

portion of the interior being at a greater distance than thirty miles from the coast, and all her shores being indented and provided with fine harbours, splendid bays, rivers and estuaries, generally accessible at all seasons of the year, render her essentially a Maritime Province. Besides being the nearest portion of the American Continent to Europe, she now appropriately forms the Eastern threshold or gateway of Canada, and it can be reasonably predicted that she must of necessity form an ever increasing and important link in the noble chain of Provinces that span the Continent from shore to shore.

The Province consists of a peninsula and the Island of Cape Breton, which is separated from Nova Scotia proper by a narrow Strait called Canso, an outlet of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is bounded on the North by the Northumberland Straits and Gulf of St. Lawrence; on the East, South and Southwest by the Atlantic Ocean; on the Northwest by the Bay of Fundy and part of New Brunswick. It lies between North Latitude $43^{\circ} 25'$ and $47^{\circ} 10'$, and between $59^{\circ} 40'$ and $60^{\circ} 25'$ of Longitude west from Greenwich. Its area is nearly 21,731 square miles, of about 13,009,000 acres. Of this area the Island of Cape Breton has about 2,500,000 acres.

Nova Scotia extends eastwardly about two hundred miles farther than any other portion of North America, except Labrador; and from the highest eastern part of Cape Breton, a view, on a clear day, can be obtained of the Newfoundland coast. Its extreme southerly extension is about one hundred miles farther than any other part of British America. Its position in this respect causes a variation in the climate of the country; the lower or southern portion being much warmer by several degrees in winter than the higher or northeastern part.

Probably no country in the world of equal extent possesses a coast line indented with so many bays, harbours, estuaries and arms of the sea, navigable for the largest ships, as Nova Scotia. First in importance is

HALIFAX HARBOUR,

on the western shore of which is built the capital of the country. Justly celebrated as one of the finest harbours in the world, embracing in its extent the North West Arm and Bedford Basin, the latter a noble sheet of water, having an area of about ten square miles, and separated from the main or lower harbour by a deep but narrow passage. In this basin it has been said the combined fleets of the world might anchor in safety, secure from the storms of the Atlantic outside. The North West Arm, a narrow but picturesque inlet—its sloping shores dotted at present with the suburban villas of the wealthy inhabitants of the neighbouring city, of which it forms the rear boundary—is navigable for a distance of three miles, and affords safe anchorage in ten or twenty fathoms of water. The capital of the country, named Halifax in honour of an Earl of that name, is built, as before remarked, on the western side of the main harbour. It contains about 40,000 inhabitants, and presents a pleasing aspect when viewed from the harbour side. The streets being laid out with regularity, and the many trees and gardens which adorn it, give it a very handsome appearance. It is now the deep water terminus of the Intercolonial Railway, having in connection therewith extensive wharves and stores, with an elevator capable of affording facilities for a large transportation of grain to Europe. Halifax, also, is admirably situated in a commercial point of view, and is destined ere long to rival New York and Montreal, as the chief port for entry and departure of ocean going steamships.

East and West of Halifax Harbour the coast is indented with upwards of twenty harbours and bays, all capable of anchorage for first class ships, and, in addition, there are also forty other harbours of less size and capacity; the most of them are, however, available for vessels of five hundred tons. The whole of these are comprized within the distance of little more than 300 miles.

The Bay of Fundy, which forms the north-western boundary of the Province, is one hundred miles long and forty miles wide. At its head are two smaller bays, namely, Chignecto or Cumberland Basin, and Minas Basin, which terminates in a smaller basin called Cobequid Bay. Minas Basin, including Cobequid Bay, is upwards of fifty miles in length. It is a beautiful sheet of water, penetrating nearly into the heart of the Province, and receives the waters of nearly twenty rivers, which flow through and irrigate the fertile Counties of Kings, Hants and Colchester.