

of coal in many places ; and at one point masses of cinders mark the spot where it was once set on fire and continued burning for some years.

St. Peter's is a small settlement at the isthmus which connects the northern and southern portions of the island. The distance at this point between the head of St. Peter's Bay and the Bras d'Or, is only about 900 yards. Persons traveling between the shore of Bras d'Or and Nova Scotia, or elsewhere, often draw their boats across the isthmus with oxen ; a route for a canal has been surveyed across it, which would cost, as estimated, about £17,000, and would be of very great advantage to the island.

Arichat, on Madame Island, at the southern entrance of the Gut of Canseau, is the most flourishing town of Cape Breton. Its population, which is over 2,000, mostly Acadian French, are employed in fishing and in the coasting trade. It is a port of entry, and exports considerable quantities of cured fish.

The Gut of Canseau is a narrow passage about twenty-one miles long, and in many places only about one mile wide. It is the safest and nearest passage into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and is crowded with vessels during the summer and autumn. The scenery along its shores is picturesque and sublime ; and its tides present some curious phenomena, sometimes flowing the same way for several successive days.

Port Hood, or Justaucorps Harbor, eighteen miles north of the Gut of the Canseau, has an excellent harbor, good fisheries, and about it is much good pasture land. Cheticamp, a fishing town seventeen miles north of Marguerite River, on the western coast, has a harbor for schooners, and some fishing establishments. The coast from this point to North Cape is iron-bound and precipitous, almost uninhabited, and has been the scene of very many dreadful shipwrecks. Cape North is a rocky point, at the extreme northern end of the island. Between it and Cape Egmont, on the eastern or Atlantic coast, is Aspè Bay, which has a very fine beach, on which is found a fine heavy black sand, consisting almost entirely of iron. Many coins are from time to time thrown up here by the sea, doubtless from some wreck. The soil in its vicinity is fertile, but the fogs of the fishing banks render the climate uncertain for some of the drier crops, such as wheat.

The towns and localities thus enumerated are those of most importance and interest on the island of Cape Breton. Communica-