

"*Rye* unfortunately was not sown this year in as great quantity as during the past few years, and although the crop was generally good, in some parts it has been a complete failure on account of the excessive heat in July and August. Any of it that did ripen was very productive.

"*Barley* was sown in very small quantity on account of the rainy season before seed-time, which prevented the settlers from setting fire to their new clearings in time to sow that grain; but where it was sown, the crop was good and the grain very full.

"*Pens* yielded a good crop. A large quantity was sown, and the good quality of the crop is a subject of general surprise.

"*Oats*.—More of this grain was sown than usual, and the crop has been ample and of superior quality.

"*Hay* is very abundant; it yielded two-thirds more than last year, and was saved in good condition.

"*Potatoes*, although planted in large quantities, yielded but a poor crop, on account of the rust which attacked the leaves in August. Farmers who pulled out the stalks at that time, saved the roots, but the growth was immediately stopped.

"*Flax* is sown by all the settlers, but in very small quantities. If the cultivation of it were increased, and more care taken, they would find it the most lucrative crop. They do not now seem to appreciate its value, and consequently neglect its cultivation. They sow it in the same piece of ground for several consecutive years, and during its growth give it no care whatever.

"The clay soil of the Saguenay is better adapted to the cultivation of flax than that of any part of Lower Canada which I have visited, and if its value as an agricultural product were once really known, important returns would soon result from its cultivation.

"Unless it is cultivated on a large scale, it would be useless to erect machinery to increase its value as a raw material, which would be absolutely necessary, were sufficient encouragement afforded.

"It is impossible to impress the cultivation of this important article too strongly upon the attention of the farmers of this country.

"I am happy to be able to say that the immigration which reaches us from the parishes of the St. Lawrence, is gradually effecting the settlement of the wild lands in the vicinity, but not as rapidly as we could desire.

"The principal cause of this slow progress may be traced to the want of roads and bridges, to enable new settlers to reach the points where they desire to settle. Besides settlements are so scattered in this county that it is impossible, with the small appropriation granted to this agency, to meet the reasonable requirements of colonization in this district.

"The settlers all travel towards Lake St. John, and their means of communication are difficult both by land and water.

"The road from Kaskouia to Kushpaganish is now finished, but that portion of it from Kaskouia to Beau Portage is only opened as a winter road. From Kushpaganish upwards there is no way of passing, except through the forest, or on the beach when the waters of Lake St. John are low, and these roads are only passable on foot.

"You can easily understand the miserable position of settlers who are isolated 20 miles higher up on the borders of the Lake, their only means of communication being in summer by canoes, when the lake is calm, and in winter on the ice of this inland sea; and this, I can assure you, is attended with great danger on account of the snow storms which continually obliterate all traces of the road.

"It has now become a matter of urgent necessity to complete the Kinogami Road from Beau Portage on the Chicoutimi River to Kaskouia, as well as that other portion of the same road from Kushpaganish, at the division line between the Townships of Caron and Métabetchouan, to the settlements of Charlevoix and Roberval, a distance of about 20 miles.

"These two parts of the Kinogami Road, forming a distance of 36 miles in length, would cost, including small bridges, about \$400 per mile. The bridge already commenced over the river Chicoutimi at Beau Portage cannot be completed under a cost of £400. The bridge over Rivière du Sable will cost from £400 to £500. The other rivers which