

not rival the latter. For long neglected and discarded, Anticosti now has a chance of prominence, and the Dominion will hail the advent of another link in her chain, which, though it may never assume the title now borne by Prince Edward Island, "the Gem of the Gulf," may yet prove as valuable a jewel in the diadem of Confederation.

LABRADOR, an extensive peninsula on the E. coast of British North America, lat. from 50° to 65° N., and lon. 56° to 78° W., bounded on the south-east and east by the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Atlantic; on the north and west by Hudson's Strait and Hudson's Bay; and on the south-west by Rupert's River, Lake Mistassini and Betsiamites river. Extreme length 1,100 miles; breadth 470 miles. Area estimated at 450,000 square miles; or about equal to the British Islands, France and Prussia combined. Blanc Sablon, near the mouth of the North West river, is the eastern boundary of the Canadian part of this great peninsula, which includes the whole area draining into the river and Gulf of St. Lawrence. The portion belonging to Newfoundland is roughly defined as that which is drained by rivers flowing into the Atlantic. The remaining area, draining into Hudson's Bay is called East Main, and is included in the North West Territories of the Dominion of Canada.

The interior of Labrador is very imperfectly known. Professor Hind, who explored it, describes it thus: "The table-land is 2,240 feet about the ocean at the sources of the east branch of the Moisie. It is pre-eminently sterile, and where the country is not burned cariboo moss covers the rocks. In the hollows and deep ravines are to be found stunted spruce, birch and aspens. The whole of the table land is strewn with an infinite number of boulders, sometimes three and four deep. These singular erratics are perched on the summit of every mountain and bill, often on the edges of cliffs, and they vary in size from one foot to twenty feet in diameter. Language fails to paint the awful desolation of the table-land of the Labrador peninsula.

The principal water shed is formed by the Watchish mountains sending the

water which gathers on its side West, North and East. The principal rivers are the East Main or Stade, which flows nearly due west into the south-east extremity of James' Bay; the Great and Little Whale Rivers, which flow in the same direction, and fall in the south-east extremity of Hudson's Bay; the Kenogannissee and Koksoak, which flowing respectively north-east and north-west, unite their streams and fall into the Ungava or South Bay, off the S.E. of Hudson's Strait; and the Meschickemau or North West River, which flows east into the Strait of Belleisle. The lakes are very numerous, almost every river forming several by expanding during its course. The largest are Clear Water, in the west, which discharges itself by a stream of the same name into Hudson's Bay; Mistassini in the south, and Meschickemau, an expansion of the river of the same name.

The prevailing rocks on the coast are granite, gneiss and mica-slate. Above these, in some parts, is a bed of old red sandstone, about 200 feet thick, followed by secondary limestone. Towards the interior, the secondary formations disappear, and the primary become predominant. The surface, when seen at a distance from the sea, has a green and alluvial appearance, but is found, on examination, to be covered with moss and stunted shrubs. In the valleys, where the soil is sandy, and the temperature considerably above the average, juniper, birch and poplar trees are found growing, and form a covert during the summer for deer, bears, wolves, foxes, martens, otters, &c., till the approach of winter drives them to the coast.

The climate is too severe to ripen any of the ordinary cereals. Barley, sown and cut green, makes excellent fodder; potatoes and several species of culinary vegetables are said to do well. The whole of this vast wilderness is uninhabited by civilized man, with the exception of a few settlements on the St. Lawrence and Atlantic coasts, and some widely separated posts of the Hudson's Bay Company. Wandering tribes of Esquimaux occupy the northern coast of Labrador, while nomadic tribes of Naskapees, Mistassini and Montagnais