

without taking into account its minerals and fisheries. "The soil," he said in his Report, "is deep and rich, and when the trees and stumps are removed from it, no further obstacles exist to prevent the land being at once brought under the plough: while the husbandman has at hand lime-stone and gypsum sufficient for the most extensive farming operations, and in addition to which, kelp, a most valuable manure, may be collected almost to any extent. To clear land near St. John's, and generally on the eastern shore, so as to fit it for the reception of a crop, costs from £4 to £15 per acre. To put an equal quantity of ground in a similar state at St. George's Bay would not involve an outlay beyond forty or fifty shillings." Mr. Murray, Geological Surveyor, estimated lately that the extent of land around the shores of St. George's Bay, without taking into account the interior, which was available for settlement, was 225 square miles, or 142,800 acres. In addition to this, Mr. Murray says that "On the north shore of the Bay there is a considerable area of fine agricultural country, equal to 19,200 acres." "The present settlement of this fine region is limited to some straggling farms along the coast, on either side of the Bay, on which excellent crops of grass, potatoes and turnips are raised." "Between the hills and the southern coast of St. George's Bay the land is level, or undulating for the most part, thickly grown over by a fine growth of mixed forest timber, and drained by numerous streams, several of which are navigable for small boats or canoes for several miles inland." "Winter wheat has been grown successfully on Mr. Romain's farm on the north side of the Bay, and the hardier varieties of the grain might no doubt be cultivated to a large extent." "Many of the small farms maintain good stock of cattle, sheep, horses, pigs, etc., the condition of all which gives ample testimony to the capabilities of the soil on which they are raised."

In confirmation of the foregoing statements, I may quote the testimony of the Rev. Thomas Sears, a Roman Catholic clergyman who has been resident in St. George's Bay for a number of years: "As the soil here is surpassingly productive, especially in the growth of various grasses, I believe there is no country, in our latitude, to surpass it for raising sheep or cattle. Of course the land will have to be cleared before there is much facility for grazing, although in many places, near the salt water, there are large tracts already yielding grass. I find that all over the peninsula