

Winter on Anticosti.

HOW THE ISLANDERS PASSED THEIR TIME—A BACKWARD GLANCE—DEATH OF AN OLD SETTLER—THE WRECKED STEAMER LARTINGTON—THE FOOD SUPPLY—SHIPBUILDING—BREAK UP OF THE ICE—WAITING FOR THE FIRST VESSEL.

QUEBEC, June 1.

The following letter was received by the Marine Department yesterday:—

S. W. POINT, Anticosti, June 1, 1882.

To J. A. Gregory, Esq., Department of Marine and Fisheries, Quebec:

SIR, I have the honor of presenting as usual my spring report, though I fear it does not contain any very novel or interesting information. Our winter, which has passed quietly and rather uneventfully, was fine and pleasant. The bay froze up in the latter part of December, and the ice remained on it without breaking up or moving during the whole winter, providing a good and safe protection for the cable, whose shore end, which I saw when the ice broke up on the 14th ultimo, appears to be unchanged. The ice along shore also remained with hardly any movement during the winter, and afforded unusually good travelling in consequence, though few of our islanders appeared to care about availing themselves of it. Our feathered winter friends, the elder duck especially, visited us in great numbers, materially assisting to stock many a scanty larder on various parts of the island. The shore seals were seen on floating ice on the 24th December, and probably took their Christmas dinner elsewhere. They have not yet made their appearance this spring. The steamship Lartington, wrecked last November at Rivière-du-Brig, has passed the winter uninjured, with the exception of a few plates stove in stern. She owes her preservation chiefly to the favourable position in which she lies, and the very smooth nature of the bottom. She is a new steamer and apparently very strong, and certainly the first iron vessel ever wrecked on Anticosti that has not gone to pieces in a very short time. After remaining quiet all winter, the ice began to run heavily about the middle of March, jamming and packing on the shore and throwing up immense walls from twenty to thirty feet high and miles in length, fortunately, however, without touching the steamer. The distress all over the island has been very great, though, as far as I have heard, there has been no case of actual starvation. It is generally understood that all the Government depots, except this one, have been emptied, and the people at this settlement have been assisted somewhat from ours too. We have also been threatened with a raid from other parts of the island, but have not been visited up to the present. Mr. Francois Goudreau, one of the earliest settlers on the island, died suddenly at his home at Ellis Bay during the winter. He was among the oldest and best known residents on the island, and in his youth had been a friend and comrade of the celebrated Gamache, who then owned Ellis Bay, and at whose death bed he was the only attendant. I think this is the only death on the island since last fall. The fishermen at English Bay built a schooner of 5 tons during the winter, intending to engage in the seal fishery this spring. She could not be got out till late, owing to the ice, and when launched was found to leak badly. There was also difficulty about obtaining sufficient provisions for the voyage, and from one cause or another her departure has been delayed till the sealing season is over. The spring has been very backward, the snow still lying deep on the ground in many places, though it is now fast disappearing. We have seen no sail as yet from this lighthouse, though the ice has been all gone for a long time and the first vessel of the season is anxiously watched for.

If the Gaspé coast is as clear of ice as ours, the Nova Scotia packet should soon pay us her first visit, when I shall forward this report and other documents.

I have the honor to remain, sir,
Your obedient servant,
Edward Pope, Light Keeper.

Newfoundland News.

WINTER WEATHER—CATTLE DYING—FAILURE OF THE COD FISHERY—VESSELS INJURED BY ICE—WHALES DRIVEN ASHORE—THE MAIL BOAT IN THE ICE.

QUEBEC, June 8.

Mr Ronnie, the lighthouse keeper at Cape Ray, Nfld., writes on May 3rd:—"I have very little of any importance to write, with the exception of the severity of the weather, and that something fearful, snowing every day and every night. Cattle and sheep are dying for want of food, and the snow is too deep to get through the woods to look for anything, and the animals are very weak. The cod fishery has been almost a failure, owing to such rough weather in the first part of the winter, and latterly the ice preventing the men from getting out on the ground. A very great deal of destitution prevails amongst the fishermen in many of the harbors. There are some of the sealing schooners returning from the ice with very poor returns, which in many cases will not cover expenses. Some were very badly hurt by the ice, and fears are entertained that some of them will not be able to get through the ice at all. The crews are exhausted from pumping. Some of them have been pumping constantly for two weeks. There has been quite an excitement here lately by the capture, or rather the driving on shore, of six large whales, at Codroy River. Two drove on shore at the Great River and four drove on shore on one night at the Little River, quite a providential thing for the people, they being actually in a state of starvation at that time. They have had hard times to get along. They cut off the fat and sold it to a party in Channel for \$1.25 per cwt. taken from the spot. They had not the means of rendering out the oil themselves. The purchaser sends it to St. John's in bulk. There are numbers of vessels and steamships hovering round, keeping clear of the ice and lying by the light at night. The mail boat was three weeks behind time last trip, therefore we are not very well posted. She was fast in the ice off Placentia Bay. She is badly hurt; her port bow was stove in, and six of her iron ribs were broken. They got patched enough to enable her to get along providing she can keep clear of the ice on her route to St. John's, but goodness knows what time we will get another mail.

"Yours most respectfully,
"ROBERT KENNIE."

WEATHER AND AGRICULTURE, NEWFOUNDLAND.

In common with the Lower Provinces we have a very late and cold spring this year. The past fortnight has been dry and favorable for agricultural operations which are now well advanced. Agriculture is not at present our strong point. We have three million acres of fertile lands lying in wilderness condition, and only 34,293 under cultivation. The railway will revolutionize matters. It will render the good lands accessible and cultivation profitable by facilitating the transport of farm products. A change is needed. In 1880 we imported farm produce (flour included) to the value of \$2,815,411. With the exception of flour, all this might be produced at home and our people employed and population increased. Our importations of flour were to the value of \$1,487,420, leaving \$1,327,991 for other food imports. There is no better grazing country than this, yet in 1880 we imported oxen and cows to the value of nearly \$100,000, and horses valued at

\$10,500. In importing head meat and poultry we spent \$24,784; on pork, \$434,518; on bacon and hams, \$10,174. We do not even grow enough potatoes, and imported from Prince Edward Island to the value of \$40,806. From the want of roads and railways agriculture has been declining. There were 8,000 more acres under culture in 1855 than in 1874, when the last census was taken. The annual produce of cultivated land is valued at \$620,000.—*St. John's Nfld.*, June 2d.

Results of Predictions.

—The Middleton, New York, *Press* says: "Vennor has predicted a cold summer, similar to that of 1816, when in some parts of the country it was freezing in June and July. Some of our oldest citizens will remember the hard times which prevailed that year and the year following on account of the backwardness and consequent failure of vegetation. In Vermont and other Eastern States it was more severe than in the Western. A subscriber of the *Press* recently showed us a book entitled 'Gazetteer of the State of Vermont,' printed in 1824, which gives the history of every town in the State, and also incidents of interest that occurred, which the owner, although young, well remembers, and which will be of interest to our many readers. 'One of the most remarkable occurrences in the town of Peacham, Vt., was the loss of a man's big toe by frost in the month of June. Mr. Walker, the gentleman who sustained the loss, was eighty four years old, and was frozen in consequence of being lost in the woods and living out through the night of the 8th of June, 1816.'"

So far as Texas is concerned, Vennor has not greatly missed it in his predictions. Though we have had no freeze, yet as many as three times within the past six weeks has the thermometer been within from two to five degrees of frost in the northern portion of the State, while even in this section fires and winter clothing have not only been required for comfort, but for the health's sake. The earliest settlers vow that they never before realized such a cool spring. But there has been an abundance of rain, and the absence of intense heat, with the moist earth, have rather encouraged than retarded the growth of vegetation.—*Express, San Antonio, Texas.*

—The predictions of the weather which were published early in the year have thus far proven remarkably accurate, and present circumstances seem to justify the farmer in trusting somewhat to those already given for the coming months. At least they, and the recent experience we have had, may be taken as indicating the treatment we should give our growing crops, and the measures we should take to mature and harvest safely those things whose growth the peculiar season has favored. Last year ought to have taught every farmer the great value of the frequent stirring of the soil, even in an exceedingly dry summer. Let all be on the alert to learn for themselves, and for those who come after them, the special lessons which this remarkable year is fitted to teach.—*Farmer's Friend, Mechanicsburg, Pa.*

An unprecedented cold and wet spring has followed the farmers of the Northwest up to June 1. While this condition has saved our winter wheat crop, it has, on the other hand, put the corn crop in a critical situation. We therefore must have for the rest of the season exceptionally fine weather to make an average crop of corn. Owing to the drought of 1881 the fields are very free of weeds, and this will be greatly in favor of the crop.

Spring wheat starts off well. Chinch bugs have appeared in Nebraska and Minnesota, but they have disappeared, and we at present see no reason why this crop should not be an average one.—*Farmer's Review, Chicago, Ill.*