

UN JOURNAL CATHOLIQUE DANS  
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L'IMPARTIAL  
Tignish, Ile du Prince Edouard

L'IMPARTIAL

Tignish, Mardi, 20 Avril, 1909

**Pour les Cultivateurs**

Vous plairait-il de répondre à une  
difficulté que j'éprouve relative-  
ment à la "terre à employer" pour  
la plantation des arbres d'orne-  
ment.

Il est admis que lorsque le ter-  
rain où se fait la plantation est  
"trop pauvre", il faut avoir soin  
de faire les trous plus grands et d'y  
ajouter une certaine quantité de  
"bonne terre" sans quoi on ferait  
un travail inutile. Ici, tout le ter-  
rain où nous voudrions avoir plu-  
sieurs centaines d'arbres est un  
"sable presque pur", et il faut al-  
ler loin chercher de la bonne terre.  
Par contre, nous avons ici à notre  
portée un grand champ de "glaise  
pure" qui est utilisée dans une manu-  
facture à Trois-Rivières. Or, je  
voudrais savoir "si cette même  
glaise" après s'être bien effritée  
sous l'action de l'air et du soleil,  
ne pourrait pas, en la "mélangeant  
bien avec le sable", faire une ex-  
cellente terre pour la reprise des  
arbres?" S'il en était ainsi, notre  
travail de plantation se trouverait  
réduit presque de moitié. Mais les  
arbres nous coûtent si cher, qu'a-  
vant de nous décider à prendre ce  
moyen, nous préférons consulter  
quelqu'un qui pourrait nous ren-  
seigner sûrement.—P. Q. Cap de  
la Madeleine.

Réponse: Rien n'est plus facile  
que d'amender ces sortes de terres,  
surtout l'orsque l'on a sous la main  
un champ de glaise pure, dans le-  
quel on peut puiser à volonté. Il  
est essentiel tout d'abord de prati-  
quer, dans la terre sablonneuse, un  
bon défoncement à la charrue :  
puis on déposera à la surface une  
couche de glaise en poudre, qui se-  
ra effritée ainsi, au contact de l'air  
et du soleil. On devra mélanger à  
cette poudre argileuse de la bonne  
cendre de bois franc ou de la chaux  
en poudre. Je donnerais la préfé-  
rence à la cendre si on peut en  
avoir en quantité suffisante. Le  
tout est mélangé à la terre par un  
bon labour. La terre sablonneuse  
ainsi améliorée peut recevoir n'im-  
porte quels arbres; cependant, il  
ne faut pas oublier que même pour  
des arbres d'ornement, l'apport  
d'engrais au moment de la planta-  
tion activera considérablement leur  
végétation.

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**To our English Friends**

Our English friends will appreciate, we trust, the effort we are making, in placing before them, in their own language, the resolution passed at the last Acadian Congress, at St. Basil, Madawaska, in August 1908. The resolution explains fully the injustice which the Acadians have had to submit to, by the withholding of documents, by men, who prejudiced, either by fear of displeasing some higher authority or by hatred against the acadian race (presumably the latter) have omitted from their publications, the true copy of the archives, which were they published, would place a different phase on the whole history of Canada. Through the untiring energy of the Honorable Pascal Poirier, senator, secretary of L'Assomption, this glaring injustice has been brought to the notice of the public and now a demand is made that the true copy of all the archives be made, without omission. Akin, who was authorized by the Nova Scotia Provincial Legislature, issued but a part of the documents which were at his disposal; had he done his duty, he would have strengthened the bond of friendship which should exist between the acadian people and the english race.

The suppression of some of the facts of one of the greatest crimes ever perpetrated towards the human race, has caused an apathy between the two interested races, which would have been cemented with the strongest bond of friendship, and a unanimous denunciation of the evil doers, if truth had been known.

It is for the purpose of righting this grave error of Akins, that the resolution has been drafted, passed at a congress, where five thousand faithful British subject proclaimed its justification; and it is for that purpose that we give it all the prominence in our power. We trust, ere we hold our next Congress, which takes place, in 1910, at Tignish, P. E. Island, that we will have the satisfaction of seeing the truth laid before the public.—Ed. L'IMPARTIAL

A Monsieur F. J. Buote  
Président de l'Assomption,  
Mon cher Président,

Dans un précédent rapport, je vous ai rendu compte et au peuple de ce que j'ai fait, en ma qualité de secrétaire, des résolutions passées au Congrès de Saint-Basile, l'été dernier, et vous ai tenu au courant des réposés très courtoises reçues de chacun des Surintendants de l'Éducation des trois provinces, des gouvernements et des bureaux d'examinateurs pour l'admission à la pratique de la médecine, auxquels ces résolutions furent adressées.

J'ai, dans le même temps, adressé à nos Seigneurs les Evêques les suppliques très respectueuses qui leur étaient faites de la part des prélats ecclésiastiques, des vicaires généraux et du clergé français des cinq diocèses des provinces maritimes, et des Acadiens de toute l'Amérique du Nord. Aucune de Leurs Grandeurs n'a daigné, jusqu'à ce jour, s'abaisser jusqu'à faire faire un simple accusé de réception par Son secrétaire; de sorte que j'ignore, n'ayant pas fait enregistrer nos lettres, si elles ont eu l'honneur d'être remises à Leurs Grandeurs, et si Leurs Grandeurs en ont pris connaissance.

Afin d'être plus certain de ne manquer en rien au respect, j'avais pris la précaution de faire traduire ces suppliques en langue anglaise, service que M. le Juge Landry avait eu la gracieuseté de me rendre.

Je viens d'adresser à M. J. Willie Comeau, député de Halifax, pour le présenter à qui de droit, le MEMOIRE destiné au lieutenant gouverneur, et aux deux chambres de la Législature de la Nouvelle-Ecosse. M. le sénateur Comeau a bien voulu, à ma demande, en faire la traduction en anglais.

Préalablement, vu qu'il s'agit d'archives historiques, je l'ai fait examiner par notre généalogiste, M. Placide Gaudet, qui y a relevé et corrigé quelques erreurs de nom et de faits.

Il serait peut-être désirable de demander à nos journaux, toujours si accueillants, de vouloir bien publier en anglais, le dit mémoire, afin que le peuple sache précisément ce que l'Assomption fait en son nom.

Bien cordialement à vous, mon cher Président,  
PASCAL POIRIER,  
Secrétaire

Shediac N. B. avril 1909

**MEMORANDUM:**

From the Acadians of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the United States of America in general conventi assembled at St. Basile, N. B. August the 15th. 1908.

To His Honor the Honorable  
D. C. Fraser, lieutenant governor,  
To the Honorable the Legislative Council  
and

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia.

On the 30th. of April 1857 the following resolution was passed by the Nova Scotia House of Assembly:

Resolved that his Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to cause the ancient records and document illustrative of the history and progress of society in this province, to be examined, preserved and arranged, either for reference or publication, as the Legislature may here after determine, and that this House provide for the same.

The following year the Assembly authorised the Lieutenant Governor to procure in England all the official papers required by the Archivist and a copy of all the despatches and documents necessary to make their records complete.

By another vote of the House the Archivist was granted a sufficiency of funds required to have copied, at Quebec, all and any documents of a public and private nature referring to the early History of Acadia.

Finally, in 1865, on the recommendation of a Special committee, the Archivist was given authority to make suitable selections from amongst the Historical Documents in this possession and to publish these selections in a volume "in octavo".

Backed by this weight of authority, Akin, in 1869, published a volume of 755 pages. Unfortunately this volume is less an attempt to make better understood and illustrate the History and progress of Society in Nova Scotia, than to justify the expulsion of the Acadians, in 1755, and at the same time to place in the worst possible light, what the Compiler terms the encroachments of the French Canadian authorities upon the domain of Nova Scotia.

And Akins' work is one abounding in prejudice rather

than an impartial historical record such as the House indicated by its resolution.

That this is so, he himself, moreover, as good as admits:—"Although much has been written on the subject, yet, until lately it has undergone little actual investigation and in consequence, the necessity for their removal has not been clearly perceived, and the motives which led to its enforcement have been often misunderstood".

And it was with this idea, fully decided upon in advance, and in such a spirit as this, that Akin first collected, and, in 1869, published his volume of "Selections" from the public Documents of N. S.; a volume better known by the title of "Nova Scotia Archives".

Now, it can be fairly stated, that this volume contains very nearly all the historical data from which English writers—for the greater part in good faith—call their informations, when they write an account of the "Great Deportation".

In the interest of Historic truth, it would have been better to have published nothing at all, than to offer to the public—the jury in the case—a plea from one side of the case only.

This spirit of prejudice clearly influenced Akin throughout the whole of his researches and was a deciding factor in the selections made.

He admits that, up to his own time, "the necessity for their removal has not been clearly perceived". And it was with the design of having his views prevailed that he published, rejected or struck out—suitably to the purposes of his view—the public documents found at Halifax.

And, without any authority for so doing from the Legislature, in line of carrying out his duties as an Archivist, he assumed the Authority of a Doctor in History, a judge in the interpretation of Historical Documents.

A few examples will suffice to show how he carried out his duties as an Archivist, and what manner of a "Doctor" he is.

He omits from the published documents bearing upon the Treaty of Utrecht a certain very important letter from L'Hermite to Nicholson, which shows how a subsequent understanding between Louis XIV of France and Queen Anne of England effect substantially the terms of the Treaty of Utrecht, so far as concerns the situation of the Acadians, and their right to withdraw from Nova Scotia.

Six documents of unquestionable importance bearing upon the attempt made in 1720, under Governor Phillips, to compel the Acadians to take the oath of Allegiance to the English Crown, and which consists of two memorials from the Acadians of Annapolis and Grand Pré, of a letter from Father Justinian, of a letter from the Governor of Louisburg, and of a joint missive from the Acadians to the Governor of Public Documents", compiled by Akin. They were intentionally omitted. And of this, the proof is that four of these documents were in 1869,—and are to-day—lying side by side in London, with those other documents which were copied and published by this Nova Scotia Archivist. On the other hand there is no longer any trace of them at Halifax.

Doucet came over to Nova Scotia, in 1717 as Lieutenant Governor of the province. A period of peace followed and to a certain extent of harmony and good feeling. Doucet himself, a just, though stern man, finds but little to complain of, in his reports concerning the Acadians, to the Lords of Trade and Commerce; quite to the contrary indeed. But Akin whose views it apparently does not meet, makes no mention whatever of all this official correspondence between Doucet and London.

Another Example. Akin reprints fifteen letters from General Amherst, five from Governor Pownall, three from Governor Phillips, all addressed to Governor Lawrence, all of the utmost importance, since they bear directly upon the Expulsion of the Acadians and the events of that period; but he publishes not one of Lawrence's replies to these letters. For what reason? Moreover no trace of these replies can anywhere be found to-day. Who caused them to disappear? Who destroyed them?

The events of 1755, events of passionately absorbing interest, to the historian, are passed by quite unnoticed by the compiler. He allows to remain buried in oblivion acts of the greatest "Historical and Social" importance.

Akins' instructions from the Legislature were to compile a collection of such papers and documents as would make most clearly comprehensible the "History and progress of Society in the province of Nova Scotia".

He was commissioned to collect materials for an impartial History of Nova Scotia and nothing else. One of the main points upon which light was sought to be thrown was the question of the oath taken by the Acadians to the English Crown: A most difficult historical question to settle. Akin settles it off hand, and in doing so, he quite freely lays aside his role of a compiler merely.

Up to this period (1730) so he states in a foot note at bottom of page 266, no oath whatever had been taken by the inhabitants of Acadia, except that by the people, in the neighbourhood of Port Royal, which was one of unconditional allegiance.

This is a statement which it would be extremely difficult to prove; likewise the following: Governor Phillips on his return to Annapolis in 1730, brought the people at last to take an unconditional oath, willingly. This statement is contradicted by the Lords of Trade and Commerce, by the Acadians, by the English Governors themselves, Lawrence included; in short it is denied by everybody. The following statements stands in the same category of alleged facts, often in the face of proofs to the contrary:—"The term Neutral French having been so frequently applied to the Acadians in public documents—their constant denial of an unqualified oath ever having been taken by them, and the reiterated assertions of their priests that they understood the oaths taken from time to time, in a qualified sense (by drawing a distinction between an oath of fidelity and one of allegiance) led the Governors of Halifax, in 1749, and at subsequent periods, erroneously to suppose that no unconditional oath of allegiance had ever been taken by the people of Acadia to the British Crown".

Nothing in the whole volume of Nova Scotia Archives justifies the statement, but nevertheless Akin suitably to his purpose, makes the claim boldly.

To write History impartially, both sides, both versions should be considered. That is to say, in order that Akins' volume might be really complete and useful, and meet the intentions of Howe and the other Nova Scotia Legislators, all the omitted documents of importance that can yet be found, whether at Halifax or in London, should be hunted up and published.

In addition to these, the documents bearing upon the other side of the question, the French side, should be published as well. These can be found in large numbers at Que-

bec, Paris, in the records of the Admiralty, in copies at Ottawa, and possibly at Halifax. These documents could easily fill a second volume of the Nova Scotia Archives, quite as interesting, possibly, as the first volume; but in any case, from this time hence forward, necessary.

The Acadians now in Congress assembled are by no means the only ones who find complaints to make concerning Akins' volume and the use he made of the records.

Already, in 1824, the Historian Haliburton, a judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, complain that:

"The Archives at Halifax partake of the nature of some secret thing that someone is trying to conceal; and that from the little that can be learned from them, there is reason to believe that important papers bearing upon different periods have in part on the whole disappeared". Moreover, what were at first merely conjectures became in time convictions in the mind of the great historian:

"It is very remarkable, he further says, in his History of Nova Scotia, vol. 1, p. 196, that there are no traces of this important event (the deportation of the Acadiens) to be found among the records, in the Secretary's office of Halifax. I could not discover that the correspondence had been preserved, or that the orders, returns and memorials had ever been preserved, or that the orders, returns or memorials had ever been filled there. The particulars of this affair seem to have been carefully concealed, although it is not easy to assign the reason, unless the parties were, as in truth they might well be, ashamed of the transaction."

A letter from Rameau de Saint-Père, authors of two interesting works on Acadia: La France aux Colonies and une Colonie Féodale en Amérique, (France and her Colonies and a Feudal Colony in America) addressed to the Abbé Casgrain, throw some light on the doings of the keeper of the Archives at Halifax. He says:—

"I arrived at Halifax in September, my friend Mr Beamish Murdock obtained for me permission to consult the Government Archives and an appointment was made for the next day. I was shown some volumes and books of records, but was notified that I was forbidden to make any copy or extracts. And I was furnished with neither pen nor pencil. A place was assigned me at a table in the middle of a room in which eight or ten clerks were working. No chair was offered to me, the result being that I could not be seated, and that none of my movements could escape the notice of the employees."

Rameau de Saint-Père, introduced by Beamish Murdock, had travelled the whole way from France to Halifax to glean materials from the Official Records and Documents that might be of use in his history of Acadia.

The Abbé Casgrain, author of "Un pèlerinage au Pays d'Évangéline" (A Pilgrimage to the land of Évangéline) of several other notable historical works, when he came to discuss the dispersion of the Acadians, was struck as were Haliburton and Rameau with the number and importance of the "gaps" which adorn the Nova Scotia Archives. He betook himself to London, to make comparative "studies" of the texts in the British Museum and the public Record office. Let him speak for himself:—

"The selection from public documents (Akins' book) has evidently been made with the idea of justifying the Acts of the Nova Scotia Government in their expulsion of the Acadians. To accomplish this there have been systematically rejected or allowed to remain "undiscovered" the most compromising of the official Documents, especially those that might throw a favorable light on the Acadians. Let it be well noted, that the compiler (Akins) has no ground for pleading ignorance, as he himself in many places affords evidence that he has studied the Official Documents of the Public Records Office in order to make comparison with those of Halifax. I myself have compared the "Compilation" at Halifax with the originals in the Public Records Office and have verified omissions so important and so essential as to completely alter the records. I found proofs that my suspicions were but to well founded," (from a Pèlerinage to the land of Évangéline page 39)

Finally the historian Richard is no less explicit. On page 13, vol. 1, of his work: Acadia Missing Links, he declares: "That he has no hesitation in stating that the documents (contained in the N. S. Archives) indicate the grossest partiality in their selection for the evident purpose, but thinly disguised in the preface itself, of making a collection of all the documents and records that might justify the expulsion of the Acadians.

In view to the premises and in order that future historians of Nova Scotia may have more complete and more reliable records to draw from, your petitioners pray that the Government of Nova Scotia appoint one or more persons to make a further selection of historical documents pertaining to the History of Nova Scotia, from the time of the conquest of the country by the English (1710) to the Treaty of Paris (1763) the same to be selected in a broad spirit of impartiality and published as a sequel to Akins "Selections from the Public Documents of the province of Nova Scotia."

Most respectfully submitted,  
PASCAL POIRIER,  
Secretary.

The foregoing resolution was moved by Senator Poirier, seconded by Senator Comeau, and carried unanimously.  
P. P

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23rd. March 1909