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ish--so most priests were opposed to separation. The only place you get evidence of any reaction toward or against separation in Inverness County is down around Judique and Port Hood. The priests there, Alexander MacDonald and others, are anti-separatists, and they won't let their people sign a petition. So the separatists try to make inroads sub rosa; we have letters of merchants writing to merchants-- S. G. Archibald from the Sydney-North Sydney area trying to get Wm. McKeen on the Inverness County coast to use his economic clout. (But all very civilized.) Oh, yes. No war. No rebellion. It's all rallies, meetings, elections. It's interesting that later, when we get the labour troubles, we do go into rebellion. But I don't think we go in? to rebellion here because I don't think the Cape Breton personality is set yet. The Scots haven't been here long enough. The loyalists and the businessmen are still big here--the English. The French are controlled by the Jerseymen, and may not know what's going on. (And these men, while they wanted to rebel against this issue, did not want to rebel against the system.) Certainly not against the Crown. There is great faith in the British Constitution at the time--tremendous faith... (Which, had it been followed, we would still be a separate colony.) Actually, that's right. Because after all those petitions, they hire lawyers in England, they make trips over--and it is finally brought to the Privy Council in England. In the 1840s they realize they've got to face ?? this problem in the Colonial Office, because the annexation is illegal. And they recognize that it is illegal. And the reason for this being so important is that, during the 1820s, for the first time large amounts of capital had come in, the General Mining Association was founded. It is not because we're now annexed to Nova Scotia--the capital would have come in anyway at that time. It was the first vast infusion of outside capital to Cape Breton since Louisbourg. And if we had been a colony it would have been tremendous, because the money brought in steam engines to pump out mines, clean out the water, take out the coal--engineers and technicians came-- they began spending hundreds of thousands of pounds. And if we'd have been a separate colony, the royalty from the coal would have come to Sydney, to Cape Breton. And every cent of that royalty went instead to Halifax. In fact, so much money came in that coal became a chief source of income for the whole Province of Nova Scotia. Some of it found its way back here in roads, I suppose, but Cape Breton was so far behind the rest of Nova Scotia after annexation, because for so many years we couldn't build our roads--and such a huge population had come in, much more than the rest of the province. It was a developing area. The money was needed here, and yet it was distributed across the province.

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