

only a fine commercial harbor, but also an excellent central spot for commanding, with a few steam vessels and for sending out cruisers up the latter, or to any part

in the most convenient and the two entrances of the river,

The island on the south side generally rises from (but at the entrance of Observation River it is between) to the centre where a range of moderate sized hills appear on the north side to terminate in steep cliff: It is mostly composed of granite near the shore (like those upon a great part of the coast) which become gradually larger as they approach the interior of the wind and sea. This is very remarkable upon some islands where they are very small, and gradually increase in size from each side to the centre those nearest the sea being sometimes quite white in appearance, from the salt which is thrown, and crystallises upon them. The trees are spruce, fir, red and white birch ash, quantities of very fine tamarack and upon the north side of the island, some good sized pine.

to sixty feet above the beach (at high,) and is nearly level the entire length, and upon the thick forest of trees, stunted and of other countries,) but less exposed to the influence where at the exposed points

With the tamarack and pine growing there and the immense quantities of valuable timber drifted upon the island from Quebec and other places after easterly gale many ships might be built every year. Like the valuable meadows for cattle and sheep, which have recently been discovered in Minnesota, in the Far West there are here many very fine natural meadows, producing rich grasses five and six feet high, and in some parts there are alternate ranges of wood and open plain. On the south side of the island there are several Peat bogs of some extent, and some salt marshes, caused by the overflowing of the sea at certain periods which must tend to fertilize rather than to impoverish the land; and near the south-west point there are some large salt ponds, which were labour plentiful there, might be turned to account in the manufacture of salt a manufacture which would become of some value to a great part of our North American fisheries, which as well as the whole of Canada, are now supplied with salt from England or the United States; and for curing fish and provisions, bay salt formed from the sea and from salt ponds is the most valuable. It consequently of their not having been a sufficient supply of salt upon the Island, an immense quantity of fish caught at Anticosti last year had to be thrown away; and during the present season, the fishermen at Avicht, Cape Breton, were forced to sell mackerel at from six pence to ten pence a hundred or to see them rot upon the beach through not having enough salt to cure them with. This latter circumstance occurred at a time when mackerel was selling at Boston for nineteen dollars a barrel. Some of the Bahama islands are retained merely on account of the salt ponds which they contain, and at Ceylon a large revenue is derived from the salt works carried on in that island.

It is now time to notice those resources belonging to Anticosti, which, being wholly independent of soil and climate may be turned to immediate account. These resources principally consist of its *sea and river fisheries*, which although comparatively neglected by Canada, may be classed among the most valuable fisheries of British North America.

In the recent report, published by the New-Brunswick Government upon the fisheries that province, mention is made of the valuable whole and cod fisheries existing upon the coasts of Anticosti; and it is stated that the Jersey-Houses fit out vessels so carry on the former upon both sides of the island and up the St. Lawrence as far as Bic, some of the Whales (hump backs) being seventy feet long, and yielding eight tons of oil; while the fishermen of Gaspé frequently resort to the east end of the island, and take cod in great abundance.

In his work entitled Newfoundland in 1842, Sir Richard Bonnycastle states, that the whale fishing is pursued along the coast of Labrador in and through the straits of Belleisle (close to Anticosti,) and that whales of all sizes are taken, from the smallest finner to the largest mysticetus or great common oil whale of the Northern Ocean which occasionally visits these regions. It thus