

by the tide ; in which case they produce a strong but nutritious grass, and if dyked, very heavy crops of hay or grain.

The whole of the island was originally covered with a strong growth of forest trees, mostly pine, spruce, hemlock, beech, birch and maple. There are many large poplars, and white cedar is found in the northern districts. Oak, elm, ash, and larch, are not very common, and the wood of the first is poor. There are many other smaller trees. Tremendous fires have raged in the forests at different times, and the tracts laid bare by their fury have not yet always been filled by a second growth. These fires destroyed large quantities of pines, and large quantities more have been used for houses and shipbuilding ; so that now there is probably no more than is needed for the island itself. Sarsaparilla, ginseng, and other medicinal plants, abound. Among the fruits which grow wild, are an astonishing profusion of raspberries, strawberries, cranberries, blue berries, and whortleberries.

Among the native quadrupeds are, the bear, loup-cervier, fox, hare, otter, muskrat, mink, weasel, squirrel, &c. Bears and loup-cerviers formerly made much havoc among flocks, but a bounty was given for their destruction by government, and they are now comparatively rare. Otters and martins were formerly plenty, but as well as the muskrat, have been so much hunted as to become scarce. In the early part of the present century, mice were so plentiful and destructive that they have been known to destroy a whole field of wheat in one night. At present they do little injury. In the early days of the colony, the walrus used to frequent its shores in such numbers that a considerable profit was made on their oil, skins and teeth. They have, however, not been seen for forty or fifty years, though still sometimes to be found at the Magdalen Islands and other places to the northward. The harbor seal haunts the shore during summer and autumn ; and vast numbers of harp seals sometimes float into the neighborhood on ice from the north.

Birds of all kinds abound ; wild geese, brant, wild ducks, wild pigeons, and partridges are all plentiful and excellent in their seasons, the latter being protected from the sportsman by a law of the province prohibiting shooting them between April first and September first.

The fish and shell-fish of the waters of the island are those of all the waters of the gulf of St. Lawrence and its tributary streams. The oysters are esteemed remarkably fine, and were at one time