

between the Island, St. John, and Atlantic ports in the United States, perishable articles, and those which are injured by re-handling, as is done at Point du Chene and Pictou, when transferred to railway, or those which deteriorate rapidly while being transported by water, will be carried to their destination in the shortest possible time without having either to break bulk or be delayed in transit, as is now being done by those steamers which pass through Canso and touch at various ports, whereby much loss as well as costs are now incurred by shipping by water, and by water and rail either from Point du Chene or from Pictou, and as the exports from Prince Edward Island consist largely of food products, the fact of their perishableness is patent.

The amount of those agricultural products on which the Island so largely depends is also vastly on the increase, the consequent trade differing in that respect from such a trade as that followed by the lumbermen of the Maritime Provinces of Canada, in which the source of supply is constantly decreasing.

The chief forest wealth of New Brunswick is now to be found on the shores of those rivers which empty into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Of this fact any one can convince himself by examining the returns of monies paid for dues into the treasury of the Province of New Brunswick for timber cut on the crown lands of that Province.

So rapidly are the exports of Prince Edward Island increasing that from the year 1871 to 1882 and 1883 they more than doubled in value. Considering also that Prince Edward Island, in proportion to its area, has more cultivable land than any other of the Canadian Provinces, and that it has an acreage of 1,365,400 acres with only a population of about 120,000, one can readily understand to what an extent its productions must increase.

The two steamers, "St. Lawrence" and "Princess of Wales," which have run from the Island to Point du Chene and Pictou for many years, although slow and inferior, have earned much money for their stockholders. I was unable to obtain any returns as to the receipts of these stockholders from their investments, as returns are not given to the public. I know, however, from what I have heard on the Island that they are large.