

might succeed in Nova Scotia Agriculture had but a slender chance. I can easily understand how such impressions might have prevailed among those who formed their opinions from the forbidding features of our "iron bound" coasts. Suppose a native of the Prairie Province to come here and see the labor it takes to bring our land to the condition in which he finds his ready to his hand? Suppose him to witness, as I did, the other day, on the other side of the harbor, the process of hewing a garden out of the solid rock, he would raise his hands and eyes in amazement at the folly which would stay in Nova Scotia while whole Provinces were inviting settlement with not a rock to obstruct their cultivation. But his judgment would be wrong in many ways, in the first place, he would be wrong in taking that part of the rocky coast, to which I have referred, to be any fair specimen of the Province, and even laying aside that view for the moment, I may say that the little garden made with much toil and expense is one of the varied resources on which the owner relies for his livelihood, and that, with the other means open to him in the country situation like ours, he probably possesses as many of the comforts and luxuries which make life enjoyable, and certainly is subject to not so much risk as his fellow in the West, in a similar rank of life, with his farm ready made to his hands.

But, our Province is not to be judged by an isolated section of sea-coast. All along the great valley extending from Windsor to Annapolis, all along the margin of the Bay of Fundy, and of the streams which empty into the Bay, from Truro to Granville; along our northern shores from the Province line to the Strait of Canso, on the river bottoms of the Southern and Western Counties and in many parts of the Island of Cape Breton, are found extensive tracts of land, which for fertility and fitness for agricultural purposes may challenge comparison with the land of almost any country.

The first English settlers in Nova Scotia, who came here on the establishment of Halifax, in 1749, were not tempted to seek its shores from any appreciation of the qualities of the soil for agricultural purposes. They consisted mainly of men discharged from the military and naval services and could hardly be expected to excel in agricultural pursuits. They were sent here when no longer needed for the purpose of the State—to get rid of bold and uneasy spirits, who if discharged at home, might not easily be absorbed in the general mass of the population. To this add the fact that they were settled on the inhospitable shores bordering the new capital. The idea then entertained in England of the barren and forbidding character of the Province was bad enough. Is it any wonder that it was not much changed for the better by the efforts of men unacquainted with farming on land unfit to farm? But the time came when an act of very doubtful justice; an episode in the history of Nova Scotia, painful in many respects to dwell upon, nevertheless had one good effect, that it opened for the occupation of the English immigrants the valuable tracts which the old French inhabitants had redeemed from the tides of the Bay of Fundy.