

the eye. The easily disintegrating character of the rocks forming the subsoil, can scarcely fail to have permitted a great admixture of their ruins with whatever drift may have been brought to constitute a soil; and it is reasonable to suppose that the mineral character of these argillaceous limestones must have given to those ruins a fertile character. It is precisely on such rocks, in such a condition, and with such an attitude, that the best soils of the western peninsula of Canada West are placed, as well as of the Genesee country in the State of New York. I have seen nothing in the actual soil as it exists to induce me to suppose that in so far as soil is considered, Anticosti will be anything inferior to those regions; and considerations of climate only can induce the opinion that it would in any way be inferior to them in agricultural capabilities.

"The three months that I was on the island were altogether too short a time to enable me to form any opinion upon the climate of Anticosti. But taking into view the known fact that large bodies of water are more difficult to cool and more difficult to heat than large surfaces of land, I should be inclined to suppose that Anticosti would not be so cold in winter nor so hot in summer as districts that are more inland and more south, and that it would not compare unfavorably with any part of the country between it and Quebec. While autumn frosts would take effect later at Anticosti, the spring would probably be a little later at Quebec.

"But such is the condition of the island at present, that not a yard of the soil has been turned up by a permanent settler; and it is the case that about a million of acres of good land, at the very entrance from the ocean to the Province, are left to lie waste, while great expenses are incurred to carry settlers to the most distant parts of the west. Taken in connection with the fisheries, and the improvement of the navigation of the St. Lawrence, it appears to me that the establishment of an agricultural population in the island would not only be a profit to the settlers themselves, but a great advantage to the Province at large."

The scenery on Anticosti is tame, but there are parts of the coast where magnificent cliffs face the sea with towering fronts three or four hundred feet high. As no point of the interior is estimated to be more than 700 feet above the ocean, mountain scenery does not exist, but the headlands on the north coast are very picturesque; and being composed of limestone,* they often

* Lower and middle silurian—Caradoc formation.

The Anticosti group, consisting of beds of passage from the lower to the upper silurian, and supposed to be synchronous with the Oneida conglomerate, the Medina sandstone, and the Clinton group of the New York survey, and with the Caradoc formation of England.—*Billings; Geological Survey of Canada.*