

Some years ago, Professor Johnston, F.R.S. of England, the author of works on agricultural chemistry, was invited to visit New Brunswick for the purpose of examining and reporting on the soil and agricultural capabilities of the Province. In his report he concludes :—

1. That the soil of New Brunswick is capable of producing food for a population of from five to six millions.

2. That in the capability of growing all the common crops on which man and beast mainly depend, the whole Province of New Brunswick, taken together, exceeds even the favoured Genesee Valley and the southern shores of Lake Ontario, in the State of New York, and, exceeding New York in productiveness, it will exceed all the states of New England; and if, as appears from agricultural returns, it will bear a favourable comparison even with Ohio and with Upper Canada (Ontario), it becomes doubtful how far, on the whole, the Western States are superior to it.

3. That the climate is an exceedingly healthy one, and that it does not prevent the soil from producing crops which, other things being equal, are not inferior, either in quantity or quality, to those of average soils of England.

From very accurate tables, compiled by Professor Johnston, it appears that the soil of New Brunswick yields to the acre, on the average, a higher number of bushels of wheat, barley, oats, rye, buckwheat, indian corn, potatoes, and turnips, and a higher average weight per bushel, than either New York or Ohio, two of the finest of the United States. In fact it may be stated that at the London and Paris Exhibitions, New Brunswick took the first prize for oats, the weight being fifty-seven pounds to the bushel. As a consequence, the New Brunswick farmer is contented and prosperous. Archbishop Connolly, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Nova Scotia, speaking of New Brunswick, said :

He had spent years in Italy, had been twice in France; he knew every county in Ireland, and had seen most of England and many other countries—but he never saw any other country teeming with greater abundance of everything necessary for the sustenance of man; no country more highly endowed by Providence with beauty and fertility than New Brunswick appeared to him to be when on his visitation; during the summer season he travelled through various districts, and saw on every side fields of potatoes, and corn, and vegetables, such as could nowhere be exceeded, and the people in a corresponding degree comfortable, happy, and independent.

Macgregor in his work on British America, speaking of the forests, says :—

It is impossible to exaggerate the beauty of these forests—nothing under heaven can be compared to its effulgent grandeur. Two or three frosty nights in the decline of Autumn transform the boundless verdure of a whole empire into every possible tint of brilliant scarlet, rich violet, every shade of blue and brown, vivid crimson, and glittering yellow. The stern inexorable fir trees alone maintain their eternal sombre green; all others, on mountains or in valleys, burst into the most splendid and most enchanting panorama on earth.

FISHERIES.

The deep-sea and fluvial fisheries of the maritime Provinces of British America are admittedly superior to all others in America, and from them the markets of the United States, the West Indies, and South America are largely supplied. The aggregate value of the fish products in 1870 was nearly seventeen millions of dollars, and in these fisheries between 800 and 1100 United States fishing vessels were engaged. Indeed, so important are these fisheries to the United States that they seek to secure participation in them by treaty with Great Britain. The finest salmon, cod, mackerel, herring, oyster and shad fisheries in the world can be prosecuted within sight of the shores of New Brunswick, and her inland waters swarm with trout and salmon.

MINERALS.

Coal is abundant, although in thin seams; and antimony, copper, iron, manganese, and other valuable minerals are found in considerable quantities.

NEW BRUNSWICK AS A MARITIME COUNTRY.

Situate on the sea, with forests of the finest ship timber, New Brunswick has always been pre-eminently a shipbuilding country, and in every market and in every port her ships have a well-known character for strength, durability, workman-like finish, and model. Formerly the ships built in New Brunswick, in some years amounting to 90,000 tons, were sent to the English markets for sale, where they commanded the highest rates of vessels of their class. But of late years the