

prosperity of the colony was the final commutation effected during the years 1801-4, for the arrears of government quit-rents, which had been accumulating since 1769. The townships were classed according to circumstances, and assessed at from 4 to 15 years quit-rents as they could bear. The quit-rent system however continued an inconvenient and unpopular mode of raising revenue, and a movement was commenced in 1833, which resulted in its discontinuance, and the substitution of other and more usual modes of raising the necessary income of the province.

Prince Edward's Island lies in a sort of nook or bay of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, embraced as it were between the horns of the deep curve formed by the shore of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. It is about 140 miles long, fifteen to thirty-four miles broad, and contains a total area of 2,134 square miles, or 1,360,000 acres. It is deeply indented by two large bays, Hillsborough bay on the south and Richmond Bay on the north, which divide it naturally into three sections, connected by comparatively narrow isthmuses. Other bays and deep rivers penetrate it so frequently and far that scarcely any portion of it is more than eight miles from tide-water. The appearance of the island is picturesque and pleasing, though without bold features. Most of its surface is level or gently undulating, there being scarcely any high lands except a chain of not very high hills crossing the island in the middle, from De Sable to Grenville Bay.

No limestone, gypsum, coal, iron, or other merchantable mineral has been discovered on the island. Its rock is almost invariably a red sandstone, an occasional isolated boulder of granite being found, lodged by ice in some previous age of the world. There is, however, abundance of good brick clay, and potter's clay. The soil is usually a light reddish loam, in some places approaching the character of clay, in others sandy, but sandy portions of a dark color are commonly very fertile. The soil is strong and rich to a most uncommonly uniform degree, almost the only exceptions being occasional swamps, usually consisting of a spongy turf, or of black mould or muck, resting on white sand. Some of these swamps produce only shrubs and moss; others, alders and long rank grass. When drained however, they make excellent meadow land. There are also a few tracts termed "barrens," usually of a whitish sand, and producing only a few dried mosses and shrubs; but all such land is probably capable of improvement. Some of the salt marshes are overflowed