

of salt upon the Island, an immense quantity of fish caught at Anticosti, a year or two ago, were rendered useless.

In Commander Lavoie's Report for 1872, he says that geologists and others, who have visited the interior of the Island, agree in stating that its soil is rich, and that more than one million acres can be cultivated with advantage. Clearances have already been made at Gamache, (Ellis Bay, at South-West and at West Point, where the vegetables and grains of the district of Montreal and Quebec flourish. Stories, however, of the numerous wrecks that have occurred on the shore of Anticosti have spread such a terror that, up to 1861, nobody had thought of settling there. The reefs of flat limestone, extending in some parts to one mile and a quarter from the shore; the want of anchorage of a great portion of the coast, and above all, the frequent fogs, justify this belief, in part, but not in so great a degree as to render reasonable the dread with which they seem to have been regarded, and which can only have arisen from the natural tendency to magnify dangers, of which we have no precise knowledge.

Streams of excellent water descend to the sea on every part of the coasts of Anticosti. They are, for the most part, too small to admit boats, becoming rapid immediately within their entrances, and even the largest of them are barred with sand, excepting for short intervals of time, after the spring floods, or after continued heavy rains.

There is no doubt that in a very few years there will be a numerous population on the Island, as applications for land are being constantly received by the Anticosti Company, and the survey is being pressed forward with all practicable speed. Had the Island been thrown open for settlement years ago, it would be in a very different position, commercially speaking, from what it now is; but once opened, and found to be equally productive with the Maritime Provinces and Prince Edward Island, there is no reason why in a few decades it should not rival the latter. For long neglected and discarded, Anticosti now has a chance of prominence, and the Dominion will hail the advent of another link in her chain, which, though it may never assume the title now borne by Prince Edward Island, "the gem of the Gulf," may yet prove as valuable a jewel in the diadem of Confederation.