

River, and on which about Two hundred Families might gain a comfortable existence.

There are also many spots of excellent Land at a short distance in the interior.

To sum up the whole it may be said that between the Black River and the Saguenay, and within Five or Six Miles of the Banks of the Saint Lawrence, enough good land may be found for the support of Five hundred to Six hundred Families. The Climate is similar to that of Malbaie, at which place Grain of all kinds is produced in abundance.

In the event of its being thought advisable to encourage the settlement of the Country in the neighbourhood of Chicoutimy, it may be of service to mention, that the face of the Country is level, and the Soil good, after crossing the first range of Mountains in the rear of Malbaie, and that in a straight line, the distance between these two places cannot exceed Sixty Miles, the Journey having been accomplished on Snow Shoes in two days.

Mr. *Louis Vallé*, Mariner, called in and examined :

I have navigated and traded during Twenty Years among the Settlements along the North Shore of the River Saint Lawrence from Quebec to Esquimaux Bay. I have stopped at almost all the Posts between Portneuf and Esquimaux Bay aforesaid. Portneuf is Ten Leagues below Tadoussac, and Esquimaux Bay is Four hundred Leagues from Quebec. I think the Climate at Portneuf nearly the same as it is at Quebec. The farther the River is descended the greater is the severity of the Climate. At Esquimaux Bay the Winter is Eight Months long. The Shore of the River below Mingan consists of bare Rocks and rugged Mountains. I do not know the nature of the Soil or the productions between Portneuf and Mingan. I resided at the Post of Mécatina, Two hundred and fifty Leagues from Quebec. I have been Five Leagues into the interior. The Men of the Posts have penetrated Thirty or Forty Leagues into the Interior, following the course of the Rivers. Their Reports are that the whole country is mountainous and comprises many Lakes. There is little difference between Mécatina and Esquimaux Bay as to cold.

*Samuel Neilson*, Esquire, was called in and examined :

Q. Have you had any and what means of becoming acquainted with the Country lying on the North Shore of the Saint Lawrence below Malbaie ?

A. In the Summers of Eighteen hundred and twenty-three and of last year I visited about Fifty Miles of this Coast, viz : as far as Les Bergeronnes, a few Leagues below the Estuary of the Saguenay. Both times I only ran along the Shore in a Bark Canoe, or in a Sail Boat. I no where went farther into the Country than two or Three Miles, and then I followed a Bay or a River ; I can therefore give very little information to the Committee.