

also more easily wrought than the wood of those Northern countries.

This trade in our Province was then so extensive that a partner of the leading mercantile firm in Pictou informed me that one year they furnished cargoes of timber to as many as 70 vessels. During the same early period there were several other firms in Pictou which furnished cargoes, some of them in rather large numbers. I was further informed, that either in 1809 or 1810 the merchants in the town of Pictou alone, loaded with timber as many as 120 square rigged vessels, several of them of large tonnage. Estimating according to the average size of the vessels, this number must have taken away at least 40,000 tons, besides the other portions of valuable wood for small and convenient stowage. But, there were a great number of other ports, in the Eastern section of the Province, from which large or considerable quantities were yearly exported, and through rather a long course of years. As the lumber was then abundant and in general readily procured, and the prices both to the maker and the merchant were often high and profitable, if the business had been prudently and economically conducted it would always have been fairly remunerative; and all the persons engaged in it would have gone on improving their circumstances, from year to year. But this was far from being the case. The prospects of success seemed, indeed, to be so fair or rather certain, for a number of years, that most especially in the section of the province already mentioned, nearly all persons in one way or other were engaged in the business. In the year 1809 the average price of good pine timber,