

Item: Richard Phillips, Governor of Nova Scotia. To the Right Honourable, the Lord Visct. Townshend His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State. The Situation and State of His Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia.

Call Number: MS-6-26 (Oversized)

Additional Notes:

This manuscript (circa 1719) is principally concerned with the problem of the French who remained in the province after its cession to England at the Treaty of Utrecht. A considerable amount of space is also occupied in setting forth the natural advantages of Nova Scotia, as an inducement to the authorities in England to take action. (From typed note accompanying letter.)

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To the R^t Hon^{ble} the Lord Vis^t Townshend His
Majesty's Principal Secretary of State.

The Situation and State of His Majesty's Province
of Nova Scotia is humbly represented.

That Province is situated in the Latitude of 45 degrees, having on
west, New England; on the North, and North East, the River of
Canada, or St. Lawrence; on the East, Cape Breton, now called
l'Isle Royale; and is bounded on the South by the Ocean. The
Soil is generally rich, exceeding that of New England, & produces
of all kinds of Neesparry for life, and Materials for Naval
Its Coasts abound with Cod-Fish, Herring and Mackerell in
Seasons, and the Rivers with Salmon.

The Extent thereof is computed to be 300 Leagues, and is divided
almost in the Center by two Inlets of the Sea, called the Bay of
Fundy on the South side, and Bay Vert on the North.

Upon the Isthmus which joins the East and West parts of the
Province, and is in Breadth, in some places six, and in other Ten
or Twelve Leagues; most of the French Inhabitants have their
Settlements. These are divided into four Colonies, in Number about
500 Families, besides an other Settlement of 100 Families about
Annapolis Royal.

The Fort of Annapolis Royal stands upon a River flowing out
of the Bay of Fundy to the Eastward, Twenty Leagues below the
Isthmus, and Thirty from Cape Sables; but has no Communication
by Land with those Settlements, tho' not difficult to be opened, when
it may be more convenient, than at present. The Garrison there
consists of Five Companies, amounting in the whole to 200 men
exclusive of Commission Officers. Here are (besides the afore-
mentioned French Settlements) about Ten or Twelve Families
of English, who live together in a small Towne, under cover
of the Fort. This River, just within the Entrance, forms a large
Bason, capable to contain a very large Fleet of Ships.

From



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From Annapolis to Cape Sables (which with the opposite land of Mount-Desart, forms the Mouth of the Bay of Fundy) the Course is Southerly Thirty Leagues, and as many from Cape to Cape. The Tides in that Bay are, exceedingly rapid, and cause the Sea to run high, and the Navigation is dangerous, by reason of the many Rocks and Islands dispersed therein.

From Cape Sables, the Coast stretches Eastward in a straight Course for 100 Leagues to Cape Canso, and affords more fine Harbours than any known Coast of that Extent; many whereof are capable to receive the largest Fleets, particularly Port Rossway, Le Have, Chiboucto, and others. The Navigation there is pleasant and safe, and no less profitable on Account of the Cod-Fish Banks, which lye along at a convenient distance; so that nothing is wanting in Nature to make it a more Commodious Situation for Trade.

The Harbour of Canso lyes three Leagues within the Cape of that Name, having three Channels leading into it from the North, East, and South East, by which Vessels may go in and out with any Winds; an Advantage particularly suited to the Conveniency of the Fishery; which, and it's propinquity as well to the Banks of Newfoundland as those of Nova Scotia, has recommended that place for a preferable Situation, for carrying on that Trade, and will infallibly, if encouraged with the protection of the Government, become the most considerable of any Port in America. In the mean time, for it's present Security, the Governour, has caused a small Fort, and a Battery for 12 Guns to be raised at his own expence; which Battery, during the Season of the Fishery, is mounted with the Guns of the Shipping that come there to Load, and a Garrison of four Companies is placed in the said Fort, with 3 pieces of Cannon drawn from Placentia, since the Reduction of those Works.

On the North Side of Canso Harbour is the Bay of Shedebouto, so called from the Harbour, which lies in the bosom of the same; which from being extremely beautifull and pleasant, has lately obtained the name of Milford Haven. Here is a most agreeable Situation for a Settlement; convenient for Building of Vessels; on the Banks whereof, all Materialls for that purpose are to be found in great Plenty.

Cross

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Cross the Mouth of the said Bay, which is seven Leagues over is the Gut of Canso, or the Passage of Ironsac, which separates the Continent of Nova Scotia from the Island of Cape Breton. This passage is between three and four Leagues in length, and but a Mile and half wide. The Navigation is safe for Ships of Burthen, and is a good Harbour from end to end.

From the aforesaid Passage one enters another small Bay in the bottom of which is the generall Rendezvous of the Indians at each Season, and the Residence of their Missionary, where he has a Chappel richly furnished in a delightfull Country.

The Point of Land which forms this bay to the Northward is called Cape St. Louis; which when weather'd, a westerly Course leads along Coast into Bay Vert, on the back of the Isthmus at first described. By this way those French Inhabitants before mentioned drive a clandestine Trade with Cape Breton, whither they convey most of their yearly produce of fattle and Corn, in Exchange for the Manufactures of France. In this Bay lies the large Island of St. Johns, which is now settling with Inhabitants, Transported from Old France; tho' their Title to it, when Examind by the Treaty of Utrecht, will be found precarious.

What is further wanting to a perfect description of the East Division of the Province usefull to Mariners, is an exact Survey of the severall Harbours, Soundings and Bearings of Land to direct their Entrance; which is a work in hand and had been now near finished, had it not been diverted by the breaking out of the Indians into Hostilities, which obliged the Governour to employ the Vessel he built for the Survey of the Coast to chastise those people, and to relieve his Majesty's Subjects and their Vessels, which they had surpris'd in the severall Harbours, as likewise in fetching Provisions from New England to supply the loss of those cast away in the Voyages from hence, by which means the Garrisons were twice preserved from Starving.

The Coast of the West Division of the Province from the Bay of Fundy to the Confines of New England, having never been Surveyed and known only by a few Sloops, trading between

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Boston and Annapolis Royal, any description thereof at this time will be imperfect; nor will it be very Material till the East Division shall be first settled, which is better situated for Trade: Only thus far it is known, to have many good Harbours and Quantities of good Timber in many parts, particularly of Masting for the largest Ships, which, growing near the water, may be furnished to the Navy vastly cheaper, than what are now brought from New England.

The Present State of the Province stands thus, vizt.

The French, who are settled on the Isthmus and the River of Annapolis Royal (as before Related) are the Old Inhabitants, greatly Multiplied since the Surrender of the Province to the Crown of Great Britain; at which time it was stipulated in their behalf, to have their Choice either to remain in the Province, if they would transferr their Allegiance, or in case of the Alternative, to dispose of their Estates and Effects to the best Advantage. To determine which, one year time was allowed them, but at the expiration thereof, finding their new Masters in no Condition to oblige them to the observance of one or the other; they have remain'd upon their possessions in Contempt of the Government, waiting the opportunity of a Rupture between the two Crowns to Reestablish their former Government; and in the mean time are daily in secret, inciting the Indians to Robbery and Murder, to the destruction of Trade and Hindrance of Settling the Country. They are seated on a fertile Soil, and raise great Store of Corn and Cattle, with which, and their Furs, they Traffick at pleasure with the Neighbouring French Colonies at Cape Breton, and Island St. Johns, and have refused Supplies to the Garrisons in the greatest Necessity.

The Fort of Annapolis Royal is quite gone to decay; more than one Third of the Ramparts being at this time level with the ground, and the Garrison exposed to the danger of being surpris'd by the Enemy without, & of being buried in the Ruins of their Barracks within. A thorough Repair thereof is, by

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no means advisable, in regard that a New Fort of a smaller Dimension may be built at less expence, which the circumstances of that post will admitt of.

Canso, the Frontier of Nova Scotia towards Cape Breton within the distance of Six Leagues, which has all the appearance of becoming a place of vast consequence to the Trade of Great Britain, whereon the French had fixed a wishfull Eye; has no other defence but what the Governour has made at his own Charge for the present Security of that growing Settlement, and to cutt short the French in the groundless pretension they had form'd to that place.

It being part of the Governour's Instructions, that no Land in that Province, shall be given away in property to any persons, till such time, as by a generall Survey a certain Number of Acres of the best Wood-Lands be mark'd out for his Majesty's Service; The settling that Province cannot commence before that Commission be executed, tho' never so many Families should offer themselves in the mean time.

Another very unhappy Circumstance in the present State of that Province is, from the want of ways and means for raising the least Supply (tho' it were but a Shilling) and the safety of the Government depended upon it; in which case, the person entrusted with the Administration must, through Necessity, be inactive; or if he disburses his own money, or pawns his Credit in the Service; he becomes an unthank'd Sollicitor at home.

The Remedys for the aforementioned Evils are these which follow.

First.. That a Fort be built on the Isthmus to cutt off the Communication between Our French Inhabitants, and the Neighbouring French Colonies; which will subject them at all times to obedience, and is humbly presumed to be better Policy, than by driving them out to strengthen the French Colonies, with the Addition of such a Number of hands; or if the Alternative be thought more advisable, the said Fort will be a protection to such of

His Majesty's Subjects, as shall settle in their room: And in either Case, the Expence may be made good, by Raising a Tax on the people, if they stay; or selling their improved Lands if they remove. This Fort will likewise be a great Check to the Indians by preventing the joining of the East and West Clans, when they design Mischief.

Secondly That a Fort be built at Canso, both for a Frontier post against Cape Breton, where the French are making themselves exceedingly strong, and a protection to that Fishery, which has already paid the Charge it will cost in the Return home of the Fish, which has been exported in these last three years from thence.

Thirdly The Fort at Annapolis Royal to be New Built, but lessend, to contain half the present Garrison.

The Quota of Troops Necessary for the severall Posts, Vizt.

For a Fort on the Isthmus a Garrison of	200 Men
For the Fort at Canso	200 Ditto
For Annapolis Royal	100 Ditto
In all	<u>500 Men</u>

Of which Nine Companies now there make . . . 360

To be Added 140

500 Men

Which Augmentation may also be made with little expence, by adding Two Companies to that Regt, & some private men to the other Companies.

Fourthly That a Surveyor be orderd over, or some person now there Comissiond to perform that Service, & remove the Barr, which obstructs the Settlement of that Country.

Lastly That a Provision by way of Contingent Money, may be appropriated, as to other Governments for Necessary Services, till such time as the Province shall be able to Raise Funds within it self for it's own Support: And it is humbly hoped, that your Lordship will be pleased to recommend the Consideration of the disbursements, that have been already made on

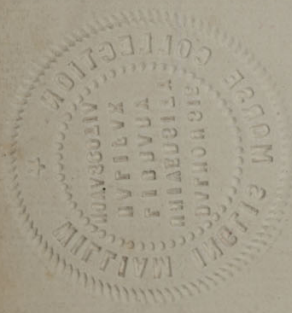
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such occasions, as far as they shall be made appear to have been just and necessary; particularly, the Charge of Building a Vessel, which has been maintained three Years, in making the Surveys of the Coasts, and other Services of the Government, which, without such a Vessel, can never be carried on.

The advantages which will arise to the Crown, from the foregoing Proposals are, so great and obvious, that to enlarge upon them, might look like a design of imposing on the Government, when the intention of this Memorial is only to lay before his Majesty in the most plain and easy manner, the true State and Circumstances of that Province; The Encouragement, and Protection Necessary for its Trade, and to make the settling thereof practicable.

All which is humbly Submitted





[Richard PHILLIPS, Governor of Nova Scotia]. To the Rt. Honble.
the Lord Visct. Townshend His Majesty's Principal Secretary
of State.

The Situation and State of His Majesty's Province of
Nova Scotia.

C. 1719

Folio, a MS. on $6\frac{1}{2}$ pages of paper; a little frayed at
the upper part of the fore edges, otherwise in good condition
and clearly written Undated

£25. 0. 0. net.

Short extracts from this document are printed in Selec-
tions from the Public Documents of the Province of Nova
Scotia, Halifax, 1869, pp. 18-19, where Governor Phillips is
given as the author. There, however, Lord Carteret's name
is substituted for that of Lord Townshend as the recipient.
No date is given, but it is printed immediately following a
letter of Phillips to the Board of Trade dated Jan. 3rd. 1719.

This MS. is principally concerned with the problem of
the French who remained in the province after its cession to
England at the Treaty of Utrecht. The difficulties are
fully set out and certain remedies suggested, namely the build-
ing of two new forts, one on the Isthmus, one at Canso, the
rebuilding of the fort at Annapolis Royal and the provision
of money from England until such time as the Province shall
be in a position to support itself. A considerable amount
of space is also occupied in setting forth the natural ad-
vantages of Nova Scotia, as an inducement to the authorities
in England to take action.
