

THE LINE OF THE ROAD—SOMETHING ABOUT THE COUNTRY.

My last letter left us at Dalhousie, from which place an early start brought the steamer on Sunday afternoon, to the outside of Bathurst harbor. The depth of water on the bar is not sufficient for large vessels, and the *Lady Head* anchored about 3 miles from the entrance of the harbor. It is not, except in very still water, possible for vessels drawing more than 12 feet of water to enter Bathurst. With everything favorable, 13 feet would probably clear the bar at high water, but that is the extreme. Bathurst, therefore, cannot ever become a place of resort for large ocean vessels. The country round Bathurst is very fine and fertile. Mr. Ferguson's farm, mentioned in my last letter, is conclusive testimony as to the fertility of the soil. The roads, as indeed generally in New Brunswick, are excellent, there being an abundance of good gravel. In this respect New Brunswick has a great advantage over Ontario, her country roads being far better than the majority of those in the Upper Province.

RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY.

As I have already said, the capabilities of this part of New Brunswick, for farming purposes, are very great indeed.

Its main industries now, are lumbering, shipbuilding and fishing. The shipbuilding interest has, as at other places, been seriously affected by iron vessels, and the navigation laws of the United States, and is by no means active. Lumbering is largely carried on. Mr. Ferguson's mill at Bathurst being of great extent, and perhaps one of the best in this section of the Province.

FISHING INTERESTS.

Fishing is, however, the great source of business. On the coast line between Dalhousie and Shippegan, a distance of rather less than one hundred miles, there are not less than 2,000 schooners and boats of various sizes, employed in extracting, from the Bay of Chaleurs, the wealth which it contains. The quantity of fish caught and cured in this neighborhood is almost fabulous, and it only requires proper and rapid means of communication, to vastly increase a trade which at present is extremely large.

For the last few years, great attention has very properly been paid to the salmon in the rivers. From a variety of causes the rivers, not only here, but in other parts of the Dominion, had become almost denuded of salmon; but now, thanks to the measures adopted by Parliament, this has all been changed, and now the rivers are again swarming with salmon.

The trade in this single kind of fish, is already assuming large proportions; nearly every river has its occupants, who, for the sake of sport, come