

carried off in such quantities to Quebec and Halifax, that the assembly passed an act, in 1828, prohibiting their export for a considerable period.

It is a singular fact that, with almost unrivaled advantages of situation and harbors, the fisheries should have attracted so little attention from the inhabitants of the island. It is true that the fertility of the soil is no less remarkable; but it would naturally be expected that the more adventurous life and more rapid gains of the fisheries would have had as much influence here as they have had in the other neighboring provinces. But so far is this from being the case, that even the Charlotte Town market is but ill supplied with fish, and the exports of it are comparatively trifling.

Agriculture is the principal occupation of the island; and one for which it is most strikingly adapted by the almost uniform excellence of its soil, and the favorable nature of its climate. Wheat is raised in abundance, and a large surplus exported; rye, buckwheat, barley and oats, all produce heavy crops of excellent quality; beans and peas, and all kinds of esculent roots and culinary vegetables, grow in the utmost perfection. Cherries, plums, currants and gooseberries, thrive well. The apples have not commonly been so good, probably from poor management, as careful culture has produced some excellent ones, and the climate can not be reckoned unfavorable to them, since some trees planted by the French before 1758 were bearing well in 1830. Flax and all the grasses grow well; hemp and Indian corn do not seem so well adapted to the soil. Potatoes are a large and staple crop of the island, and are famous for their excellence, not only at home, but throughout large portions of British North America and the United States. Horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, thrive well; the horses, many of which are of the Canadian breed, are remarkably hardy and enduring. There is only one circumstance unfavorable to agricultural pursuits, and this merely calls for somewhat increased providence for the future. This is the length of the winters, which renders it necessary to lay in a large quantity of fodder, viz., not less than a ton of hay per head for black cattle, and in a corresponding proportion for others. Farms are very frequently laid out in long strips, of ten chains front and a hundred chains deep. This is inconvenient on some accounts, but secures each settler a share of road or water frontage.

The soil produces good crops instantly on being redeemed from the forest, and is seldom exhausted even when quite unmanured, by