

later the colonists were expelled by English rovers from Virginia. In 1621 Sir William Alexander obtained a grant of the whole province, which he named *Nova Scotia*. He also endeavoured to colonise the country, but the aim was frustrated by the French (1623). Between 1633 and 1638 some sixty families of colonists were brought out by Isaac de Razilly and D'Amay Charnisay. These families became the progenitors of the Acadian people. They were drawn from a limited area on the west coast of France. In 1654 Cromwell reasserted the supremacy of England; but Acadie was restored to France by the Treaty of Breda (1667). In 1710 the province was conquered by the English, the conquest being confirmed by the Treaty of Utrecht three years later. Thereupon the Acadians became British subjects. But they refused to take the oath of allegiance.

War broke out between England and France in 1754. It was the culmination of their struggle for New World Empire. During the following year the Acadians finally declined, through their deputies, to subscribe to the oath required, and the Government of Nova Scotia decided upon their removal.

The work was placed in the hands of Lieutenant-Colonel John Winslow, of Massachusetts. He arrived at Grand Pré, with 297 soldiers, towards the end of August, 1755. Thence he issued a proclamation, on September 2nd, to the inhabitants of "Grand Pré, Mines, River Canard, and places adjacent," summoning them to meet him in the church on the 5th. About 418 men responded, and were seized. October 8th was the first day of general embarkation, and on that day the first transport left.