

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 altitude, 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.

"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 connexion 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."