

RAILWAYS.

NEWFOUND-
LAND,
1896-7.
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Early in 1897 the Government of the day concluded negotiations with the Newfoundland Railway Company, whereby, for the sum of £325,000 stg. payable in bonds of 50 years at 3 per cent. interest, all the rights of the said company in this Colony were transferred to the Government.

The whole railway system of the Colony was thus brought under one control, and the injunction placed by the Newfoundland Railway Company upon the disposition of the coal areas near Grand Lake was removed. An arrangement with Mr. Reid to place a first class passenger ship on the strait dividing our Island from the mainland of the neighbouring continent, brought the transinsular railway system of the Colony into close connection with the great Canadian and American lines.

LEGISLATION.

The titles of the various Acts passed by the Legislature in the session of 1897 will be found in the Blue Book.

Of these, two were reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, viz. :—" An Act to amend Chapter 124 of the Consolidated Statutes (Second Series), entitled 'Of the Coast Fisheries '"; and " An Act to amend the Election Act, 1889, and the Acts in amendment thereof." These Acts did not become law.

EDUCATION.

The grants for this service, reduced in 1895-6, were this year put back to the figure at which they stood previous to retrenchment. The total expenditure under this head for 1895-6 was : \$126,821.86 ; and for 1896-7, \$154,438.07.

No. of schools open in 1895-6	...	...	588
No. of schools open in 1896-7	...	...	625
No. of scholars on roll in 1895-6	...	...	33,722
No. of scholars on roll in 1896-7	...	...	32,207

In bringing to a close this brief record of the Colony's affairs for 1896-7, I may add that at this time of writing things have brightened considerably. Trade has improved, the prices paid