

One act, however, of the busy lieutenant gives him a special claim to our gratitude. On the sixth of November 1721, he wrote a dispatch to the Minister of Marine and Colonies, in which he gives the first detailed account of the interior of the Island of St. John, its harbors, its rivers, timber, soil, birds and animals. I have thought that, to many, the contents of this dispatch would prove of sufficient interest to warrant their appearance in the Prince Edward Island Magazine.

De la Ronde describes the Island as shaped like a crescent, measuring in length fifty and in width eight leagues. "We are," he writes, "in Port Lajoie, one of the most beautiful harbours that eye could behold. Into it, three great rivers empty themselves, the North East River with a course of sixteen leagues, the South West with four, and the North North West with three." The timber that covered the Island pleased him much: in quantity it was abundant, in quality excellent. The streams that water the interior of the Island are, he says, well suited for the erection of saw mills, which could find constant and profitable employment cutting pine and oak planks for ship building. With the fertile meadows of Grand Pre in his memory, the writer sets much store by the luxuriant pasture that covers the flats of the three rivers. As to the soil and its capabilities, he contents himself with the very moderate statement, that it was greatly superior to the soil of Cape Breton.

In enumerating the harbours of the Island, De La Ronde seems to have directed his attention exclusively to the northern shore. To this he may have been led by the belief, that the best fishing grounds lay off that coast. The harbour of Tranch Montagne, which he places on the eastern shore at the distance of about a league from the East Point, is the only exception. He describes this harbour as being practicable for boats only. From the fact that it was settled during the first year that the emigrants arrived from France, and remained settled for many years after, and from the appearance of cellars, and other marks of the abodes of man found on the shores of South Lake, it is every way probable that the Tranch Montagne of the French lay there. Fourteen leagues to the west from East Point, De La Ronde arrives at an important