

The Governor who directed the affairs of the Island in 1728, was named DePensens. He was a man of energy and enterprise. Among his undertakings for the good of his Province was a system of emigration by which he expected to transfer piecemeal from Acadia the entire population and settle it on new farms, on the Island of St John. The plan was working satisfactorily— young pioneers were busy clearing, tilling and sowing. Gaps in the forest let in the sunshine on virgin fields fertilized by the hand of nature. Along the river margins, and at the heads of tidal waters signs of cultivation began to show themselves. The log-house and the barn rose on the clearings, and ripening harvests promised to the toilers a remuneration sufficient to render them independent of Government subsidies. But this clearing prospect was suddenly blasted. Countless hoards of famished mice fell upon the ripening crops with the voracity of locusts, and like the locusts left behind them a polluted waste. The disaster was complete, not even the seed could be saved. But the consequences did not end here. The popular mind unable to account for the calamity on natural grounds, saw in it a scourge sent for some hidden reasons of Providence, to afflict the land for all time coming. This notion, were it allowed to establish itself in men's minds, would become a most serious obstacle to the work of colonization. Few could be expected to covet a home in a judgment stricken land. It was to meet this popular delusion, that De Roma, the manager of a fishing company which had its chief establishment on Brudenell Point in the harbor of Georgetown, set himself to study the habits of the field mouse. The result of his investigations was communicated in a somewhat lengthy document to the French Government. The following is his condensed account of the animal :—

It is somewhat larger and stouter than the ordinary mouse, of a blackish color, with short legs and flat paws, badly adapted for climbing. It lives in the forest, and feeds on herbs of different kinds. After the manner of the squirrel, it lays up stores of provisions against the winter: these consist of seeds, nuts, grasses and such like. Under stumps and rocks, in the hollow trunks of fallen trees, and sometimes in the fissures of standing ones, are found the dwellings of this destructive creature. Its