

accomplished, it would ensure steam communication between Canada and Great Britain for nine months in the year at least, as there are many safe harbours and roadsteads in different parts of the bay, where the largest ships of the line may lie in safety, and even ascend up to the River Ristigouche, or nearly to Point Garde, with the assistance of buoys and a good pilot. *

Recent explorations establish the fact that there is a considerable quantity of good timber on Anticosti, fit for ship-building and exportation. Water power is abundant, and the timber could easily be manufactured on the spot. The manufacture of salt in the extensive lagoons on part of the south shore, might be very profitably carried on by following the method pursued in the south of France or in the northern part of Russia, where advantage is taken of the cold of winter to concentrate brine for summer evaporation. The want of salt at Anticosti and in the Gulf generally, has frequently been the cause of the loss of an immense quantity of fish. Salines could not only be very easily constructed, but the high price and constant demand for this article would ensure the sale of as much as could be manufactured. It would be a vast annual saving to the Province if the Canadian Government were to encourage by every means in their power the manufacture of salt from sea-water on Anticosti, where all the conditions are favorable, and where the demand for this necessary substance in the prosecution of the fisheries is so great. A new and most important industry would soon be created, and one mean of settling Anticosti with great advantage to the commercial interests of the country secured at the outset. The Americans, the French, the Spanish, in fact every European nation has its artificial Salines; Canada alone, with most favorable natural conditions for the manufacture of this article which costs us \$700,000 annually, has not yet given attention to this most valuable source of national wealth. The present lessee of the island has a few herds of Ayrshire cattle, which remain out feeding longer than would be safe in the neighborhood of Quebec, and in the spring they look in better condition than at any place on the St. Lawrence below Quebec. †

The economic materials known to exist in abundance on the island are limited, in the present state of our knowledge, to building stones of limestone and sandstone, grindstone, clay for bricks, fresh-water shell marl, peat, drift timber, and sea-weed in great abundance. The fisheries on the coast are the same as those of the gulf generally, and already engage a large fleet of American,

* Bayfield.

† Mr. Roche.