotia at that time was a freehold franchise, and unfortunately there were no freeholders on the island, and after two gentlemen were elected to sit in the Local Legislature they were refused the privilege of taking their seats, because they were not elected by the freeholders of the island. Then their seats were declared vacant, and the island was refused representation in the Nova Scotia Legislature for 21 years. During that time the responsibility of representing the island in the Local Legislature was thrown on the City of Halifax. It was promised from time to time that freehold tenure would be given to the residents of the island; but notwithstanding this promise, lest Cape Breton should be represented in the Legislature, the right was withheld for the whole period of 21 years. But, according to this history, I find:

"Although Capt. Holland's survey had been long completed, and grants of land had been issued in the neighboring Island of St. John's, the *bonâ fide* settlers at Louisbourg and other parts of the island, for no assignable reason that I could discover in the record, were still denied the privilege, or rather right, of obtaining any other title than licenses