

Quebec, and although fogs are more frequent, there is no complaint of the insalubrity of the air. The soil is not always good, yet it produces trees of all kinds. You see there, oaks of prodigious size, pines fit for masts, and all sorts of building wood. Besides the oak, the most common trees are the cedar, ash, maple, plane and aspen. Fruits, especially apples, vegetables, wheat and all other grains necessary for subsistence; hemp and flax are less abundant, but of as good a quality as in Canada. The mountains, it has been noticed, can be cultivated to their very summits; the good lands slope southward, and are sheltered from northers and northwesterners by the mountains which skirt the coast towards the river St. Lawrence.¹

1713-24.

Climate
and
character of
the island.

All the domestic animals, horses, cattle, swine, sheep, goats and poultry, find abundant food. Hunting and fishing can maintain the inhabitants a good part of the year. This island has several abundant mines of excellent coal, and these mines are in mountains, so that to extract the coal, requires neither digging nor diversion of waters, as in Auvergne: gypsum is also found. It is asserted, that there is no place in the world, where more codfish are taken, or where there are greater conveniences for drying it. This island formerly abounded in deer; these are now very rare, and the elk especially so. Partridges are almost as large as a pheasant, and quite resemble it in plumage; while the seal fishery, and that for porpoises and walruses, can be conveniently carried on, and are very productive.

Its riches.

All its ports open to the east, turning southward, for a distance of fifty-five leagues, commencing at Port Dauphin, down to Port Toulouse, which is almost at the mouth of Fronsac Passage.² Everywhere else, it is difficult to find anchorage for small craft, in the bays or between the islands. All the whole north coast is high and almost inaccessible; nor is the western side of more easy approach down to Fronsac Passage, on passing which,

Ports.

¹ Pichon, *Lettres &c.*, pp. 6, 11-14. ² *Ib.* pp. 49, 81, 50, 31.