

are continually firing at one another over the Winter port and Canadian Pacific terminal questions, and both misrepresent Louisbourg because it has advantages superior to either. It is sometimes described as ice-bound. So St. Johns describes Halifax, because it sometimes freezes over. But in reality there is very little or nothing to be said against either harbor because of ice. Drift ice has been known to enter Louisbourg, but it is so seldom as to weigh very little or nothing against its other advantages. It is a fact that, owing to the northern currents meeting other currents at Sable Island, there is far more ice in the vicinity of that island and opposite Halifax than there is opposite Louisbourg. Scatarie Island deflects and disperses the ice, so that there is an open channel to Louisbourg, when south of that to Sable Island it is one jam of ice, and hence vessels have to go 50 miles south of that island to get to Halifax. The Island of Scatarie deflecting the ice outwardly, and the northern current carrying it south to Sable Island, it is only during an eastern gale that ice can enter the harbour of Louisbourg; and this is a rare occurrence.

There is regular communication in winter between Halifax and St. Johns, Newfoundland, and the ice seldom gives them any trouble south of Scatarie, and north of that so little that they seldom fail of making regular time.

The ice bugbear thus far, which has been so sedulously advertised by a hostile press, has very little foundation, in fact, very little more indeed than the presence of icebergs in the Atlantic should have against crossing it.

THE STRAIT OF CANSO.—This natural barrier would present a formidable difficulty to any private company, were it not that the Dominion Government has the matter in hand. After having spent in the vicinity of three million dollars on a railway through the Bras d'Or Lake, it becomes imperative upon it to make that railway effective by connecting it with the railway system of Canada, either by a commodious ferry or a cantilever bridge across the strait. Considering the liberal grants lately made to Cape Breton, the best and quickest method of reaching