

were enlarged by the French adventurers. The right of taxation was again asserted by William the Third, and was one of the causes of the declaration of war which was made against France during his reign. From the time of Sir Humphrey Gilbert's expedition, up to the reign of William the Third, a number of English residents settled in Newfoundland, and engaged in the fishery business. The war ended, and the Treaty of Utrecht gave to France the right of fishing in Newfoundland waters, but reserved the greater portion of the bank to the use of the English fishermen. This arrangement, however, did not suit the French fishermen, and disputes were constantly occurring, which not unfrequently resulted in bloodshed. The importance of maintaining a hold upon the Fisheries, as a school for seamen, seems to have been fully recognized by France, and the strongly fortified harbor of Louisbourg was constructed at an enormous cost (30,000,000 livres), for their protection; the materials for its construction being all sent out from France. This last stronghold of France, however, at length yielded to the assault of the British forces.

The fish mostly taken in the waters of British America, are cod, mackerel, herring, seal, oysters, and last, though certainly not least, the whale. The cod are taken on all the shores and bays of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where they come to deposit their spawn, and then leave for deeper water. During the summer months the sails of innumerable fishing boats whiten the seas of Labrador and Newfoundland, and thousands of fishermen are employed in the trade. It is estimated that nearly 2,000,000 tons of fresh cod are taken every year by the fishermen of British America and of the States.

The seal fishing of the Gulf is a far more exciting sport. In Spring, when the seals begin to leave the Gulf, they are taken in immense nets, 100 fathoms in length. Very costly nets they are, as much as \$5,000 being frequently paid for one. The meshes of these nets are about eight inches square, and the seals, when they find themselves entrapped, dive, and running their heads into these meshes, are strangled in their efforts to escape. The Harbour seals [*Phoca vitulenta*] abound on the coast all the year round, and are killed by means of swan shot.

Between ten thousand and fifteen thousand fishermen earn their livelihood by seal-fishing. Three millions of gallons of seal oil, and half a million of seal skins is reckoned as the average annual export of the Island of Newfoundland alone.

The herring fisheries on the Labrador coast are wonderfully productive. The shoals of fish are frequently eight or ten miles long by three or four feet deep. They are easily taken by means of nets fastened to stakes extending one or two hundred yards into the sea. An opening in this barrier allows the fish to enter into a "pond," out of which they are baled in scoops.

Many hundred thousand barrels of mackerel are taken yearly. The mackerel travel in "shoals" not unlike the shoals of herring before referred to, and are taken with hooks and lines. The rapidity with which an experienced fisherman will haul in this fish seems perfectly incredible. A barrel is filled in a very short space of time. Ten men have been known to take as many as 12,000 mackerel in the course of one day in the Bay of Chaleurs.

From these brief particulars some idea may be formed of the immense importance of all questions connected with the Fishery interest of British America. Not only are the Fisheries a source of great wealth to the Provinces, but finding employment as they do to so many thousands of fishermen, they form one of the best possible "nurseries," so to speak, for the reinforcement of the Royal Navy—that important arm of the service upon the efficiency of which, the stability and power of the Empire so much depends. The Imperial authorities seem to be desirous of raising a small flotilla in each of the British Colonies, which, added to the present immense fleet of Britain, would constitute such a naval force as would be able to bid defiance to the combined navies of the world. The importance of giving all possible encouragement to the Fisheries, becomes under these circumstances more obvious than ever. —*Hamilton Spectator*.

3. MINERAL WEALTH OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

A correspondent writing from St. John's to the *New York Journal of Mining*, under late date, furnishes the following respecting the mineral wealth of Newfoundland:—

"This island abounds in minerals, but as yet the working of the claims is in truly verdant infancy. The Union mine is the only one being worked with vigor, and yields 12 per cent. of copper. The shipments from it so far this season reach 800 tons, but the proprietors expect to ship 2,000 tons this year. There is another mine at Little Bay, which has been worked seven years, and produces ore containing 50 per cent. sulphur and only three to four per cent. copper. It is not extensively worked at present, but the lessees are about to extend their operations, expecting, as they des-

cend, that the quality of the ore will improve. Besides these several copper lodes of great richness have been discovered, and work commenced. Of these, some have been since abandoned, while others promise much success. Private capital alone has been employed, and no companies formed yet. A lead mine opened at La Manche, produced a large quantity of good rich ore. It was commenced by a company who were in some degree connected with the promoters of the electric telegraph, and yet, although a very rich metal, and yielding largely, it does not appear to have been a success. This merely indicates that the management was faulty, and persons well qualified to judge are of opinion that there is an immense amount of metal there, and that it would yield a handsome return for capital judiciously expended upon it. At Lawn there is another lead mine from which valuable ore has been extracted. The operations connected with it are as yet, however, in their infancy, and it would be premature to say much more with respect to its probable future. Harbor Mille, in Fortune Bay, was lucky enough to have, a few years since, a valuable vein of silver; the working of which, however, was abandoned for want of capital and energy on the part of the parties interested. It will, no doubt, at a future day, when the knowledge of mining and the spirit of enterprise become more general, be resumed. From all parts of the island samples of copper, and from almost every direction, specimens of good lead are obtained, but until some capital is brought to bear, and some new life infused, the progress of development will be slow, and the most valuable deposits will remain unproductive. Coal has been discovered in several places about Bay St. George, but no attempt has hitherto been made to work it; yet I am assured that in St. John's coal is seldom or never sold under twenty-five shillings currency, per ton. Plumbago has been found in several quarters, and lately some attention has been paid to it, but nothing of importance has been done regarding it. Valuable marbles abound on the northern portion of the island, and last year a few men were employed in opening a quarry, which is still being prosecuted, but the operation is one on the most limited scale. So much for the minerals of Newfoundland, which, despite their known riches, only employ about one thousand men, a fact which does not redound to the credit of the many wealthy residents on the island, and the many more, who, having made fortunes in it and retired from it, will not invest a share of their winnings in properties which would enrich them, while they would afford a permanent source of employment to the poorer portion of the community.—*Montreal Witness*.

4. NORTH WEST TERRITORY.

Taking it for granted that the settled policy of the present Ministry, will lead to the acquisition of the North-west Territory, we propose to examine the nature of the acquisition in the light of its adaptability for agricultural purposes. Three things are essentially necessary before any region of country can become successful agriculturally—good soil, genial climate, and accessibility to markets. We propose to avail ourselves of "The First Report of the Select Standing Committee on Immigration and Colonization," in which this matter is investigated with some success.

Soil.—Captain Palliser, who explored the portions of British North America, lying between the British boundary and the watershed of the Northern ocean, under the authority of the British Government, in the years 1857 to 1860 inclusive, and who is presumed to be an authority, in speaking of a certain section remarks, "It is now a partially wooded country, abounding in lakes and rich natural pasturage, in some parts rivaling the finest park scenery of our own country [England.] Mons. E. Bourgeau—a fellow explorer with Captain Palliser—in writing to the late Sir William Hooker respecting the Hudson's Bay Territory, remarks, "But it remains to me to call the attention of the English Government to the advantage there would be in establishing agricultural districts in the vast plains of Rupert's Land, and particularly in the Saskatchewan. This district is much more adapted to the cultivation of staple crops of temperate climates, wheat, rye, barley, oats, &c., than one would have been inclined to believe from the high latitude." Professor Hind, another authority, remarks, "The area of this extraordinary belt of rich soil and pasturage is about forty millions of acres. It was formerly a wooded country, but by successive fires it has been positively cleared of its fresh growth, but abounds with the most luxuriant henbane, and generally possesses a deep rich soil of vegetable mould." Mr. James Taylor, of St. Pauls, Minnesota, in an appendix to an official report, dated March 2nd, 1858, and addressed to the Governor of Minnesota, remarks, "There is, in the heart of North America, a distinct sub-division, of which Lake Winnipeg may be regarded as the centre. This sub-division, like the valley of the Mississippi, is distinguished for the fertility of its soil, and for the extent and gentle slope of its plains watered by