

LIBRARY DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

NEWFOUNDLAND

1. PHYSICAL FEATURES

Area: 42,750 sq. miles (cf. Nova Scotia 21,068 sq. miles and New Brunswick 27,985 sq. miles)

The Labrador Coast territory amounts to approximately 120,000 sq. miles. Total territory under the jurisdiction of the Commission of Government is, therefore, 162,000 sq. miles (approx.)

The length and breadth are approximately the same, 320 miles, at their maximum points. The coast line is approximately 6,000 miles in length.

Physical Features

The coast line is generally rugged with the mountainous outcroppings close to the coasts particularly in the north west. The maximum elevation is 2,700 feet.

The interior is generally hilly.

Climate

Except in the north western part of the island, the climate is moderate. The temperature seldom drops below zero in winter and seldom goes above 80° in summer. Winter snowfall is not heavy and generally lasts from December to April.

Newfoundland itself is not troubled very greatly by fogs, and the island has been confused with the Banks in making Newfoundland a popular synonym for fog.

The ebb and flow of tides is not pronounced.

There do not appear to be any readily available surveys of the proportion and character of the arable areas in the island. Geologically Newfoundland resembles the Laurentian shield and there are few areas where deep soil covers the ancient ice-planed rocks. It is Mr. MacKay's opinion that the best agricultural land in Newfoundland is no better than that to be found in the Gatineau Valley. The cool summers prevent the assured ripening of grain crops.