

tion amongst them is to a great extent by water; the roads not being very good, though now increasing in number and improving in quality.

The inhabitants are remarkably tenacious of their various hereditary manners and customs, and of their religious opinions and modes of worship. They are almost universally in circumstances of comfort, but are not remarkably neat nor thorough in household economy or in agriculture. The singular maritime advantages of their situation, and the mineral and natural productions of the island, also frequently draw them away from the quiet and unexciting pursuit of farming.

The animals and fish of Cape Breton are similar to those of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The moose, formerly plentiful, has become quite scarce, having been indiscriminately slaughtered merely for their skins. The caribou is still found, and very fine salmon and trout may be caught in great abundance.

It is computed that about 500,000 acres of good farming land may be found on the island, all capable of pasturing sheep and cattle, and very much of it of bearing fine crops of barley, rye, buckwheat, potatoes, hemp and flax. The best land is found around the Bras d'Or, on the streams entering it, and along many of the other river valleys. Fogs and rains are quite prevalent on the Atlantic coast, but the climate is on the whole remarkably healthy, and instances are frequent of persons who attain to the age of ninety and even a hundred years.

The rocks of Cape Breton are chiefly granite, limestones, and primitive slate. The coal deposits of Sydney have already been mentioned; and other profitable mines are worked in several parts of the southern district. Excellent iron ore is also found in large quantities. There are some fine salt springs, and large deposits of gypsum.

While the French occupied Louisbourg, it is said that not less than 500,000 quintals of codfish were exported yearly from Cape Breton, and that 600 vessels were occupied in its trade and fishery. The fisheries are still the most important of its interests; and the following statistics, from the latest accessible public returns, describe its present exports and imports. They are, however, known to be very far below the actual amount, partly owing to the difficulty of separating them from the returns of Nova Scotia.

The number of vessels clearing inward at the ports of Cape Bre-