

FOR THE BRAND, which they prized highly owing to the benefits arising therefrom. The Government of Newfoundland might it is suggested, encourage curers in a similar way. Such a policy would have the same effect that it had in Scotland and the industry both as to catch and cure would gradually and steadily increase.

SKILLED INSTRUCTORS NEEDED.

In order to carry out the Board's regulations a staff of skilled fishery instructors would have to be appointed similar to the officers of the Scotch Fishery Board. The officers of that Board are required first to furnish a certificate of their knowledge and skill both for fish curing and of cooping, after which they are nominated by the Board for examination by the Civil Service Commissioners. It must be certified that the candidate has exercised the trade of a cooper, and has been employed for a number of years in the actual curing and packing of herrings, and that he is skilful and qualified to overlook the same, and to judge whether they are properly pinned, cured, and pickled, so as to be entitled to the official brand. These officers as they move about in their districts and among the fishermen and others interested, have a keen and discerning eye for all that is going on. They critically watch every new movement, and listen to the impressions formed by all and sundry regarding any new development which is likely to take place for the benefit and welfare of the fisheries. All this they embody in their weekly reports to the Head Office in Edinburgh. I would suggest the Newfoundland Fishery Board should be empowered to appoint a few such practical officers. These are not to be found in Newfoundland but young capable men could be got from Scotland to initiate the curing and packing of herrings and the construction of proper standard barrels. In the course of time men belonging to the Colony would be enabled under their supervision to

learn the trade of a cooper and curer and become eventually eligible for this position themselves. The officers should also teach the workers in the curing yards the Scotch method of packing and curing. These workers I am informed can be obtained in suitable numbers without difficulty in the various outposts.

EXPERIMENTAL FACTORIES

I would suggest that four centres to place instructors in would be sufficient to begin with, and other centres would no doubt gradually follow. The centres which I would propose are Bonne Bay, Bay of Islands, Green Bay and some other suitable place in either Placentia Bay or Fortune Bay.. I find that with the exception of Green Bay where there are three or four Scotch coopers, none of these places possess the means at present for the making of suitable barrels. I would therefore suggest that an experimental barrel factory should be erected in each place under the auspices of the Government so that improved and suitable barrels and half barrels could be constructed. By having stocks of these stored up, lots of from 20 to 50 or more could be sent to places where fishing had been commenced. The erection of such factories has been carried out in Ireland by the Imperial Government with excellent results. Canada I understand has schools for Agricultural instruction and why should not the Newfoundland Government have similar training centres for the fostering of the fisheries which mean more to her than anything else? The foundation of the herring trade depends mainly upon properly constructed barrels capable of carrying the herring to the various markets without leakage and in the pink of condition. This is the chief essential necessary to the trade. The wood for the barrels, the staves, the ends, the hoops, apart from the iron hoops, can be obtained in suitable quantities all through the Island in sufficient quantities to make all the stocks required.