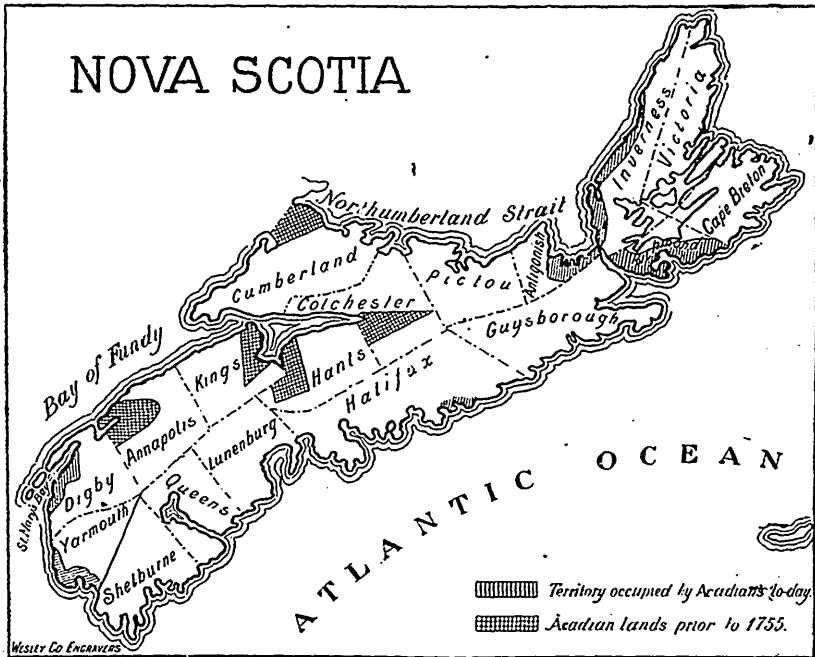


three centuries. The main interest must always attach to the Acadians in the peninsula, for the very reason that they have had such an unusual history. They are a unique people in a picturesque setting. The lands they now occupy are in no way equal to those they tilled before the days of the deportation; the latter are rich and fertile, and most valuable to their owners; the former, as has been said, are mostly barren shore lands.

Such, then, is the location of the Acadians. The average Nova Scotian is barely conscious of the coast settlements that have grown up and support a thoroughly French population; but those at all



acquainted with early Acadian history cannot fail to feel an interest in the remnant of a race which endured so much hardship at the hands of a conquering one; and to those the present Acadian lands must be of more than passing moment. They are on the outskirts of the province, and one does not ordinarily pass through them; but all can at least know something about the settlements geographically. An inspection of the accompanying map and table may serve as a reminder that the Acadians are a people not only of the past, but of the present as well, and that they are a growing force to be reckoned with in the future development of our loved province.