

"The Island on the south side generally rises from about twenty to sixty feet above the beach (but at the entrance of Observation River it is between 200 and 300 feet high,) and is nearly level to the centre where a range of moderate sized hills appear to run its entire length, and upon the north side to terminate in steep cliffs. It is mostly covered with a thick forest of trees, stunted near the shore (like those upon a great part of the coasts of England and of other countries,) but which become gradually larger as they approach the interior, and are less exposed to the influence of the wind and sea. This is very remarkable upon some of the bays, where at the exposed points they are very small, and gradually increase in size from each side to the centre, those nearest the sea being sometimes quite white in appearance, from the salt which is thrown, and crystallizes upon them. The trees are spruce, fir, red and white birch, ash, quantities of very fine tamarck, and upon the north side of the Island, some good sized pine.

"With the tamarck and pine growing there and the immense quantities of valuable timber drifted upon the Island from Quebec and other places after easterly gales, many ships might be built every year. Like the valuable muskows for cattle and sheep, which have recently been discovered in Minnesota, in the Far West, there are here many very fine natural meadows, producing rich grasses five and six feet high, and in some parts there are alternate ranges of wood and open plain. On the south side of the Island there are several great bogs of some extent, and some salt marshes, caused by the overflowing of the sea at certain periods, which must tend to fertilize rather than to impoverish the land; and near the south-west point there are some large salt ponds, which, were labour plentiful there, might be turned to account in the manufacture of salt: a manufacture which would become of some value to a great part of our North American fisheries, which, as well as the whole of Canada, are now supplied with salt from England or the United States; and for curing fish and provisions, say salt formed from the sea and from salt ponds is the most valuable. In consequence of there not having been a sufficient supply of salt upon the Island, an immense quantity of fish caught at Anticosti on a recent year had to be thrown away; and during the following season, the fishermen at Arichat, Cape Breton, were forced to sell mackerel at from sixpence to tenpence a hundred or to see them rot upon the beach through not having enough salt to cure them with. This latter circumstance occurred at a time when mackerel was selling at Boston for nineteen dollars a barrel. Some of the Batavia Islands are retained merely on account of the salt ponds which they contain, and at Ceylon a large revenue is derived from the salt works carried on in that Island.

"It is now time to notice those resources belonging to Anticosti, which, being wholly independent of soil and climate, may be turned to immediate account. These resources principally consist of its sea and river fisheries, which, although comparatively neglected by Canada, may be classed among the most valuable fisheries of British North America.

"In the recent report published by the New Brunswick Government upon the fisheries of that province, mention is made of the valuable whale and cod fisheries existing upon the coasts of Anticosti; and it is stated that the Jersey Houses fit out vessels to carry on the former upon both sides of the Island and up the St. Lawrence as far as Bic, some of the Whalers (humpbacks,) being seventy feet long, and yielding 8 tons of oil; while the fishermen of Gaspe frequently resort to the east end of the Island, and take cod in great abundance.

"It thus appears by these authorities, that on every side of Anticosti valuable whales abound, the pursuit of which, and seals and cod, it is not improbable could be carried on in winter as well as in summer, were the attempt to be properly made; but without a trial the undertaking may ever remain unjustly condemned as impossible. Should such an attempt be successful it would not be the first instance of that being accomplished upon a trial, which theory, timidity and prejudice had long declared to be impracticable. Here again the experience of our north fisherman and of the Esquimaux, who fearlessly encounter all difficulties and dangers of the brunt of the weather and who fish in winter and summer, might be successfully brought to bear.

"Of cod, Mr. Coulton in his last visit made to the writer remarks, that one boat with two good fishermen, could take off south west Point or at Fox Bay, eighteen hundred of these fish in one day; while Mr. Verrierson states that cod, halibut, and a variety of other fish could be caught all round the Island and in incalculable quantities, and that no finer cod is caught in any part of the coast of America or on the banks of Newfoundland than is to be met with there. To this may be added the testimony of Captain Fair, B. N. of H. M. ship "Champion," who states that he met a few shallops from the Magdalen Islands at the east end of Anticosti, where they found cod in great abundance and of excellent quality.