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Published by Ronald Caplan on 1980/12/1

don't start collecting that duty again, I'm going to dismiss you. So Cossit backs off and starts collecting again. But there is a period when the duty wasn't collected. And the Governor says, I want that duty collected. And the people who owed the most were the people who were running the coal mines--because rum played an important role in running the coal mines. They try to collect that back duty--and the people running the mines say. No. Governor Ainslie says. In that case, you have to go to court. So the mine operators go to Gibbons to defend them. Gibbons takes it to court--the grounds being that the tax was illegal. Chief Justice A. C. Dodd says, Yes, the tax is illegal because there is no House of Assembly. So with that, the tax money was all cut off. And in effect, the colony is bankrupt. Gibbons hoped the crisis would force the Colonial Office to call the House of Assembly. This is 1816. There is a big spate of letters to Britain saying. We're in trouble now, what are we going to do? How are we going to get money? And the Colonial Office has to make a decision. They come to the conclusion, on very little knowledge as to what was happening in Cape Breton--Governor Ainslie hated the people here, had nothing good to say about them, called them the "refuse of the three kingdoms," England, Ireland, and Scotland--the Colonial Office decided that these people must have representation. But, instead of calling their own House of Assembly, it decided to annex Cape Breton to Nova Scotia. Then they'll have representation, they'll be able to get taxes--and this is what is done. Cape Breton is annexed to Nova Scotia by proclamation. But the thing is--it's not legal. It's a long involved case, but when Cape Breton was conquered by the British after the fall of Louisbourg, the island was like booty for the King. The King could do whatever he wanted with it. What he eventually did was to make it a colony, and give it a House of Assembly. Once he had done that, he could do no more with it. It's a limited monarchy. In other words, he's given them a constitution. Once he's done that, the only one that can change that is the House of Parliament, the elected representatives of the people in England. But this annexation in 1820 was done only by the Crown--never went to Parliament, and consequently, it's illegal. And this annexation, to the people on the left, looking for their own House of Assembly--this was a terrible slap in the face. They became the focus toward a reinstatement of our separate status. They were the separatists. And this fight went on way into the 1840s. And it was largely supported by the merchants here in Sydney and Louisbourg. They felt that (a) they were losing government income, salaries, and (b) if we had a separate colony, these businessmen would probably be making decisions. You also get people of principle like Richard Gibbons, who wouldn't have much to gain from it personally. There are rallies and many petitions over the years are sent to Great Britain--and very large numbers of people favour separation in this end of the island. And their attempt is to try to convince people in Isle Madame and later in the Inverness area--they are always sending letters over to try to get them involved. But they are unsuccessful. Out in the countryside, the only people other than the merchants who will have any influence are the Roman Catholic priests--and these priests were taking or?



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