

the Spanish Main, the West Indies, South America, Europe, India and China, giving employment to a very large tonnage engaged in this trade, which is carried on from Boston, and supplied by a few small Lakes or Ponds in the State of Massachusetts. So great have been the improvements and increased facilities of the trade, that ice, which at its commencement cost 6 cents per lb. in New Orleans and Havannah, may now be had for one cent. In Calcutta a warehouse, enclosing about three quarters of an acre of ground, has been erected and fitted up to hold 30,000 tons of ice, and a similar depot has been projected in Canton. So long ago as 1841 there were no fewer than sixteen Companies engaged in the Boston ice-trade, which have since greatly increased. In the year 1848 the estimated export was 80,000 tons. The supply is principally from the Wenham Lake, and is conveyed by about 18 miles of railway to Boston.

Let us glance at our own position relative to this trade. A few days will carry off probably not less than a million of tons of pure ice from the immediate front and neighbourhood of the landings of the city of Fredericton, or twelve times the export just mentioned, from Boston, and which was brought eighteen miles by railway. The quality of durability so important to ice, is in proportion to its purity and the temperature to which it has been subjected. The marketable value of our ice, would, in this respect, have an advantage of from 15 to 20 degrees in the intensity of cold as compared with that of Massachusetts, or even of the shores of our own Province. Sawdust, an essential material for packing, exists in and near Fredericton in abundance, to remove which would be a public benefit, and probably no loss to any individual.

I advert in a general way to these facts, to show how, even under present circumstances, it is possible that a place with the advantages of Fredericton, instead of being stagnant during the winter season, may be animated by at least one branch of industry, the raw material of which is prepared by nature to our hands. As to its profitable character, much must, of course, depend on the tact, intelligence, and good management