

This iniquitous decision was carefully concealed from the Acadians, in order not to provoke a suspicion that might have proved dangerous. A proclamation was issued calling on the people to assemble on the 5th of September, 1755, in their different parishes to hear an important communication from the governor. This deceit was not everywhere successful. At Beau-Bassin, part of what had remained of the French Acadian population took at once to the woods. The people of Annapolis, accustomed of old to seek, into forests, a refuge against the cruelties of war, did not wait for the completion of this horrible catastrophe therefore a certain number only fell into the hands of their foes.

But in the district of Mines, which is the wealthiest in Acadia, good care had been taken to secure the success of the plot. This population, peaceful, industrious and not as suspicious perhaps, responded in a body to the call of the governor, and being secretly surrounded by soldiery, were told they were prisoners of war, and their lands, tenements and household goods forfeited to the crown and, that on the 10th of September, they were to embark for the British Colonies.

This awful communication fell like a thunder-bolt and stunned the wretched families. Without arms, surrounded by soldiers and crushed beneath