

of Paris Cove, in the Gut of Canso, and other Harbours of the Island outside of the Lakes, and which might be an article of considerable export to the United States, under the fostering care of a Legislature in this Island. Lime Stone and a valuable description of Lead Ore are amongst its other productions.

In several Settlements on the Lakes numerous Salt Springs are to be met, and these being situated near to the veins of Coal, so necessary to the manufacture of Salt, and in the very heart of the best Fisheries of North America, would become of incalculable benefit to those Fisheries, and a source of wealth to the Island, under the protection of such a Legislature. Iron Ore also, of various descriptions, abounds in the Island, and various other Metallic Minerals, which also require such a helping hand. Among the principal Settlements of the Island may be mentioned the Town and Free Warehousing Port, and spacious, safe and excellent Harbour of Sydney, in the North East Quarter of the Island and opposite the main entrance into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, with its valuable Coal Mines, whence a large export of that article annually takes place to the United States and the British Colonies, and is the principal resort of the Settlers in that quarter for supplies, and to which to bring their Agricultural Produce and the proceeds of the Fishery. Also the Town and Free Warehousing Port, and superior Harbour of Arichat, in Isle Madame, which commands the Southern entrance into the Strait of Canso, a much frequented Passage into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and dividing Cape-Breton from Nova-Scotia, with its extensive Fishery and noble Fishing Establishments, and also the depot for the Agricultural Produce and the Trade of the Southern parts of this Island—besides the ancient Settlement of Port Hood, now a Port of Entry and the Emporium of the Western parts of this Island. There are numerous other Settlements well worthy of particular notice would it not be entering too much into detail to treat at large of them.

Your Majesty's Petitioners further humbly submit, that, as they conceive, the importance of this Island would not only render it consistent with sound policy, but as imperatively requiring that it should constitute a Government of itself, or at least be the centre or head of one. Its value to France, when under her dominion—the immense expense incurred by that power in fortifying the Harbour of Louisburg, in it, and the influence and authority the possession of this Island gave France in America at that period, and evidenced by history and her anxiety to retain it, and strong aversion to its falling into the hands of Great Britain, may possibly revive and at some future period cause that power to endeavour to regain its possession—its geographical position and value in other respects, whether viewed as commanding at once the Gulf of St. Lawrence and adjacent Seas, and being consequently the key to Canada, or considering the money spent in its acquisition—the blood spilt in its capture—the valuable Fisheries on its Coast—the fine Timber in its forests—the fertile Land in its Territory, or its inexhaustible Mines of Coal and Iron, cause its prosperity and possession by England to be all important.

Situate as is this Island between the parallels of $45^{\circ} 27'$ and $47^{\circ} 5'$ North Latitude, and $59^{\circ} 38'$ and $61^{\circ} 50'$ West Longitude, being about 100 miles long and 80 miles wide, containing about 2,000,000 acres of Land, standing out in the Atlantic Ocean, in advance of, and as it were a bulwark and protection to, the British Possession in this quarter of the Globe, possessing some of the finest and most accessible Harbours in America; and separated by a narrow Strait which might be easily guarded from the American Continent. It is here that England might concentrate her forces, rendezvous her fleets, and defy the world—and should she, unhappily, by any possibility, at any future period, have cause to retire from other parts of America, nature has prepared for her this Isle, to which to withdraw, and wherein to make her final and successful stand as the permanent seat and key of British Dominion and Naval Supremacy in this hemisphere. But it is only by being a Government of itself that this Island can flourish or become to England the important station which nature has designed it, and which the security of the British Possessions in America may require it to be.

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