

If you glance at the map you will observe that Nova Scotia constitutes a peninsula, connected by the isthmus of Chignecto with the province of New Brunswick, and that, consequently, the communication of the river and gulf of the St. Lawrence with the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantic ports of the United States can only be established either by going round Cape Breton or by sailing through the Strait of Canso. It is intended to connect the gulf of the St. Lawrence with the Bay of Fundy by a canal at Baie Verte, which will save between the upper parts of the St. Lawrence and New York more than 500 miles of navigation, to Boston and Portland 400 miles, and to St. John at least 300 miles. In the mouth of the gulf lies Newfoundland, having advantages of position and containing within itself undeveloped sources of riches and national strength, which might well stay our inquiry for this whole evening, were we not bound to hasten on to vaster areas and more wonderful storehouses of nature. 1,200 miles round, the whole coast swarming with fish, it has regions wholly unexplored of richly wooded lands and fine alluvial soil. Mr. Murray, the provincial geologist, has during the summer reported to his Government the discovery upon the Gander River of vast forests of valuable timber, and of a country capable of supporting an agricultural population of at least 100,000 people; and this is but an instalment of future promise.

Passing through the Straits of Belle Isle you enter upon inland waters stretching inwards for 2,200 miles. The distance to Lake Ontario is 700 miles, and a vessel of 4,000 tons can steam unobstructed to Montreal, a distance little short of 600 miles from the entrance of the River St. Lawrence. On either side is an endless panorama of boldness and beauty, of wildness and cultivation, from the highland mountains of Gaspé to the smiling fields and quaint villages of the Isle d'Orleans stretched out in a patchwork of cultivation. This is the province of Quebec. And what a province! Let me group together a few facts about it. Its length between 700 and 1,000 miles, its breadth about 300. In area it occupies 193,355 square miles, or nearly 124,000,000 of acres.