

the longest succession of them. When it is, or where it is deficient in fertility, stable and yard manure are used, or resort is had to the vast stores of sea-weed, "muscle-mud," which is a natural deposit of muscles, shells, decayed vegetable matter, &c., found in the bays and creeks, and even to the ordinary salt mud everywhere found in the creeks, all of which possess much fertilizing power, and the first two a very remarkable degree of it.

The climate is singularly healthful. The winters are long and severe, and the summers warm, vegetation coming forward with wonderful quickness. But the extremes of heat and cold are not so great as in Canada; the fogs of parts of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and Newfoundland are unknown, and the air is clear, dry, bracing, and peculiarly healthful. No intermittent fevers are known, and those suffering with them soon recover. Invalids and feeble persons very frequently regain health and strength on taking up a residence on the island; and consumption is seldom met with. It is by no means uncommon to meet persons of ninety or one hundred years old, still able to labor in the open air, and who have never known a day's sickness.

The commerce of the island has consisted in part of the sale of ships, fishing vessels, &c., to England or the other colonies, and in part of the export of the products of its agriculture and the corresponding import trade. The exhaustion of the forests, however, has decreased the attention paid to ship-building; while the other branch of commerce has grown with the increase of population and of farming. As early as in the days of the French dominion, such large supplies were drawn from Prince Edward's Island for Louisbourg, Quebec and other fortresses and settlements, that it was surnamed the granary of North America; and it is said that individual farmers then frequently exported 1,200 bushels a year of grain. The whole exports of the year 1850 were estimated at a value of £65,198; and of imports, £126,095. In 1851 the exports were to the amount of £72,093, of which about one-third was sent to the United States, including 222,109 bushels oats, 17,929 bushels barley, 45,912 bushels potatoes, 3,090 bushels turnips, 1,700 pounds wool, 1,786 barrels pickled fish, 650 quintals dried fish, sixty cwt. iron, and 2,215 hackmatack knees.

The manufactures of the island are principally of linen and flannel for home use. There were in 1848, twenty-seven carding mills, thirteen breweries and distilleries, 116 grist mills, 139 saw-mills, and 216 threshing machines.