

one accustomed to a land breeze, however, a 30-mile wind feels quite strong, and one has to bend forward considerably in walking against it.

Passing up through the gully we got our first sight of the interior of the island, and at once our idea of a desert was dissipated. From the hill tops on the north the land sloped away southward in an undulating manner until it almost reached the level of the ocean, and while the higher hills were but thinly covered by the long, creeping grass, *Ammophila repens*, there was a variety of plant growth on the lower ground which was as green as it would have been in any other part of the world before the new spring shoots become conspicuous. Before us lay the superintendent's house, painted white, and its front yard consisted of an acre or two of timothy and clover, which was as green as an Ontario field. Beyond the house lay a couple of small ponds, and south of them again the large inland lake of salt water, which extends fifteen miles through the interior of the island. Across this lake is a long, low sandbar separating it from the ocean. At times this bar attains the height of ten or twenty feet, and is then covered with creeping grasses and other beach plants.

At one time an opening in the bar permitted the entry of fishing schooners into the lake ; but once two of these that took refuge from a storm through this passage, were caught, as the storm from which they fled closed the passage, and thus prevented their exit, unless it could be made overland, which was eventually accomplished.

From east to west the island is of the same general character, except that towards the east, there are many large patches of cranberry and crowberry, the former of which is gathered in quantities for the market.

The vegetation on Sable Island is strongly modified by the fierce winds which hurl particles of sand at one's face with such a force that their sting is felt severely ; and so thickly that there seems to be a stratum of mist just above the beach. The effect of this assault on soft-leaved plants can readily be guessed, and Mr. Boutillier told us that on his willow tree, which is planted in a fence corner and grows three feet above the fence each year, the leaves turn black and die after some of the strong winds in