

easily disintegrating character of the rocks forming the subsoil can scarcely fail to have permitted a great admixture of their ruins with whatever drift may have been brought to constitute a soil, and it is reasonable to suppose that the mineral character of these argillaceous limestones must have given to those *debris* a fertile character. It is precisely on such rocks, in such a position, and with such an attitude, that the best soils of the west peninsular of Western Canada, as well as those of the Genesee country, in the State of New York, are placed. I have seen nothing in the actual soil," says Mr. Richardson, "to induce me to suppose that, in so far as soil is concerned, Anticosti will be anything inferior to those regions, and considerations of climate only can induce the opinion that it would be in any way inferior to them in agricultural capabilities. The three months that I was on the island were altogether too short a time to enable me to form any opinion upon the climate of Anticosti. But taking into view the known fact that large bodies of water are more equable in their temperature than large surfaces of land, I should be inclined to suppose that Anticosti would not be so cold in winter, nor hot in summer, as districts that are more inland and more south, and that it would not compare unfavourably with any district between it and Quebec. While the autumn frosts would take effect later at Anticosti, the spring would probably be a little earlier at Quebec. But such is the condition of the island at present, that not a yard of soil has been turned up by a permanent settler, and it is the case that about a million of acres of good land, at the very entrance from the ocean to the province, are left to lie waste, while great expenses are incurred to carry settlers to the most distant parts of the west."

Another important settling country of great prospects, lying between Quebec and the Gulf, has been discovered by Sir W. Logan, the details of which will be given in his next report to the Provincial Government. In a recent letter he says:—"Last summer one of my exploring parties visited the valley of Lake St. John, on the Saguenay. After passing the gneiss rocks, which give such grandeur to the scenery of the Lower Saguenay, and such a forbidding agricultural aspect to the land for a breadth of 50 miles, this party were very much surprised to find themselves in a valley, which, though 2 deg. north of Quebec, has a climate mild enough to ripen Indian corn and grow excellent wheat, and, in fact, to produce all that is produced between Montreal and Kingston. They went forward into this valley to the westward for 75 miles; it had then a breadth of 50 miles, and the boundaries of it on each side appeared to run on far enough to give 30 miles more in length, so that we may say 5,000 square miles of a good settling country were visible. The soil was generally argillaceous, and the entire valley appeared to be underlaid by lime-feldspar. Settlement is gradually extending into it, and the inhabitants are very prosperous."

Let me now briefly recapitulate the amount of accommodation which Canada offers to new settlers, and you will have a good idea of the enormous resources of the country. Her present population is about 2,500,000, while her lands already occupied are equal to the support of a population of 10 millions. Then we have Anticosti, with its million of fertile acres; the St. John's Lake Valley, where upwards of 3,000,000 acres have already been made known; and, lastly, the important districts lying between the Ottawa and Lake Huron, where government allotments are now being made. Beyond these, the vast territories of the N. W. stretch out their arms wide enough to receive the surplus population of the old world for well-nigh all time to come.

The paper concludes by noticing the efforts made by the Minister of Agriculture in Canada to attract a valuable class of immigrants to the Province, and pointing out summarily the inducements to such an immigration.

DISCUSSION.

The CHAIRMAN asked Professor Wilson whether he could give them any information about a celebrated fish of Lake Superior, "the siskawit," alluded to by Mr. Simmonds, in a paper in the third volume of the Society's *Journal*, page 40. He would read the following passage referring to it:—

"The siskawit, a fish of Lake Superior, is reported to be the fattest fish that swims either in fresh or salt water. The fishermen say that one of these fish, when hung by the tail in the hot sun of a summer's day will melt and entirely disappear except the bones. In packing about fifty barrels last season at Isle Royale, one of the fishermen made two and a half barrels of oil from the heads and leaf fat alone, without the least