

Remarks concerning the settlement of Nova Scotia. 1 (Charles Morris, 1753.) Remarks concerning the settlement of Nova Scotia. 1 (Charles Morris, 1753.) Source: *Le Canada-français: Documents inédits (Sur l'Acadie - Suite)* (Québec :Université Laval,1888), 97-101.

*Indian hostilities.* In the first place it must be allowed that the cause which has retarded the settlement has been owing principally to the disturbances given by the Indian Enemy. The advantage a wild people, having no settlement, or place of abide, but wandering from place to place in unknown, and therefore inaccessible woods, is so great that it has hitherto rendered all attempts to surprize them ineffectual; another advantage of the French, at their post of Cheignecto, where they cannot be pursued without giving umbrage to the French; nor (unless) without danger of exposing any party should it be attempted, to be cut off to a man, the French inhabitants, and their neighbourhood of Cheignecto with the French troops being always under arms to oppose any attempt that way, so that when they have done mischief they can always retreat there to a place of security. Nor can it be supposed they will be wearied out with such attempts, seeing their subsistence depends upon it, being wholly supported by the French; and further encouraged by a provision for every scalp and prisoner.

*Removal of Settlers to the other Colonies.* The province therefore must instead of increasing, notwithstanding the constant impor-tation of men, diminish as suddenly, for as soon as they have expended the bounty of provisions, the people for want of employ to get something for their subsistence, will naturally take the first opportunity to abandon the colony, and embark for the neighbouring Colonies, which abound with plenty of provision, have employment for many more hands than they have, and where they can earn their bread in peace and security.

*Nova Scotia Settlements, Garrison Towns.* The living in enclosed towns can give bread to no other than to manufacturers and tradesmen, and not to them unless there be a number of Farmers to take their work off their hands; nor even to fishermen unless there be men of substance to employ them, which happens only where is a general trade to procure it.

*Numbers on the decline.* It is well known as many having left it, as have been imported this year, and many more would have done it had it not been for the bounty given for the improvement of Lands in and about Halifax, on the peninsula, where they could work with some security, the Indians haying never attempted to come near so numerous a Garrison, which has been a support to many laborers.

It is also well known that a wild country, abounding in woods without any other difficulties to grapple with, can give but a miserable support to its possessors at first, and nothing but an invincible industry after a number of years, will make their circumstances tolerable: this is a known truth that among all the settlers there is not one, who supports himself by farming, nor will they be able to do it, till they can, by taking up those pieces of land, which are easy to cultivate, and have advantage of some meadows or marshes, wherever they can raise Hay for the support of a small stock, and no person has had the courage to attempt this, because this would require their disposing and living at a distance from each other, and therefore while the Indian War subsists, subject to their inhuman murders. This therefore being the case, unless some effectual method be taken to curb the Indians, this Colony will labour under insuperable difficulties, and be deserted by its inhabitants, or be very expensive to Government in the support of them, for unless they be maintained in this situation, they cannot subsist.

Were the French troops removed from the neighbourhood of Cheignecto, which post they detain contrary to all their treaties, the affair would be at once settled, for the Indians have not means, nor cannot support themselves without their assistance; but as this is a matter in dispute between the two Crowns, till that difficulty is removed, some other expedient will be found necessary.

*Indians.* The manner of subsisting themselves and the course the Indians take to make their inroads on the settlements and fishery being explained may give some light to a proposal [which], if not effectually to deter them from making their attempts, would put them to such inconveniencies and difficulties, they would be encouraged to attempt but rarely.

*Indian route.* The Indians being supplied with provision at Bay Vert, proceed along the shore of the sea, till they come to Tatmagouch, which is ten leagues: they then enter the river Tatmagouch, which is navigable 20 miles for their canoes, where they leave them, and taking their provision travel about ten miles, which brings them to Cobequid. This takes up about two sometimes three days. At Cobequid they are supplied with provision by the French, and where they have canoes concealed by them, in which they embark, enter the mouth of Subenaccada river, and proceed up that river, which is navigable for their small craft, about 40 miles and within ten miles of Dartmouth; here they leave their canoes, and proceed by land, till they come to the English settlements, and there destroy and captivate the people, or by another branch which goes within a few miles of the sea coasts, and in the harbours of which they wait for the fishing schooners, which either shelter there in a storm or are necessitated to go for wood and water, whose crews are surprized by them and murdered, as many have been this summer.

The river Subenaccada arises from several lakes, some of them situate within two or three miles of Fort Sackville, and from whence such light craft can embark and proceed through several lakes, with two or three carrying places not half a mile over into the

Subenaccada, and from thence down the river into the Bason of Minas. This was always the Indian route, when they passed from Cobequid to Gebneto.

The tide flows in the Subenaccada from its mouth about seven leagues, and then divides itself into two branches, one coming from the before recited lakes near fort Sackville, the other from near the sea coast, not far from great Jedore, about ten leagues eastward of Gebneto, and this is their communication from one side of the country to the other.

It is very evident if a fort was built upon the Subenaccada below where the two rivers join it would cut off their communication both with the sea coast and with the English settlements.

*[Removal of Acadians at least from N. Shore.]* It is also evident that if the inhabitants were removed from Cobequid, their means of support among them would cease: they would have none to take care of and secure their canoes, and consequently must pass from Tatmagouch river by land through the woods, which are almost impassible above 60 miles, and carry their provisions, both for their support out and home, which would put them to such difficulties they would be induced very seldom, if ever to attempt it, besides such a fort would be a curb, and put them in fear of a discovery and surprize, which so cautious a people will scarce run the hazard of.

A small body of regular troops; a Subaltern and 20 men will always be a sufficient guard for the fort, with part of the Rangers (and a number of whale boats) to range the river and that part of the bay, or when necessary they might range the woods also.

'Tis well known the forts of Minas and Pizaquid have broke the haunts of the Indians on that side, and no attempt has been made that way — but,

The only difficulty is supplying the fort with provision, the river Subenaccada, when the tides flow, being extreme rapid and dangerous, but as the provision must be always guarded on account of the narrowness of the river, two large strong row boats might answer both ends.