

back." His to-day lacks the momentum of many noble yesterdays.

—NEWELL DWIGHT HILLIS.

By the way, how about that assurance policy you were going to take out "tomorrow?"

Do not lay aside this number until you have read the record of 1900 on the last page.

Newfoundland Folk-Lore.



NEWFOUNDLAND is particularly rich in folk-lore, having drawn it from English, Irish and Scotch ancestors. Added to this is the newer folk-lore and observed superstitions that had their

origin among the early settlers who were the Colony's pioneers.

Nine out of every ten fishermen believe that it is unlucky to turn a boat or schooner, or coil up a rope "against the sun," and that an upturned hatch is a sign of a disaster.

When detained for an unusually long time in a harbor, waiting for a fair wind in vain, it is a common thing to hear this saying: "Somebody got the black cat under the pot for us." Many skippers would rather lie up in idleness all day and lose a fine time than sail on Friday. A crow flying over a vessel before leaving on a voyage has often proved potent enough to cause members of a crew to refuse to go on the voyage. To whistle on the water, is, among our fishermen, very unlucky, and is believed to invite the wrath of a storm.

There is a "jinker" in every fishing village in the country; that is, a man who always brings ill-luck. Nobody cares to go with him either to the seal fishery,

Labrador, or Bank fishery. He never was known to make good wages.

Captains of our sealing steamers are not above noting the indications of good and bad luck. One very successful sealing captain when in doubt as to what particular course to steer, when going in search of seals, is known to have decided the matter by tossing up his cuff on the quarter deck and following the course where the thumb pointed, and the best of it is, that — *post hoc ergo propter hoc* — he always got a full load of seals.

The superstitions on the land are no less interesting than those of the sea, and the more one ponders over them the more piquant is the silent enquiry, where did they have their origin and universality?

It is unlucky to pick birch for brooms in May, for tradition says:

"If you pick your brooms in May
You'll surely sweep your friends away."

In Bonavista Bay, if a party of men going into the country, deer or partridge shooting, happen to burn their kettlestick when cooking their first outdoor meal, they will expect ill luck and no game; in fact, without more ado, they often turn back and give up the expedition.

Putting away warts, and charming the toothache are practices too common to dwell upon. In the case of the former, as many small stones as the number of warts to be got rid of must be tied up in a parcel and thrown on the road. The person who picks it up and opens it, will have the excrescences transmitted to him.

On the French Shore the way to prevent the house from being burnt down during the ensuing year, is to throw a live brand, taken from the Christmas fire, over the roof at midnight.