

## ANTICOSTI -

## "Island of Mystery"

HIS island lies about 360 miles northeast from Quebec City, has a shore line of 300 miles and an area of about 3,200 square miles, covered with virgin stands of timber. This island forms a



natural and undisturbed habitat for numerous animals and birds, which roam at large all over the island. There are over 100 streams and rivers, threading

their way through the island, emptying into the great Gulf of St. Lawrence. Many of these streams are
frequented by salmon and trout and
are used by the deer, fox, bear and
numerous other animals, for drinking grounds. The seashore also
abounds with many species of birds.
Duck, geese, jack snipe, partridge and plover are among those
which make Anticosti their haven.

The Island of Anticosti was discovered by the famous "Mariner of St. Malo," Jacques Cartier (Canada No. 208) and (France 1934) in 1534 and 1535. Cartier gave the Island the name of "L'Assomption," but its Indian name of Natiscatee, has since been changed to Anticosti. The first real settlement was made three hundred years ago by Louis Jolliet, who was granted the seigniorial rights to the Island by his King, Louis XII of France. Jolliet passed several years there and founded a French Colony at Ellis Bay (Port Menier). Sixty years later one of the vessels of the English fleet under the command of the celebrated Admiral Phipps, was wrecked at Anticosti. This frigate was commanded by Captain Rainsford, and it is believed that this was the commencement of the first English settlement in Anticosti, at English Bay (Baie Ste. Claire). An old cannon, resting in the grounds of the Villa Menier, bears silent tribute to the pioneer work of these settlers.

THE famous marauder, Gamache, used Anticosti as a headquarters during the following century, and his plundering sorties lasted many years, despite the efforts of the authorities to check him. Efforts to encourage settlers to the island, by various companies, were unsuc-

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cessful. One effort was the promotion of the "Company of English Adventurers" who tried to emulate the success made by the "Company of English Adventurers in Hudson's Bay."

The island was sold, in 1895, to Henri and Gaston Menier, celebrated chocolate manufacturers of Paris who planned to use it as a preserve for wild animals. They built the Villa Menier at Port Menier, a beautiful mansion in the French style, and furnished it with carvings and antiques from the Old World. Furniture from Sweden, rugs and tapestries from the East, cabinets and chairs from Old France, make



and they are engaged in lumbering in its forests. The only post office is at Port Menier, a village of about forty families. The rest of the population are scattered all around the island, ten, twelve or fifteen miles apart. Seven lighthouses, erected by the government, are located on the Island. The Anticosti Shipping Co., subsidiary of the Consolidated Paper Co., promotes excursion cruises to Anticosti during June,



A View of Anticosti Island

this a show place to present-day visitors to the Island.

John L. Stoddard, noted traveler and lecturer, in one of his books published in 1914, says, "Upon the western side of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, directly in front of the river itself, lies Anticosti Island, capable, if strongly fortified, of making further navigation for a hostile fleet impossible." These plans, of course, were never carried out.

Anticosti Island is at present controlled by the Consolidated Paper Corporation Limited of Montreel

July and August. Passengers are carried from Quebec on the "Fleurus," 1,122 ton oil-burner.

Collectors desiring Port Menier cancellations, of which two types are used, should send covers to Joseph Duguay, Postmaster, Port Menier, Anticosti Island, Quebec, Canada. Send addressed envelopes with Canadian stamps. Mr. Duguay, like most Canadian postmasters, is very accommodating and will take care to give clear markings if you write a letter, stating just what