

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

This is the smallest of the provinces of Canada. It has an area of a little over 2,000 square miles, of which more than 600 square miles are still in forest and woodland. The principal timber is spruce, and the white, black and red varieties are all represented here. The Island is separated from the adjacent provinces by the Straits of Northumberland. It is 150 miles long and varies from 9 to 30 miles in width, and has a population of about 110,000. During the summer daily communication is maintained with the mainland by two lines of steamers, and during the winter, by a line of boats specially built for winter navigation. The climate is moist and cool in summer, while in winter the temperature never drops to a very low point. The total precipitation in rain and snow is from 35 to 40 inches annually.

Facilities for Farming.

Agriculture is the paramount industry in this Province, employing about 80% of the population. The soil is loamy and fertile, and most of it, of a dull red color, having been produced mainly by the disintegration of a soft red sandstone. The chief crops produced on the Island are :—Hay, oats, potatoes and turnips, with smaller proportions of wheat, barley and buckwheat. Formerly large shipments were made every year from the Island, of hay, oats and potatoes, and by the shipping of these crude products the land was being gradually impoverished and its crop-producing power reduced. Recently a better practice has prevailed. In 1892 a stimulus was given to the dairy industry by the establishment of two cheese factories under the management of an officer of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, and this co-operative industry has since grown so rapidly that dairy products are now among the largest items of export from the Island. These amounted, last year, to nearly half a million dollars. The larger part of this revenue is from cheese ; butter, however, is also made on a large scale,