

There are tracts of excellent land along the margin of many of the rivers which traverse even this district. On receding from the shore, the soil greatly improves, owing probably to the greater prevalence of clay slate in the underlying rocks; and in the northern districts of all those counties which front upon the Atlantic, it is of a good quality and amply repays the labours of the farmer. The county of *Halifax*, with the exception of the beautiful and fertile valley along the upper part of the *Musquodoboit River*, belongs to the granitic district; and it contains a greater proportion of rocky and unproductive soil than any other county in the province.

The soil of *Lunenburg*, although generally stony, is for the most part of a good quality; and many flourishing agricultural settlements are scattered over the county.

In *Queen's County* the land, for some distance back from the shore, is principally of an unproductive character; but it improves very much as it recedes into the interior. In the northern part of the county there are large and rapidly extending agricultural settlements.

In *Shelburne County*, the comparatively barren shoreband seems to widen and extend somewhat farther back than in *Queen's County*; but here, too, there are tracts of valuable land in the rear of the county. The population however is, as yet, almost confined to the vicinity of the shore, and is engaged more in the fisheries than in agricultural pursuits, there being a smaller number of farmers in this county than in any other in the province.

The soil of *Yarmouth County* is of the same general character as that which we find in *Lunenburg*, and in the northern parts of *Queen's* and *Shelburne Counties*. The upland soil is pretty nearly of a uniform quality throughout this county; and, owing to the higher average temperature of the climate, compared with that of most other agricultural districts of the province, is capable, under good cultivation, of yielding highly remunerative returns to the husbandman. This County exceeds all the others along the southern coast in the extent of the dyked marsh lands, which lie along the shores of its many harbours and inlets. This marsh is, however, insignificant in quantity, and inferior in quality, when compared with that of counties which lie along the bay of Fundy and its tributaries.

The whole of this Atlantic coast district—including the southern half of the county of *Guysborough*, which is very similar in every respect to *Halifax County*—presents many attractions for the farmer, although not usually represented as a valuable agricultural district. The land of good quality in this district is frequently stony and somewhat difficult to clear