

Your commissioners, even, who came here to regulate this affair, in the time of General Nicholson, agreed that there was but one year's grace, and disputed only whether its commencement should be reckoned from the date of the said treaty or from the time of the convention of the inhabitants here, for the purpose of being instructed as to this favor. Since that time, they have not been prevented from withdrawing. Many of them left, and sold their possessions according to the Queen's intentions; but you must admit that there is a great difference of time between *one* and *seven* years that they have remained in his Majesty's dominions, in the full enjoyment of their property, until they have begun to think that they have more right here than his Majesty himself. So you ought not to be surprised if his Majesty at this time thinks proper, for the security of his dominions, to summon them in this manner, demanding of them their allegiance if they continue in the country, on the most advantageous terms they could possibly expect or desire; or to leave this country without having any regard to them."

From a careful and dispassionate perusal of the Archives, we cannot fail to come to the conclusion that the British authorities refrained from enforcing the treaty up to this date, for two very cogent reasons: in the first place, they were unwilling to drive from the Province the only settlers that were in it; in the second place, there were several times between the peace of Utrecht and 1755 when they were not in a position to enforce compliance, even if it had been thought desirable.

In reference to the first statement, Governor Mascarene thus wrote in 1720:—"There are but two reasons which may plead for keeping the French in the country: 1st. Depriving the French of the additional strength they would acquire by the immigration to Cape Breton; 2nd. The use they might be put to in providing necessaries for erecting fortifications, tilling lands, and keeping up a stock of cattle, *till the English themselves are powerful enough to go on.*"

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