

able numbers, that the French government apprehended the extinction of the fishing establishments at Louisbourg and elsewhere, and according to the rude coercive policy of the times, at once prohibited fishing except at one or two of the harbors. When the English seized Nova Scotia, many of the Acadians fled to the island, which became the headquarters of the desultory warfare kept up by the French and Indians against the English until the latter took possession of it after the second siege of Louisbourg in 1758. Lord Rollo, who was in command of the party, found in the house of the French governor an immense number of English scalps, which the Micmacs had brought in and been paid for. The island had been a principal resort of that tribe from time immemorial; and in some of their usual places of summer encampment, near oyster beds, the shells of the oysters they caught still cover the ground for acres together, to the depth of from one to six feet.

In 1763, the island was ceded to Great Britain with the remainder of the French North American colonies. In the next year a general government survey of the British possessions in North America was commenced by order of government, and that of Prince Edward's Island was finished in 1776. The value of the island was now recognized, and various plans were discussed for settling it, one of which, proposed by Lord Egremont, then first lord of the admiralty, was that he should himself be created lord paramount of the island, and that it should be divided into twelve baronies, to be held by as many barons of him on a feudal tenure, each baron to erect a castle, maintain a military force, and sub-let his property to feudal sub-tenants. It was at last decided to lay off the island into sixty-seven townships of about 20,000 acres, and to give these to a number of persons who had claims on the government. The applicants were so numerous, that this plan was finally followed by a means of a distribution by lot, with tickets for third, half, and whole townships. Each township was to pay from 2s. to 6s. per annum for each hundred acres, and to be settled by one settler to each two hundred acres within ten years, otherwise the grants were to be void. This lottery was drawn, and thus the whole 1,360,000 acres, all except a township or two, given away in one day.

But the plan did not turn out well. Many of the proprietors never intended to settle on the island, but merely to trade in their land, and some of them had not the means to perform the conditions of the gift; so that the mandamuses or warrants for grants quickly became an article