

light-houses are now maintained at the west, east and south-west points. Along the lowlands of the south coast, a continuous peat plain extends for upwards of eighty miles, with an average breadth of two miles, giving a superficies of 160 miles, with a thickness of peat, as observed on the coast of from three to ten feet. This extensive peat plain—probably the largest in Canada—is about fifteen feet above the ocean.*

An immense quantity of square timber and logs ready cut for the saw mill, are scattered over the south coast, having drifted down the rivers of the main land, and particularly the St. Lawrence. Some of the squared timber may have been derived from wrecks. Mr. Richardson, of the Geological Survey of Canada, who explored Anticosti in 1856, calculated that if the whole of the logs scattered along the south shore of the Island were placed end to end, they would reach one hundred and forty miles, and give about one million cubic feet of timber. Mr. Richardson concludes his report on this Island with the following paragraphs :

“ The strata of Anticosti being nearly horizontal, cannot fail to give to the surface of the country a shape in some degree conforming to them. The surface will be nearly a level plain, with only such modifications as are derived from the deeper wearing in a longitudinal direction of some of the softer beds, producing escarpments of no great elevation, with gentle slopes from their summits in a direction facing the sun, that will scarcely be perceptible to

houses were placed there, since the erection of which, and the late survey of its coasts, wrecks upon the island have become less frequent. Most of those which now occur there are caused by the neglect of using the lead in foggy weather, many of them through the incapacity or drunkenness of masters, who generally are shamefully underpaid, and some of them through design, for the purpose of cheating the underwriters. Of these latter cases the insurance offices are perfectly aware ; but, instead of endeavoring to meet them by preventive measures, they increase the rates of insurance so as to cover such losses, by estimating for them in a certain proportion to the whole ; thus making the entire trade pay for the dishonest acts of the rogue. This having the effect to increase the price of freight, by which the public are the sufferers, in having to pay a proportionably increased price for all articles imported, the Government should in future institute a strict inquiry into the loss of every ship in the river or gulf, by means of a naval police, and be empowered to inflict punishment where criminal design or even gross carelessness or drunkenness may be proved to have attended such loss. Those masters who desire to lose their ships, generally select Anticosti for the purpose, because they can always manage to run them ashore there without any danger to life, and without much risk of the circumstances attending the act being witnessed or understood by persons on shore ; and the provision posts being now well supplied, there is no danger, as there was formerly, of their suffering from the want of food. Thus many of the wrecks which take place there are produced in consequence of the ease with which a vessel may be beached, with safety to life, on many parts of the island, and not through its dangers of coast. In regard to the latter, those masters who know the coasts of the island well, generally make free with them (unless there happen to be a fog), in perfect confidence and safety, by which they gain headway much faster than by keeping in the centre of the channel, or along the south shore of the main land.—*Resources and Capabilities of the Island of Anticosti, by A. R. Roche, Esq.*

* Mr. Richardson ; Geological Survey of Canada.