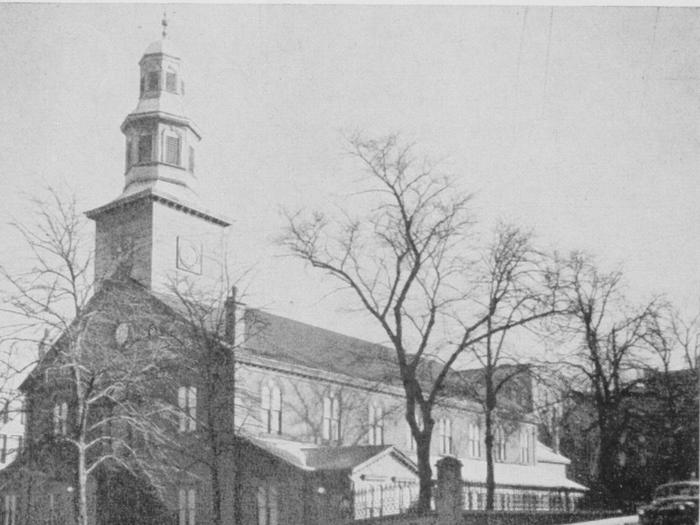# Churches by Royal Charter

By Sgt. L. TUNNAH

DURING the month of May 1749, a fleet of 13 transports and a sloop of war, the *Sphinx*, under the command of Col. the Hon. Edward Cornwallis, MP, as Captain General and Governor of Nova Scotia "at the expense of Government and under the direction of the Lords of Trade and Plantations", left England and set sail for Chebucto Bay (Halifax). There were 2,576 passengers who consisted chiefly of officers and privates lately discharged from the Army and Navy, with their families.

Arriving at their destination on June 21, 1749 the settlers cleared the land and erected dwellings. By Royal Charter of King George II immediate steps were also taken to provide a place for worship. The site selected was the east slope of Citadel Hill overlooking the harbor. The frame and other materials were imported from Boston, Mass., and in less than a year the colonists were attending service within an edifice the exact replica of Marylebone Chapel in London, England.

It was named St. Paul's Church. The cost to the Crown was £1,000.

In 1759 the silver Communion Service, presented by Queen Anne to the Church at Annapolis Royal in 1713, was transferred to St. Paul's for safe keeping. All pieces of this historic plate, engraved with the Queen's Coat of Arms, are in use today. On receipt of the Service an enterprising parishioner with some knowledge of engraving endeavored to superimpose the letter "G" for George II over "A" for Anne on one of the large silver plates. His effort was not successful and he refrained from any further attempt. Today this is the only piece of the Service recognizably tampered with.

In 1765, a Spanish ship en route to South America, was captured by the British and taken to Chebucto Bay as a prize of war. Her cargo included an organ "made of excellent material, having a solid mahogany frame of chaste design". All goods on board were offered for sale at public auction and the churchwardens

St. Paul's Church, Halifax.

(National Film Board Photo.)