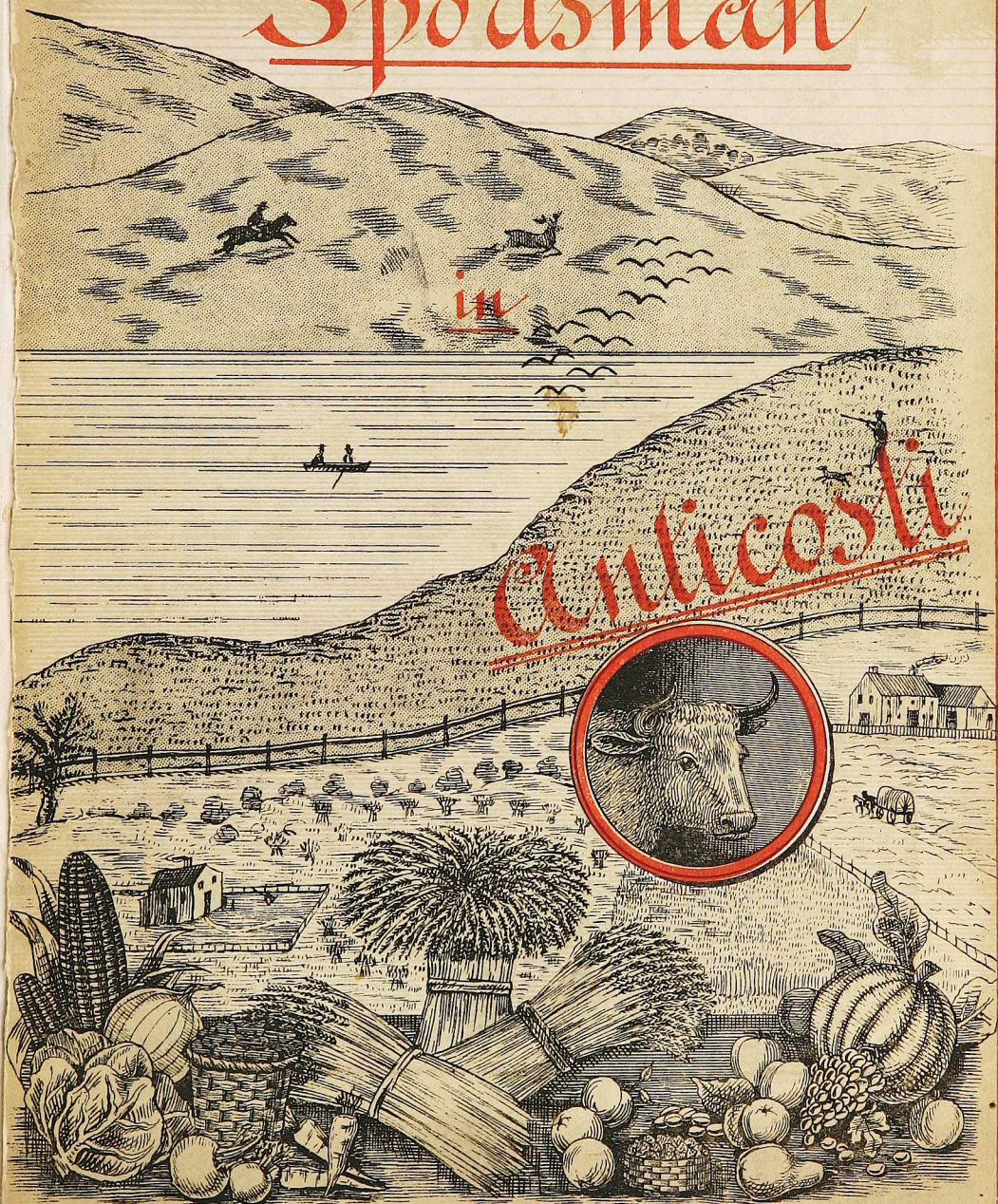




# The Seller and Sportsman

in

*Anticosti*



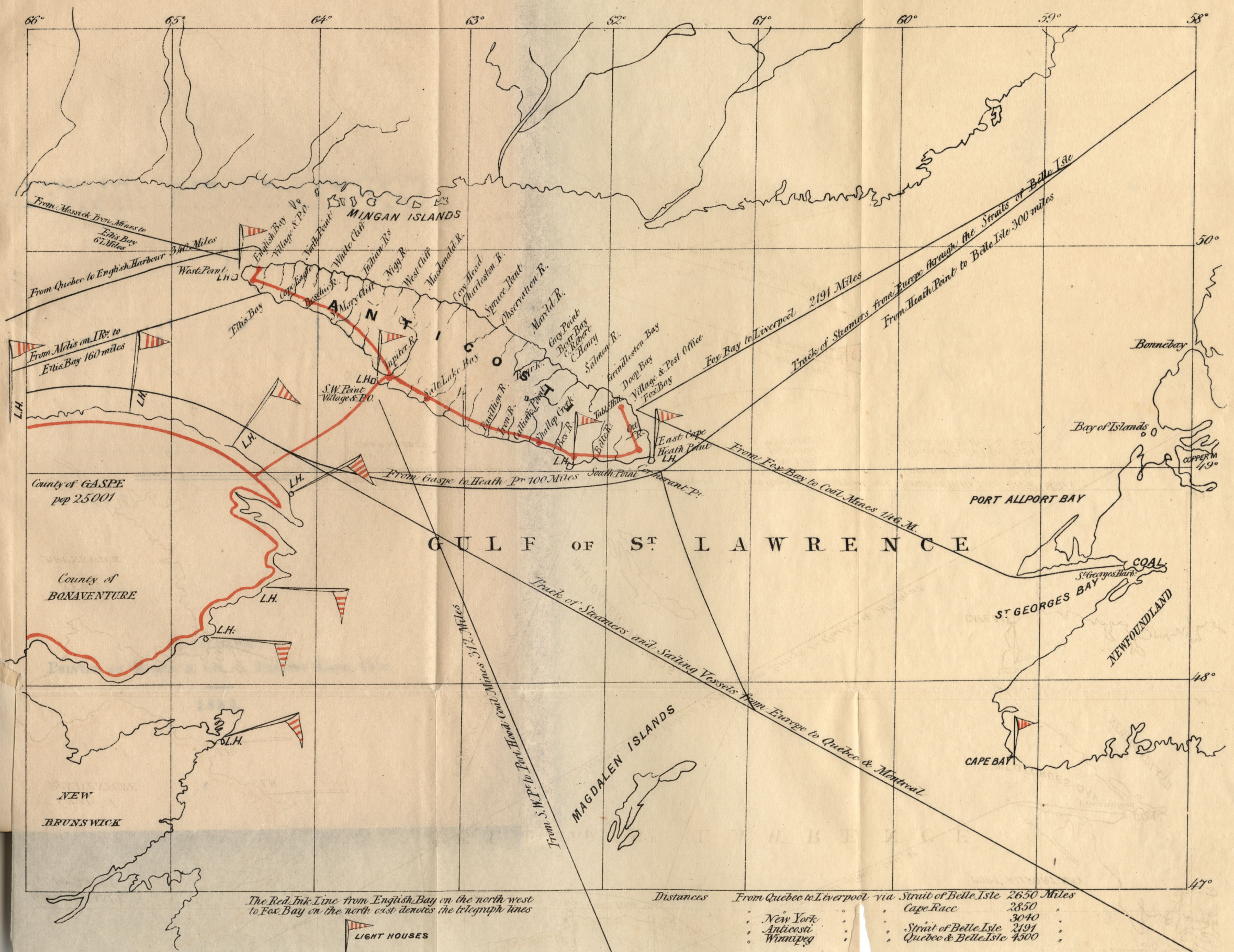
MAP.

Price 6 Pence.









The Red Ink Line from English Bay on the north west to Fox Bay on the north east denotes the telegraph lines

LIGHT HOUSES

Distances	From Quebec to Liverpool via Strait of Belle Isle	2650 Miles
	" Cape Race	2850 "
	" New York	3040 "
	" Anticosti	2191 "
	" Winaueg	4500 "





THE  
SETTLER AND SPORTSMAN  
IN  
ANTICOSTI.

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LONDON:  
PRINTED BY MORRIS & Co., 8, PHILPOT LANE, CITY.  
—  
1885.



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## PREFACE.

HEN one considers the energy with which during past years the various provinces of the Dominion of Canada, both collectively and individually, have advocated their interests among the emigrating classes and the capitalists of this country, it is perhaps not a matter for surprise that the material, but unsupported, claims of Anticosti for recognition, should have been passed by. This inaction has been principally due to the circumstances surrounding the ownership of the island, which was vested, until recently, in the hands of absentees, who also for many other reasons were unable to cope with the magnitude of the operations necessary for its proper and full development. With the transfer of the island to the present energetic and far sighted proprietors, who have thus become perhaps the largest private landholders in the Empire, an era of progress is at length about to dawn in the history of Anticosti, and the *raison d' être* for this *brochure*, the first of the kind that has appeared, is to remove the ignorant and false impressions which exist in regard to the resources of that island, and by means of an impartial record of actual ascertained facts respecting those resources, to permit of a comparison, on its merits, of the economic position of the Island of Anticosti, with the other and better known portions of the Dominion of Canada.

*London, April, 1885,*



# ANTICOSTI.

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## PART I.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### GENERAL REVIEW.

ANTICOSTI is an island lying directly in the mouth of the St. Lawrence, between the 49th and 50th parallels of north latitude,—nearly the same as northern France,—and 61 degrees 54 minutes to 64 degrees 30 minutes west longitude. It is about 140 miles long, with an average breadth of  $27\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and comprises a territorial area of more than 3,850 square miles, or about 2,500,000 acres, possessing a population of about 1,000 souls. Anticosti is thus upwards of one-quarter larger than Prince Edward's Island, which is a province of the Dominion, with its own Legislature, and a population of 100,000 inhabitants.

Anticosti was first granted by the Crown of France in 1630 to one Louis Joliet, for services rendered to the Government, but after the conquest of Canada by Great Britain it passed into the hands of wealthy families mostly residing abroad, who have ever since by succession retained the proprietorship, neglecting to take any measures for its development, and refusing all offers of purchase that had been made by persons aware of its great natural resources until last year, when this seagirt



“lot” came into the market for unreserved sale, and was bought by Mr. F. W. Stockwell, an enterprising resident of Quebec, well known in England, who has since been joined by a relative, Mr. T. G. Stockwell, the eminent surgeon, of Bath, England.

Anticosti is under the laws of Canada, forming a part of the Province of Quebec ; a Judge holds a Court at certain times, and an armed steamer calls frequently at the island to arrange any difficulties which may have arisen.

This island domain, in its own ring-fence of sparkling seas, possesses in itself all the resources of a free state ; the timber of its forests is known all along the fertile shores of the St. Lawrence : its mineral wealth has already made some fortunes, and is capable of making others, given the proper application of capital and energy, while with regard to its fisheries, it goes hand-in-hand with Newfoundland, and the waters surrounding its shores are held to be the safest and the most prolific fishing grounds in the world.

The Geological structure of Anticosti consists of a deposit of argillaceous limestone, 2,300 feet in thickness, regularly stratified, in nearly horizontal and perfectly conformable beds. All the facts tend to show that these strata were accumulated in a quiet sea in uninterrupted succession during that period in which the upper part of the Hudson river group, the Oneida conglomerate, the Medina sandstone, and the Clinton group, were in the course of being deposited in that part of the palæozoic ocean now constituting the State of New York, and its soil is similar to that of the fine arable land of the south-western portion of Ontario, and Genessee County in the State of New York. The fossils of the middle portion of the

rocks of Anticosti furnish us with the materials for connecting the Hudson river group with the Clinton by beds of passage, containing some of the characteristic fossils of both formations. An extensive collection of interesting fossils from the island are now in the Geological Museum at Montreal.

The northern portion of Anticosti claims the highest altitude, which ranges from 400 to 600 feet,—the coast line being abrupt and precipitous,—and has a uniform gentle slope to the south. This fact, taken in connection with its southern aspect from sunrise almost to sunset, points unmistakeably to the conclusion, which is also a fact, that the island from an agricultural point of view has everything in its favour to make it a country in which vegetables and cereals can be rapidly raised.

The climate of Anticosti is healthy and invigorating. The atmosphere is pure and clear. The residents are robust in person and florid in complexion like English people. The winters are less severe than those of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario, and this fact has been repeatedly confirmed by eminent authorities. The sea moderates the heat in summer and the cold in winter, and rapid changes are unknown. Vegetation progresses rapidly, and crops come to perfection in good season.

The principal harbours of Anticosti are English Bay, Ellis Bay, Fox Bay, and South West Point, all of which are well protected and possess good anchorage ground. It is proposed to connect these various points by a railway, and as the surface of the island offers no engineering difficulties the cost should be small. In connection with this matter, and also the deepening of one or two of the harbours for the admission of the largest

steamers, the Dominion Government is expected, as in previous cases in other parts of Canada, to offer substantial aid.

Anticosti is connected with the mainland by the electric wire, and communication with the island is very easy; the mail packet from Gaspé calls at the principal places about once a week, and with favourable winds there are almost daily arrivals and departures from Gaspé, Quebec, and the maritime provinces.

During eleven months in the year connection with this island continues uninterrupted, and it is only in March, when the ice is running out of the St. Lawrence, that the passage across is at all dangerous. Anticosti differs in this particular from Prince Edward's Island, which is shut off from the outer world for six months in the year. Exposed as Anticosti is to the full current of the St. Lawrence, and owing also to the action of the tides, the water is always open during the most severe seasons.

Anticosti, thus, from its position, which is only about six days' steam from the coast of England (2,191 miles from Liverpool), and its varied natural resources, possesses all those important advantages which go to make it a desirable place of settlement for a hardy class of people, who in a few years with ordinary economy should possess a comfortable home, and attain a degree of independence, and even affluence, which they could never have hoped for in the land of their birth.





## CHAPTER II.

## AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

We have it on the authority of Sir William Logan, the eminent Geologist, who made only a very superficial examination of Anticosti, in 1856, that *upwards of 1,000,000 acres* in Anticosti were composed of *soil of the very best quality for agricultural purposes*. More complete and more recent investigations have fixed the agricultural area of the island *at over 2,000,000 acres*. The language used in the official report of 1857 is :—

“It is on such rocks in such conditions and with such altitudes that the best soils of the western Peninsula of Canada West are placed as well as the Genesee County in the State of New York. I have seen nothing in the actual soil as it exists to induce me to suppose that in so far as soil is considered ‘Anticosti’ will be anything inferior to these regions.”

Under these favorable conditions therefore, of climate and soil, one can readily conceive the large variety of cereals, roots, and vegetables, that are being raised at the present time by the limited population of the island ; the cereals comprise barley, oats and rye, which would not suffer by comparison with the produce of the best farming districts of the North American Continent. Wheat ripens readily.

Melons, cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes, cabbages, broccoli, turnips, peas, beans and indeed all the vegetables which grow in England arrive at the highest state of perfection. As regards fruits—currants, raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries, cherries, &c., are raised in the gardens, and countless species of berries are found in profusion throughout the island.

We cannot do better than insert here a few statements by farmers who have been living in Anticosti for many years, and whose testimony as to its agricultural and other capabilities, dictated by experience, must be admitted to be of the greatest value.

A resident at English Bay states, under date Sept., 1881 :—

“The soil is a dark rich vegetable mould, and is easily worked with a spade. Many of the crops are raised close down to the beach, and the soil even there where it is mixed largely with shingle thrive well. Further back in the interior the soil is entirely a deep rich mould, easily turned up with a stick, but the settlers keep to the shore on account of most of them being engaged in fishing, and the farmingwork being done mostly by the women during the fishing season. Wheat, rye, barley, oats, and Indian corn, grow and come to perfection on the island. *Spring wheat* grown at English Bay is *very fine*, averaging 5ft. in the straw, with large full heads; oat straw averages 5ft. 6in.; field and garden produce do well, such as beans, beet, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, lettuce, mangold, melons, onions, parsley, parsnips, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, rhubarb, tomato, turnips; potatoes grow to great perfection. My neighbour, Mr. John Wright, upon one occasion, raised 50 barrels from one barrel of seed, and this year my next door neighbour, Mr. Thos. Le Brun, had 100 barrels from 2½ barrels of seed. Tobacco, hops, and sarsaparilla also grow finely, I have raised 6 pounds of hops from one pole, and of quality superior to those from Quebec. The grasses, clover, timothy, and wild grasses do well; also flax, hemp and sugar cane. Some fruits grow wild, such as strawberries, cranberries, blueberries, apple, mountain ashberry, crowberry, gooseberry, currants, cherries and hazel nuts—these are all wild, no attempt has been made to cultivate them, but I am certain *all the Canadian fruits would thrive well and abundantly*. Cattle and animals for domestic use thrive well, viz., oxen, cows, sheep, pigs and horses; ducks, geese, and other poultry can be raised easily. We never keep the fires going at night. *I do not believe the hay of any country can surpass that of Anticosti*, and no doubt an immense business could be

done in hay-pressing for export. We have a district school with 50 scholars. When I first came to English Bay there were only 4 families and 7 buildings;—now there are 47 families numbering about 500 persons. The last Census taken by the Government returns 869 as the whole population of the island—it now amounts to about 1,000.”

A resident at Fox Bay writes under date Sept., 1881 :—

“I can corroborate the statements as to the growth of grain, root crops, and garden produce—my opportunities of knowing the resources of the island are very ample, having been more in the interior of the island than any other man. I was the first person to cross from Fox Bay to South Point, and opened the first road between those points through the woods. The wheat I sowed last spring and cut last fall was *equal in quantity and quality to any wheat that could be raised anywhere*. Any article of garden produce that grows in any part of Canada thrives well and vigorously here. I never knew of any failure owing to any defect of soil or temperature in the island. *The island could be made entirely meadowland* if desired, as all the grasses required for cattle grow luxuriantly where cultivated—and the natural grasses grow everywhere and are of fine quality and retain their juicy properties during the whole season. Timothy clover and blue joint grass grow to wonderful perfection, and from the nature of the soil possess the finest qualities for grazing and fattening cattle. I have raised wheat spring and fall; rye, barley, oats, buckwheat and Indian corn with success, and without the trouble that frequently attends farming operations. *I never tried any garden produce that failed in its results. There is no ordinary vegetable grown in Canada that would not grow here*. Last year I pulled a turnip that weighed 19lbs., another of 16lbs. Wild fruit of great variety are abundant. Of building materials there is an abundance. Ten vessels from Prince Edward’s Island visit the island every year to load limestone for use as a fertilizer. *Four-fifths of the island is covered with timber*, in many places beyond the ordinary size. *Lobsters abound all round the coast*. I took one at Salmon Bay that weighed  $16\frac{1}{4}$  lbs. I and 12 men killed with sticks close upon the sea shore one day on the ice near Fox Bay 1,600 seals in about 4 hours, another man and a boy killed 600 in one day. In fact so valuable is



this branch of the fishing that schooners and steamers from outside places come here specially every season, *and load up* from the catch they make. One steamer from Newfoundland took 4,000 *seals* abreast of Bear Bay *in a few hours* in the spring of 1874. All domestic animals thrive well. The second year after the wreck of the "Megantic," at Otter River, on the south side of the island, I heard that *two oxen* among a number of others that had been thrown overboard had been seen grazing, and when out hunting a few days afterwards I discovered them and brought them down—the *meat* we hacked out weighed 800 lbs., *was very fat and of the finest quality*; this was in October, so that the *oxen* had passed *two summers and one winter on the island self kept and without artificial shelter*; were proper agricultural implements used for the crops and cultivation carried on further back, I am satisfied the result would be astonishing. One of the great wants of the island is flour mills, and for this ample water power is at hand. *I never experienced extreme cold in the winter*, and being much occupied in out door pursuits in hunting, I am able to judge by personal experience. My house is of wood—1 inch boards, contains 6 rooms and a store, and *one stove keeps it sufficiently warm all the winter and without keeping it in all night*. I have been 6 years on the Island."

A resident writing from Salmon River, Sept., '81, states:—

"Have been on the island 33 years. The ordinary cereals grow well on my land and any other place where cultivated. *Indian corn would come to the greatest perfection* in the interior. I raise large quantities of root crops. We can grow potatoes on the same patch of land for 10 or 15 years *without exhausting the soil, or diminishing the quality or quantity of crop*. I shewed the Rev. Mr. Gillies (Missionary at Esquimaux point) a *turnip* grown on my land, that we weighed and found to be 20½ lbs.; also a *cauliflower* which he said was *the largest* he had ever seen. I consider there is *no better soil in Canada*, and the further you go in the interior, the larger the produce will be. Last fall I had over 30 barrels of turnips from my turnip patch, 20 of these I put in the cellar for winter use, not one of them weighed less than 4 lbs. On 8th Nov., '79, I drew a *turnip* from the ground weighing 11 lbs., which with other root crops I kept in my outdoor cellar all the following

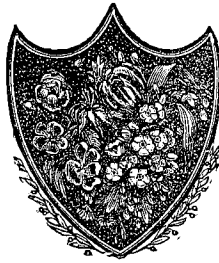
winter, and in August following we had on table for dinner. It was perfectly kept, and its quality excellent. From one patch of 22 by 146 yards, I raised 69 bushels potatoes. One seed potato dropped by accident yielded 44 potatoes. The schooner "Snowdrop" loaded at west end of island with potatoes for Quebec last spring; the potato rot or bug has never been known on the island, and no rust has ever appeared on the grain. I have seen tobacco raised superior to that bought at the stores in Quebec. I raised from one piece of ground 23 by 17 yards, 126 bushels fine yellow swede, as fine as were ever seen; and from another patch, 31 by 7 yards, 1,000 heads of remarkably fine cabbage. Grasses thrive well. There is any amount of wild fruit. Building materials are plentiful. I cut a pine 6 feet on the stump, which produced some of the lumber used in the construction of my house; on the north side there are 3 bays full of alder. Valuable furs are obtained, such as bear-skins; fox red, grey, silver, white, cross, and black; otter and marten. We have quantities of geese, duck, plover, partridge, eider duck, wild pigeons, divers, snipe and woodcock. The shores and rivers abound with fish, cod, herring, halibut, mackerel, sea and fresh water trout, eels, salmon, smelt and haddock. Lobsters are very numerous, and could be made a business of itself, as they are very large, and the supply inexhaustible. Seals, porpoises and whales abound on the coast; 19 vessels from Esquimeaux and Newfoundland have this spring loaded with seals. Horses and cows thrive well, as do poultry and pigs. When manure is used, it is supplied from the sea, in the form of kelp and offal fish. The island abounds in fresh water springs and brooks; and there is any amount of water power for driving mills, which are much wanted. The snowfall in winter is not more than sufficient to protect the crops. The cold in winter is so moderate, that our houses are never uncomfortable, although we keep no fires at night, and have no double windows or double doors. On 15 Feb. there was no ice north of Anticosti, and my son sailed from my house at Salmon River to Fox Bay in an open boat. I generally pull my turnips in the first week of November, and potatoes about the first week in October."

Mr. J. T. Wright, in his very interesting journal of a *Voyage Round the Island* during the month of September, describes his

visits to the various cultivated places at Ellis Bay, Jupiter River, Strawberry Cove, West Point, English Bay, Salmon River, Fox Bay, Heath Point, Cormorant Point, South Point, South West Point, East Bay, &c., and to the farms of Mr. Pope, Mr. Melville, Mr. Barnes, Mr. W. Wright, Mr. Raymond, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Alison, Mr. Nickerson, Mr. Baker, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Gagne, Capt. Marshall, Mr. Bradley, Mr. Ch. Clarke, Mr. Thos. Macey, Mr. Goudreau, Capt. Setter, and others,—he *confirms in every respect* the statements before referred to—and reports conversations with residents, from whom he gathers that the only encouragement required for the complete development of the island is the establishment of mills and markets. He says that in *the interior* ANY AMOUNT of grain could be raised. Finely as the crops grow on the shore they would be heavier in the bush. Mr. Wm. Wright informed him in reference to the soil of the island, that a piece back from his field on the beach he had driven a stick down into the vegetable mould at least 4 feet without touching gravel or rock. He describes the *natural grass* as *like lawn grass and as soft as velvet*, except on the beach road, where it becomes coarse; the *soil* on the shore near Heath Point *very deep and rich*. From the top of the lighthouse at Heath Point he obtained “a magnificent view of the island, which looked *like a panorama of some* “CONTINENTAL PRINCIPALITY *in Europe, with its meadowlands and* “*deeply wooded interior*,—its vast size is very impressive, although “the view only takes in the width of one of the ends of the “island.” Capt. Marshall, at Cormorant Point, informs Mr. Wright he considers *this part of the coast contains 1,000 acres of the FINEST LAND IN THE WORLD*, and with reference to the fishing which he follows as his calling, “that last June he was “with an American schooner that took 80,000 lbs. of *Halibut* in “one day, and another took 30,000.” “At Bay River,” Mr.

Wright adds, "I noticed a large level plain over 1,000 *acres* *"ready for the plough and no clearing necessary."*

After reading the statements from which extracts have been here set out, it becomes more than ever astonishing that so few portions of the island, and those only close to the coast, have been put under cultivation, no attempts having been made by former proprietors to develop its resources, or even provide the means of communication by roads from place to place.



## CHAPTER III.

## STOCK RAISING AND RANCHES.

If there is one branch of agriculture for which Anticosti is suited, it is for that of stock raising, an industry which could at once be conducted on an extensive scale with the minimum of risk, and with the certainty of a liberal return.

In the eastern section of Anticosti especially, and also in other spots scattered over the island, there are natural clearings and plains, varying from two and three hundred to several thousands of acres in size ; covered with a thick growth of nutritious and succulent grasses, which in places is so high that a man standing upright could hide in it with ease. The surface of these plains is studded with lakes and ponds and streams, affording an unfailing supply of the purest water ; here stock of all kinds, cattle, horses, sheep, could roam at will and fatten without attention, finding shelter from the noonday heat of summer and the cold of winter, in the surrounding thick woods, and in the valleys that traverse the interior of the island in every direction. That cattle can thus live out in the open throughout the winter and thrive, has been recently proved by the following circumstance :—One of several oxen that swam ashore out of a schooner that was wrecked on the island in 1881, was shot in the following spring, *in excellent condition*, by one of the residents, who *took over 800 pounds of prime beef from the carcase*.

Under these favourable conditions, it is not unreasonable to assume that Anticosti should play a considerable part in the cattle export trade of Canada ; which although, comparatively speaking, but of yesterday, is rapidly assuming proportions



that will render it a national industry of the very first importance in the immediate future. It was only in 1877, that the first consignment of live cattle and sheep numbering about 1,000 head left Canada for England, and last year the exports to the United Kingdom alone had risen to no less than upwards of 55,000 head of cattle, 114,000 sheep; and the total value of the Canadian livestock exports was valued at upwards of \$10,000,000, having afforded freight for a fleet of steamers and employment to thousands of persons.

Owing to the continued immunity from contagious diseases of Canadian stock, which is mainly due to the untiring vigilance and the preventive measures of the Dominion Government, Canadian stock are likely to remain in the favored position of being permitted to pass *into England alive*. The trade is therefore capable of indefinite extension.

There are several general advantages obtaining in favour of cattle raising in Anticosti, which alone are sufficient to warrant the immediate commencement of ranching on the island pastures. They may be briefly cited as under:—

In the first instance, in the point of climate, ranches on Anticosti are immeasurably better situated than similar properties of stockmen on the elevated and exposed cattle lands of the western states of the Union, with their rapid changes of temperature, limited water privileges, and high death rate.

Secondly.—The same may be said, but to a less degree, of the ranching country in the south west portion of the Canadian North West, and in addition, we would point out a very important fact that there is very little possibility of obtaining further leases of ranche lands from the Dominion Govern-

ment, now that over 5,000,000 acres have been taken up in those parts.

In the point of proximity to England alone the advantages which ranche proprietors in Anticosti will have in the live cattle trade with that country over their brethren in Manitoba and the North West Territory, and in the older provinces, are obvious. Under the most favorable circumstances, stock from the former districts could not reach Montreal, the great cattle port of the Dominion, under six days; from the other parts stock for export are generally two days in reaching Montreal; if we add to this for the distance from Montreal to Anticosti—700 miles—two days on board, we thus get in one case eight, and in the other four days *exhaustion and deterioration of the stock*, quite apart from the extra freight charges. It is just these eight and four days that will be Anticosti's gain. Cattle from the island could be driven straight off the pastures on board ship, say at Fox Bay, and would arrive at Liverpool in sufficiently good condition to fetch the prices of *fat stock*, as compared for that paid for "*stores*." If stockmen on the island take the precaution to raise only beef cattle, pure and simple, for instance, the hardy Highland cattle, the black faced Highland sheep, and Welsh sheep, the meat of which commands the highest prices, their margin of profit will be all the greater. The construction also of the proposed line of railway across Anticosti will materially help to develop this industry, as the cattle could thus be rapidly handled to either of the island ports, at which light piers can be erected to facilitate embarkation of the cattle at all stages of the tide, pending the deepening of the harbours for the admission of the largest ocean steamers to their wharves.

## CHAPTER IV.

## TIMBER.

The commercial timber resources of Anticosti cannot of course compare with those of the neighbouring mainland of Quebec.

A considerable proportion of the territorial area of the island is covered with valuable forests, which will not fail to be of great use in good time in connection with the contemplated railway construction, piers, and public works generally, besides shipbuilding, and many other purposes which will be readily discovered by the future population; on the southern coast the timber growth is small and scrubby, but it is in the middle, northern and north western sections of the island that the finest sticks are met with—white spruce, 40 to 80 feet high, large enough for a schooner of 600 tons; pine, 60 to 80 feet; white and yellow birch, 20 to 50 feet; a species of larch, called juniper, of sufficient size to form a schooner's keel; balsam fir, small, but abundant—groves of this timber are stated to exist north of Ellis Bay, some of the trees being 3 feet in diameter, by over 100 feet high—poplar is met with in groves, cedar trees also grow on the island, and the presence of alder trees, which grow to an unusually large size, shew that the soil is particularly good for timber.

Water power is abundant in all parts of the island, and easily rendered available for saw mills, and other industries requiring cheap motive power.

## CHAPTER V.

## F I S H E R I E S .

As has already been observed in the opening chapter, Anticosti is situated in the centre of the finest fishing grounds of the world.

An idea may be formed of the vast development of which they are susceptible when it is stated that Prince Edward Island, which, in comparison with Anticosti, has but indifferent advantages in this particular, took from its inshore fisheries in 1882, fish to the value of over \$2,000,000. Indeed the value of the fisheries around the island can hardly be imagined. They consist of deep sea, inshore and river fisheries, the first-named being entirely neglected. Whale, porpoise, cod, mackerel, salmon, herring, halibut, haddock, eels, as well as lobsters, oysters and shell fish generally, have for many years been most successfully caught along the coast and in the rivers and bays of the island by fishermen employed by capitalists from Europe, who have extensive establishments along the opposite coasts on the shores of the St. Lawrence.

There cannot be a better proof of the importance of these fisheries than is offered by the large fleet of American vessels that annually frequent the island, with their expensive outfits, some of them coming a distance of 800—1,000 miles. The number of such visitors might be indefinitely increased if it were possible to obtain on the island the necessities of life regularly and in sufficient quantities. The needs of these fishery fleets would be enough to provide a large and remunerative market for farm produce to settlers on the island.

In Spring, seals are exceedingly abundant, and are met with by thousands on the ice floes, and in the bays and more sheltered places on the coast among the ice.

In 1879 a United States sealing schooner is reported to have taken 4,000 seals in two days, and large captures of these valuable animals are annually made in the neighbourhood. Here then is another of the many opportunities that exist on the island for the investment of capital in a profitable undertaking, and providing remunerative employment to a large body of men. On the rocks that run out into the sea the seals lie and bask by hundreds, and in May and June when the females have their young with them, generally two or three each, they can be readily shot. A large variety called locally "horse heads" as big as a heifer also abounds, and yields some 30 gallons of oil. The common seal yields five gallons, and its skin fetches some fifteen shillings on an average.

A profitable industry might be created in the direction of manufacturing fish oil and fish guano out of the prodigious quantities of all kinds of fish that are cast up by the sea on the mud flats on the south shore.





## CHAPTER VI.

## MINERALS.

It is no wild dream to say that Anticosti bears every symptom of being a rich mineral metallic region, offering great inducements to the introduction of capital and skilled labour for the exploration of its hidden treasures. Speaking of the geology of the island it may be remarked that the basis is fossiliferous limestone with encrinites. The rocks which have been explored by that able geologist, Sir W. Logan, have already been described.

It would follow that auriferous lodes should be found in these groups, and their denudations, and that true veins, and inter-stratified lodes or beds will also be of occurrence. Copper has already been found, and probably iron and lead will follow. In 1712 the French opened a silver mine on the south side of the island, which was a most productive venture.

One of the greatest sources of future prosperity of Anticosti will be its immense peat beds, without a doubt the most extensive on the North American Continent.

Sir William Logan, in his geological report of 1863, says:—  
 “Along the low lands on the south coast of the island, from Heath Point to within eight or nine miles of South West Point, a continuous plain covered with peat extends for upwards of *eighty miles* with an average breadth of two miles ; thus giving a superficies of more than *one hundred and sixty square miles*. The thickness of the peat was from three to ten feet, and it appears to be of excellent quality. The *height* of this plain may be on an average, *fifteen feet above high water mark*, and it could be easily drained and worked.”

In addition to the conversion of peat into charcoal by submitting it to a low red heat, substances of great commercial

value, such as naphtha, bitumen, salts of ammonia, lignole, fine oils for lubricating machinery, &c., can be won by well-known processes from the peat during the operations.

Near south-west point, and other points on the south coast, large salt ponds or springs exist, which might be turned to good account in the manufacture of salt, for which there is a great market in Canada. It is moreover well known that salt manufactured from salt ponds is most valuable in curing fish. It may thus become an article of commercial and local importance.

Marl exists in beds of considerable thickness at the bottom of most of the shallow lakes, and gypsum, pure white, is available in quantities. Of both these minerals large quantities are fetched by the inhabitants of Prince Edward Island, from Anticosti, every year.

Fossiliferous limestone, of a fine grain and color, and capable of taking a beautiful polish, so that it is deservedly classed under the head of marbles, exists in large quantities along the shore.

Lithographic stone is also found in the island, and has been tested by experts with satisfactory results.

Such, roughly speaking, are the resources of Anticosti, which warrant its development without further delay, and there is no doubt that an industrial, maritime, as well as agricultural population, would do well on its shores.

The Island of Anticosti, will be represented in the Canadian Section, at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition at South Kensington, in 1886, when samples of cereals, roots, vegetables and fruits raised in the island, from seeds supplied by Messrs. James Carter & Co., of High Holborn, London, together with specimens of the commercial food, fishes, and a large collection of specimens of the important minerals and marbles of the island will be shown.

## PART II.

## THE SPORTSMAN AND ANGLER.

## GENERAL REVIEW.

Anticosti at the present time offers peculiar and fascinating attractions for the sporting man and angler, and particularly perhaps for Englishmen. We say expressly for Englishmen, for they stand preeminently before persons of all other nationalities in their enthusiasm for and devotion to sport. The Englishman goes in for sport, and for sport alone. In its pursuit he courts rather than avoids the severest physical exertions, he will unhesitatingly tax his powers of endurance to the utmost, and the thoroughgoing whole-hearted pleasure he derives from indulging in his overmastering passion, does positive good to those who hear or read of it in these degenerate days when elaborate tents, patent camp furniture, iced champagne and apollinaris, and piles of edible delicacies, are considered a part of the necessary outfit of the sportsman.

For the sportsman, Anticosti possesses all the novelty of a *terra incognita* within an easy six days' steam of Liverpool, affording sporting facilities of the most varied character, with a climate that renders outdoor life most enjoyable for eight months in the year, and occupying a position on the very threshold of the largest and most interesting of England's colonial possessions.

In the way of wild fowl, Anticosti is a preserve which cannot fail to satisfy the most sanguine of sportsmen. It is the

breeding ground of the greater number of the finest and gamest birds of the North American continent. These include roughly the Canada goose, Canadian partridges—*anglice* grouse, snipe, woodcock, several varieties of plover, curlew, and ducks of endless variety. The island is the summer resort of the far-famed brant goose, Hudsonian curlew, and many other migratory birds that have their breeding grounds within the Arctic Circle, and which flock in myriads to its shores.

Large game are present in the form of the black bear ; the black, silver-grey, cross-patch, and red fox, martens, and otter, which abound in great numbers, and for which the island is about the best hunting ground for trappers. There are also many evidences that moose exist in the less frequented portions of the island.

The many rivers and streams that intersect the coast line of the island almost at every mile, swarm with fine salmon, sea and brook trout, besides a great variety of other fish, affording good sport and excellent dishes for the table.

The opening of the sporting season in Anticosti commences about the middle of March, when the ice in the St. Lawrence is running. Sport at this time is naturally not unconnected with a good deal of discomfort, but from May to October, camping in Anticosti is a perpetual picnic. The air is clear and invigorating, the sun has the knack of shining nine days out of every ten ; there the sportsman can have a charming harbour for his canoe, a dry grassy bank to camp, and a fragrant bed of fir branches or dry grass ; if he is given to sea-bathing, no better place could be desired ; if he prefers fresh water, a walk of a few yards will bring him to a pebbly brook. Firewood is plentiful enough, and dry as tinder, strewn in profusion along the beach,

cast up by the sea. In addition to these luxuries, the angler or the sportsman can keep his larder well supplied with game or fish—ducks, geese, salmon, trout, herrings, codfish, capelin, and lobsters, all at short notice, and in the spring fresh eggs can be had for the gathering.

As it would occupy too much space to mention individually the many species of wild fowl with which Anticosti literally swarms, and to comment upon their characteristics, a list of the principal varieties will be found at the end of the pamphlet, and it is proposed to speak in the following lines, in as concise a manner as possible, of a few of those kinds which have commanded the attention of visitors to the island on sporting bent.





## WILD FOWL.

In the wooded sections of the island, the Canadian partridge, <sup>Partridge</sup><sub>(Grouse)</sub> the "birch" and "spruce," are found in vast numbers. These are handsome birds, somewhat larger than Scotch grouse. They are capital eating, the flavour being not unlike that of English pheasant. They are extremely prolific, the broods averaging from ten to fifteen. A good dog is essential in obtaining a bag of these birds, owing to their peculiar habit of roosting silent and immovable on the branches of trees on being disturbed, from which nothing induces them to move. The dog's business is to discover for the gunner, where the birds have "treed."

The Canada goose breeds in Anticosti, and is well known <sup>Canada</sup><sub>Goose</sub> all over the North American continent. This bird remains from about the 1st of April, until the end of November and then flies away in immense flocks to the south. The birds weigh from 10 to 12 lbs., and when in good condition, as much as 15 lbs. Geese shooting does not appear at first sight a particularly high art of gunning, but crack men at snipe and partridges have been known to fail signally when put to the test. The reasons generally are that they do not know the right time to fire, and thus do not fire far enough in front of the bird. Decoys are used in connection with bagging the Canada goose; a good plan is for the sportsman to remain perfectly immovable, while a flock sweeps round and round the decoy until they are satisfied that all is right, and thereupon begin to settle lower. As soon as they then come in front of the sportsman, he raises his gun, on which the wary geese hurl themselves upwards, this is the moment to pull the trigger, selecting if possible a broadside shot. The sportsman

rarely gets a shot under 50 yards; the best gun to use is a breech-loading, No. 10 bore, central fire, with 5 drachms of powder, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ounces of shot. As the Canada goose cannot exist without fresh water, he therefore resorts to the lagoons and swamps fringing the coast of the island. This is an excellent spot for securing large bags. The birds must have the water, and as no amount of shooting will scare them away, men have been known to get through 28 lbs. of shot in two days, in positions of this kind.

The Brant  
Goose

The brant goose arrives in Anticosti in May, and in numbers that baffle all description. As these birds never leave salt water, the common practice is to secure them by using a light canoe shaped punt, fitted with paddle wheels, which are worked by the gunner concealed from view by a screen, who thus approaches the unsuspecting birds, and often bags from eight to ten by a well directed shot.

Another practice adopted by pot hunters is to sink an empty rum puncheon in a mud flat on the beach, a favorite spot for brant in May and June, and to hide in the same when the tide is ebbing; a decoy brant, connected with the occupant of the puncheon by a string, is then sent out, and succeeds in drawing a number within easy range, when as many as twenty have been known to fall to a single shot. Large bags of brant can also be obtained by selecting a hiding-place on a point on the coast in the line of their flight. Flock succeeds flock in rapid succession, and the gunner can load and fire as rapidly as he likes without causing the succeeding birds to deviate from following the same course their predecessors have taken.

Snipe and  
Woodcock

Snipe and woodcock are readily shot on the lowlands at the mouths of the numerous rivers and streams, and in the alder

swamps, and afford excellent sport. With a good cock dog from fifteen to twenty couple can be easily taken by one gun.

A large variety of plover abound in great numbers. The Plover golden plover, the upland plover, and black billed plover may be mentioned as splendid game birds.

The Hudsonian curlew and the Esquimaux curlew, both Curlew visitors from the remotest parts of the Hudson Bay are shot in large numbers. These are delicious birds for the table and as much superior to the English curlew as the Canada wild goose is to an English wild goose. Of sea-ducks the number of varieties is legion, and they afford Duck excellent sport although perhaps inferior to the foregoing for the pot. They hold out however great attractions to the collector of bird skins as their plumage as a rule is very fine. Of these *fuliginæ* we may mention—the scoter, spirit duck, surf duck, red head, shell drake, gooseander (a most handsome bird), red breasted shell drake, eider duck, Labrador duck, &c., all of which breed on the island in countless swarms. These duck are not so shy as the *Anatidæ*; they generally fly in a straight line, regardless of shot, fancying themselves safe on the wing, and it is not at all uncommon for the sportsman to find as many as a dozen different varieties among his bag in a single day. Three handsome divers breed on Anticosti, and are met with in immense numbers. They are the coon, the red breasted diver, and the black throated diver. Divers It seems, however, a pity to shoot these birds, except for specimens. They are an ornament to Canadian waters, and those who have watched their pretty manners become quite attached to them. They only hatch one young one.

## MR. J. J. ROWAN ON SPORT IN ANTICOSTI.

It will be interesting for our readers to hear what Mr. John Rowan has to say of the sporting capabilities of Anticosti. That gentleman visited the island on several occasions, and at all seasons of the year, and the following extract has been taken from his contributions to the *Field* on the subject :—

Wild Fowl “I do not think there is any better place in America for wild fowl shooting than Anticosti. In the fall and spring, geese and many different kinds of ducks swarm along the coast, and in the lagoons. I have seen bogs black with the sea duck of different sorts (*Fuliginæ*), and *flights of these birds at least half-a-mile in length*. The ducks (*Anatidæ*), and the geese divide their time between the beach and fresh water lakes, and lagoons contiguous to the beach. Not being harassed by gunners, the birds are comparatively tame, and the wild fowl sporter in Anticosti can, for once in his life, glut himself with his favorite sport.”

“I found that many of the water fowl, including the geese and divers, were of a very inquisitive turn of mind, and I often used to decoy them within shot by waving a colored handkerchief. But more inquisitive, even than a woman, is the red throated diver. These birds were sometimes a positive nuisance, coming in from miles round to look at the canoe, and then circling and spreading and chattering round it. On the plains, I have brought them up from a great distance, by standing on a hummock, and waving my hat. On the high rocks, on the north shore of the island, incredible quantities of sea birds hatch. On one occasion, I fired a shot to alarm them, and the number that rose was so great that, for a minute or two, I could hardly see the sky, and their dropping in the water, resembled a heavy shower of rain or hail.”

“Vast numbers of geese hatch in the island in the lagoons and ponds. Brant do not hatch in the island,”—their breeding ground being the remotest parts of Hudson’s Bay—“Black ducks are very abundant. They are always good birds to eat, but late in the fall they are best.

There is no bird or animal in this continent so wary as the black duck; there, where in all probability they have never heard a shot fired, it requires almost as much caution as in inhabited districts. The best way I found to shoot them was at low water, to sit down on the beach behind a heap of seaweed or log, and send someone to stir them up above and below."

"With regard to the bears in Anticosti, there is but one species, not two as has been popularly imagined, namely, the black bear,—*Ursus Americanus*. They exist in considerable numbers, and, though dangerous when wounded, afford the most exciting sport owing to their extreme wariness."

Bears and  
Bear shooting

"The Anticosti bear is famed for the beauty of its fur, which is at its prime in the months of April and May. They retire and hibernate in November among the thick scrub, on the south shore of the island. They reappear in April, at which time the females have from two to three cubs, which remain with the mothers until the following spring. The young female has cubs in the third year."

"In spring and early summer they feed entirely on the fish and fish spawn which is thrown up in quantities on the beach. In the summer and fall they retire to the woods in the interior, and are exceedingly difficult to approach. I found it necessary to change my camp every day to avoid scaring them."

"When bruin is hungry he comes out of the woods and strolls along the beach at high water mark. The best chance to shoot him is in the morning and rowing when the tide is on the ebb. Paddling along the coast it is quite the exception not to see several bears in the course of a day, as many as seven to ten have been seen by sportsmen in one day. There are two ways of approaching them, when the wind is blowing on shore the sportsman must stalk from the land side; when the wind is off shore the better way is to paddle up to them. The Indians are very skilful in the latter method. Bruin is so accustomed to floating driftwood and ice that he fears no danger from a canoe unless the paddles are moving. I have been paddled within seventy yards of them, and a charge of buckshot at that distance is always fatal. I cut down two bears in grand style with a large No. 6 bore



single barrel that I had with me for grouse shooting, with a charge of 8 drachms powder and 30 buckshot, one at a distance of fifty-five yards."

Mr. Rowan continues :—

Foxes

"The rest of the wild animals comprise black, cross-patch, and silver grey, and red foxes, chiefly cross patch. The value of the skins being \$100, \$60, \$25, and \$5 respectively. The quality of the fur of all is equally good in all varieties, the color making the difference.

Marten

Otter

"Marten and otter are also found in large numbers, which is not to be wondered at considering their immunity from pursuit. All the fur bearing animals can be readily trapped."



## THE ANGLER.

After what has been said in the previous pages of this pamphlet of the position of Anticosti in the centre of the finest fishing grounds in the world, it is very evident that the rivers and streams of the island are likely to be choice spots for the angler. This will no doubt be welcome news to many lovers of the gentle craft in face of the difficulty that exists of obtaining fishing leases in the lower provinces of Canada—in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton—in rivers that have not already been overfished, and otherwise depleted of the noble salmon by the reckless and ignorant construction of milldams and other like obstructions, which prevent the fish from running up to spawn in their accustomed grounds.

In Anticosti, salmon are everything that can be desired in point of size and gameness. They average 10lbs. and specimens have been taken with the rod up to 30lbs. The rivers swarm with them and as yet but very few fishing leases have been sold. The principal streams of the island that will be found to repay a visit during the season are the Jupiter, Otter, Becscie, Pavillon, Chaloupe, Fox, Bear, and Salmon rivers. The two largest are the Jupiter and Salmon rivers, on the south and north side of the island respectively.

There is also good trouting in Anticosti, both sea and brook trout, the latter abound in all the rivers and lakes of the island. They are exceedingly game fish, and, it is hardly necessary to remark, also excellent eating.

## ISLAND SPORTING CLUB.

In order to render the sporting facilities of Anticosti available to persons of ordinary means, and with limited time at their disposal, it is proposed to increase the existing means of communication between the various parts of the island, and in this manner to render the choicest parts of this vast preserve easily accessible. In view of the absence of any well-developed system of roads such improvement of communication must be effected by water, and this can most readily be accomplished. The proprietors will therefore arrange to run frequent coasting steamers from point to point, and thus enable the sportsman to keep touch with the settled districts and the outside world.

In this connection a project is also on foot to form an Island Sporting Club, members of which would have the privilege of fishing in any of its numerous rivers and streams, and of shooting the wild fowl that swarm in the interior on all its coasts. The programme of the club in the first instance will be to construct and erect at a number of the best spots, from a sportsman's and angler's point of view, inexpensive but commodious shooting and fishing lodges, each capable of accommodating several persons, simply furnished, and provided with cooking apparatus and other conveniences calculated to make life in them pleasant. Shooting and fishing canoes and punts would be attached to each lodge, and a few experienced local men engaged as caretakers, would serve as guides and servants to the visitors.

A club of this kind would undoubtedly be a great convenience to such as desired to invest their capital in one or the other of the directions that have been suggested in the previous pages of this book, or who wished to ascertain beforehand for them-

selves the suitability of the island for their purposes. Such could combine a business visit with the most delightful of pleasures, the pursuit of which would not fail to be beneficial in every respect. Persons desiring of further information are directed to write to H. Kendrick, Esq., 10, Pancras Lane, London, E.C., who will gladly answer any enquiries.



## APPENDIX.

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 LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL WILD FOWL THAT  
 BREED IN ANTICOSTI.
 

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Birch Partridge .....	<i>Tetrao Umbellus.</i>
Spruce „ .....	„ <i>Canadensis.</i>
Canada Goose .....	<i>Anser Canadensis.</i>
Upland Plover .....	<i>Totanus Bartramius.</i>
Golden „ .....	<i>Charadrius Marmoratus.</i>
Black-bellied Plover .....	„ <i>Helveticus.</i>
Telltale Godwit .....	<i>Totanus Melanolencus.</i>
Yellow Shank .....	„ <i>Flavipes.</i>
Marbled Godwit .....	<i>Limosa Fedoa.</i>
Solitary Sandpiper .....	<i>Jolanus Solitarius.</i>
Piping Plover .....	<i>Charadrius Melodus.</i>
Ring Plover .....	„ <i>Semipalmatus.</i>
Turnstone.....	<i>Strepsilas Interpres.</i>
Black Duck .....	<i>Anser Obscura.</i>
Blue-winged Teal.....	„ <i>Discors.</i>
Scoteo .....	<i>Oidemia Americana.</i>
Velvet Duck .....	<i>Melanetta Velvetina.</i>
The Whistler .....	<i>Clangula Glancoro.</i>
Spirit Duck .....	„ <i>Albeola.</i>
Surf Duck .....	<i>Pelemetta Perspicillata.</i>
Old Squaw .....	<i>Harelda Glacialis.</i>
Redhead .....	<i>Aythya Americana.</i>
Shell Drake .....	<i>Mergus Americanus.</i>
Shell Duck .....	<i>Mergus Serrator.</i>
Little Shell Duck .....	„ <i>Albellus.</i>
Goosander .....	„ <i>Meganser.</i>
Eider Duck .....	<i>Fulix Molissima.</i>
Scaup .....	„ <i>Merila.</i>
Buffelhead .....	„ <i>Albeola.</i>
Labrador Duck .....	<i>Camptolamuso Labradornia.</i>
Harlequin Duck .....	<i>Histrionicus Torquatus.</i>
The Coon .....	<i>Colymbus Glacialis.</i>
Red-throated Diver .....	„ <i>Septentrionalis.</i>
Black „ „ .....	„ <i>Arcticus.</i>

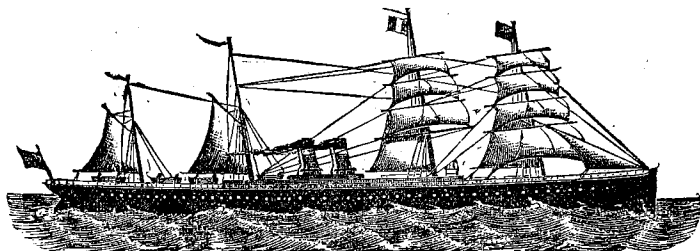
Bittern .....	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus.</i>
Crow .....	<i>Corvus Americanus.</i>
Raven .....	„ <i>Corax.</i>
Eagle .....	<i>Haliaetus Lenccephalus.</i>
Osprey .....	<i>Pændion Carolinensis.</i>
Hen Hawk .....	„ <i>Borealis.</i>
Moose Bird .....	<i>Garrulus Canadensis.</i>
Kingfisher .....	<i>Alcedo Alcyon.</i>
Great Woodpecker .....	<i>Picus Pileatus.</i>
Sea Parrot .....	<i>Mormon Arcticus.</i>
Gennet .....	<i>Sula Bassana.</i>
Guillemot.....	<i>Uria Troile and Uria Grylle.</i>

Anticosti is also the summer resort of the famous Brant Goose (*Anser Bernicla*), Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius Hudsonicus*), the Esquimaux Curlew (*Numenius Arcticus*), and a large variety of other equally splendid wild fowl.



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