

Translation of the Pisiquid, Menis (Mines) and River Canard deputies' address at a council held at the Governor's house in Halifax on Friday July 28<sup>th</sup> 1755 to Charles Lawrence and response.

In Thomas B. Akins, *Selections from the Public Documents of the Province of Nova Scotia* Halifax, C. Annand, 1869), p.263-267.

To the Honorable Charles Lawrence, President of the King's Council, Commander in Chief of Nova Scotia, Lieutenant Governor of Annapolis Royal, Lieutenant Colonel of a regiment of infantry.  
Sir,—

" The inhabitants of our districts, having been informed by Mr. Murray, Commanding Port Edward at Pisiquid, that we, the said Inhabitants, are required to send certain persons to appear before the Governor at Halifax, to answer the demand made upon us, by virtue of an oath, which we are assured, his honor requires of us, the inhabitants of our districts in general, . take the liberty of representing, that after having taken the oath of fidelity to His Britannic Majesty, with all the circumstances and reservation granted to us, in the name of the King, by Mr. Richard Philipps, Commander in Chief in the said province, which allegiance we have observed as far as possible, for a number of years, enjoying peaceably our rights according to the terms of our oath in all its tenor and reserve ; and always having relied on our oath of fidelity, both as to its tenor and its observance, we are all resolved, with one consent and voice, to take no other oath. We have taken the oath of fidelity in good faith. We are very well pleased and satisfied. We hope. Sir, that you will have the kindness to listen to our just reasons ; and, in consequence, we all, with a unanimous voice, beg his honor to set at liberty our people who have been detained at Halifax for some time, not even knowing their situation, which appears to us deplorable. We have full confidence, Sir, that his honor will have the goodness to grant us the favor which we have the honor most humbly to beg. And we will pray for his honor's prosperity."

" Pisiquid, July 22nd, 1755."

Signed by one hundred and three of the said inhabitants of Pisiquid.

From the inhabitants, of Mines, the river Canard and neighboring places

"To his Excellency Charles Lawrence, Esqr., Governor General and Commander in chief of the province of Nova Scotia or Acadie, and Colonel of a regiment in His Majesty's Service in the said province.

"Inasmuch as a report is in circulation among us, the French inhabitants of this province, that His Excellency the Governor demands of us an oath of obedience conformable, in some manner, to that of natural subjects of His Majesty King George the Second, and as, in consequence, we are morally certain that several of our inhabitants are detained and put to inconvenience at Halifax for that object; if the above are his intentions with respect to us, we all take the liberty of representing to His Excellency, and to all the inhabitants, that we and our fathers, having taken an oath of fidelity, which has been approved of several times in the name of the King, and under the privileges of which we have lived faithful and obedient, and protected by his Majesty the King of Great Britain, according to the letters and proclamation of his Excellency Governor Shirley, dated 16th of September 1746, and 21st of October 1747, we will never prove so fickle as to take an oath which changes, ever so little, the conditions and the privileges obtained for us by our sovereigns and our fathers in the past,

"And as we are well aware that the king, our master, loves and protects only constant, faithful, and free subjects, and as it is only by virtue of his kindness, and of the fidelity which we have always preserved towards his majesty, that he has granted to us, and that he still continues to grant to us, the entire possession of our property and the free and public exercise of the Roman Catholic religion, we desire to continue, to the utmost of our power, to be faithful and dutiful in the same manner that we were allowed to be by His Excellency Mr. Richard Philipps.

"Charity for our detained inhabitants, and their innocence, oblige us to beg your Excellency, to allow yourself to be touched by their miseries, and to restore to them that liberty which we ask for them, with all possible submission and the most profound respect."

Signed by two hundred and three of the said inhabitants of Menis (Mines) and the River Canard.

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The said deputies were then called in, and peremptorily refused to take the oath of allegiance to His Majesty.

The Deputies of Annapolis also appeared and refused the Oath.

Whereupon they were all ordered into Confinement.

As it had been before determined to send all the French Inhabitants out of the Province if they refused to Take the Oaths, nothing now remained to be considered but what measures should be taken to send them away, and where they should be sent to.

After mature Consideration, it was unanimously Agreed That, to prevent as much as possible their Attempting to return and molest the Settlers that may be set down on their Lands, it would be most proper to send them to be distributed amongst the several Colonies on the Continent, and that a sufficient Number of Vessels should be hired with all possible Expedition for that purpose.

CHAS. LAWRENCE.

Jno. Duport, Sec. Conc.