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 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 is humbly represented.

That Province is situated in the Latitude of 45 degrees, running on West, New England, on the North, and North East, the River of Canada, or St. Lawrence; on the East, Cape Boston now called Cape Royal; and is bounded on the South by the Ocean. Its Soil is generally rich, exceeding that of New England, producing all kinds of Nececssaries for Life, and Materials for Nature. Its Coasts abound with Codfish, Herring and Haddock in all Seasons, and the Rivers with Salmon.

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

Upon the Ishmus 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 one 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 Ishmus, and Thirty, from Cape Sable, 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 here consists of Six Companies, amounting in the whole to 200 men exclusive of Commissary Officers, here are besides the afore-mentioned French Settlements about Ten or Twelve Families of English, who live together in a small Forteau, under one of the Fort. This River, just within the Entrenchments forms a large Basin, capable to contain a very large Fleet of Ships.

From
From Arrapete to Cape Sable which with the opposite land of
Mount-Dezert forms the North of the Bay of Sandy. The Judge
is southerly Thirty Leagues, and as many from Cape to Cape. The
Tides in that Bay are excessively rapid, and cause the Sea to
run high, and the Navigation is dangerous by reason of the many
Rocks and Islands discussed therein.

From Cape Sable, the coast shrubs Eastward in a Strait Cape, for
100 leagues to Cape Conoe, and offers more fine Harbours than
any known coast of that extent; many wherers are capable to
receive the largest Ships, particularly Port-Prayew, de Havre,
Chibouac, and others. The Navigation there is pleasant and
safe, and no less profitable on account of the cod-Fish Banks,
which lie along at convenient Distance, so that nothing is
wanting in Nature to make it a more commodious Situation
for Trade.

The Harbour of Sanclo lies three Leagues within the Cape of that
Name, having here channels leading into it from the North,
East, and South-East, by which vessels may go in and out with any
Wind, an advantage particularly suited to the Convenience of
the Fishery, which, and its proximity as well as the Banks
of Newfoundland as those of Nova Scotia, has recommended
that place for a-preferable Situation, for carrying on that Trade,
and well Infallibly, if encouraged with the protection of the
Government, become the most considerable, if any Port in
America. In the mean time, for its present Safety, the
Governor, has raised a small Fort, and a Battery, for 12
Guns to be raised at his own expense, which Battery, during
the Season of the Fishery, is mounted with the guns of the Ships
that come there to trade, and a Garrison of Four Companies
is placed in the said Fort, with 3 pieces of Cannon, drawn from
Plymouth, since the Reduction of those Works.

On the North Side of Sanclo Harbour is the Bay of Redoubt,
so called from the Harbours which lies in the bosom of the same;
which from being extremely beautiful, and pleasant, has lately
obtained the name of Mt. Fabre Haven. Here is a most agreeable
Situation for a Settlement, convenient for Building of Ships, on the
Banks whereof all Materials for that purpose are to be found in great Abun-
Crost the Mouth of the Bay, which is seven leagues over to the out of Cape, or the Passage of Tironaie, which separates the continent of Nova Scotia from the Island of Cape Breton. This Passage, is between nine and four leagues in length, and but a Mile and half wide. The Navigation is safe for ships of 400 Bushells, and is a good Harbour from End to End.

From the above it appears, one enters another small Bay, on the bottom of which is the General Rendezvous of the Whales in all the seasons, and the Abundance of their Summer, where the Sea-Chappel richly furnished in a delightful Country.

The Point of land which forms this bay to the Northward is Cape St. lawn, which when weathered, a lively Current leads along East into Bay Port, on the back of the Island as first described. By this way, those French Inhabitants before-mentioned, were driven land-locked, and with Cape Breton, whether they convey most of their yearly produce of cattle and corn, in exchange, for the Indian-fur of France. In this Bay, lies the large Island of St. John, which is now settling with Inhabitants; that comes from St. France, who lived like it is, when examine by the Engineer Wright, will be found precious.

What is here-foreward, wanting to a perfect description of the West Division of the Province, may fill to Manila, is an exact Survey of the several Harbours, Situation and Bearing of land, to each, their Entrance, which is a work in hand and has been now nearly finished, had it not been diverted by the breaking out of the famous into hostilities, which obliged the Governor to employ the men he built for the Survey to repair, those people not to relieve his Majesty’s Subjects and their Depreders, which they had surprised in the several Harbours, as likewise in lodging Civilians from New England to supply the loss of those cast away in the Voyages from hence, by which means the Garrisons were however furnished from Staving.

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, riding between

Bass.
Boston and Annapolis Royal, any description thereof at this time, will be in perfect, nor will it & every Material till the East Division shall be just fitted, which it better suited for trade. Only those far it is known, to have many good harbours and quantities of good timber, in many parts, brashers of making for the larger ships, which grow in size, the water may be furnished to the easy ready reaper, than what are now brought from New England.

The present State of the Province stands thus, viz-

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, or in one of the Alterations dispose of their estates and effects to the best advantage. To determine which, one year time was allowed them, but at the expiration thereof, seeing their new Masters in no condition to oblige them to the observance of one or the other, they have remained upon their possessions in contempt of the Government waiting the opportunity of a Respite between the two terms to redress their former Government, and in the mean time are daily in revolt, inducing 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 trade, they Traffic at pleasure with the Neighbouring French Colonies at Cape Breton, and Island St. John's, and have refuted 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 surprized by the Enemy without, & of being buried in the Turf of the Barracks within. It thorough Repair whereby is, by
no means desirable, in regard that a New Fort of a smaller Dimension may be built at less expense, which the present

Consequence of that post will admit of.

Even, 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 whole life; has no other defence but what the Governor has made at his own Charge,

for the present Safety of that growing Settlement and for the

French in the groundless pretension they had formed to that

A being part of the Governor's Instructions, that no land in

that Province, shall be given away in property to any persons, but

such time, as by a general Survey a certain Number of acres of

the best Woods lands be marked out for his Majesty's Service, the

setting that Country cannot commence, before that survey can

be executed, the 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 having

the last Supply (so it were, but a selling) and the safety of the,

government depends upon it; in which case, the person entrusted

with the administration must, through Necessity be master,

of it he disburse his own money, or pawn his credit in the

service, he becomes an unsheltered solicitor at home.

The Remedy for the aforesaid evil are these which follow.

First. That a Fort be built on the Islandus to cut 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 giving

them out to strengthen the French colonies, with the addition of such a Number of hands; or if the alternative be thought more desirable, the said Fort will be a protection to such
His Majesty's subjects, as shall settle in their room: And in no other case, the expense may be made good by raising a tax on the people, if they store, or selling their improved lands of annoyance.

This post will likewise be a great check to the Indians by preventing the joining of the East and West Clans, which they design mischief.

Secondly... That a Fort be built at Passo, both for a Frontier post against Cape Breton, where the French are making themselves excessively strong, and a protection to that Factory, 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 here.

Thirdly... The Fort at Annapolis Royal, to be now built, but of a small size, to contain half the present Garrison.

The Quota of Troops Necessary for the several Cost, viz.

For a Fort on the Allegheny Garrison of

For the Fort at Passo

For Annapolis Royal

In all

Of which Nine Companies now there make... 360
To be added... 140

Which Augmentation may also be made with little expense, by adding two Companies to that Regiment, some private men to the other Companies.

Fourthly... That a Survey be ordered out of some person now trust confirmed to perform that Service, to 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 Service, till such time as the Province shall be able to raise funds within itself for its own Support: And it is humbly hoped, that your Lordship will be pleased to recommend the consideration of this Disbursements, that have been already made on
such occasions, as seems 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 coast, 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 his true state, and circumstances of that Cooree, the improvement, and Protection Necessary for its Trade, and to make the settling there of 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.

Folio, a MS. on 6½ 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 Selections 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.