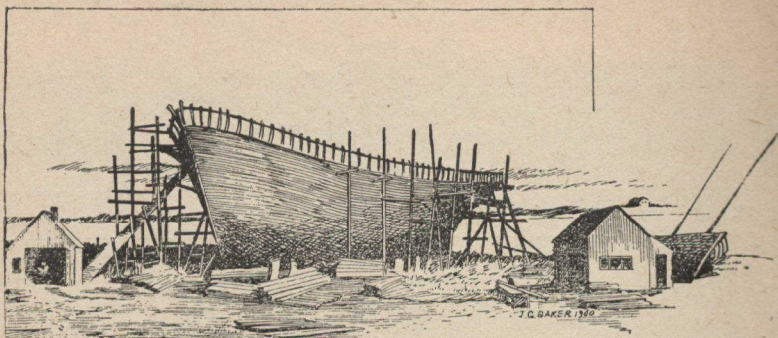




Shipbuilding at St. Peter's Bay.

BY D. J. MCCARTHY.

"Build me straight, O worthy master :
Staunch and strong, a goodly vessel,
That shall laugh at all disaster
And with wave and whirlwind wrestle."

ONE of the first industries of P. E. Island was that of shipbuilding, and for a great number of years it had the most prominent place in the labor of the Province.

Most of the master-builders of those days have passed into the Kingdom of the Great Builder, but there are yet a number of these notable shipwrights scattered throughout the country ; and they, even now, grown old in procuring brides for old Neptune, cannot see a ship or boat under construction but their fingers tingle for the clasp of the friendly adze.

Of all the places in the Province so well capable of producing staunch and gallant ships, St. Peter's Bay, seems to be pre-eminent ; in situations and natural resources it was an elysium for the ship-builder.

For nine miles the Bay extends into the land and its shores were fringed with excellent timber that exposed its massive strength and depth on the hills away to the southward. The two rivers, Midgell and Morell, which flow into it were also deeply wooded to their very source. Here, as early as sixty years ago, shipbuilding was receiving the attention of the greater part of the