

penses it was impossible for them to accept the terms of union.

It was altogether unfortunate that these terms were not acceded to for the sake of bringing about the incorporation of Newfoundland with the Dominion. The time was especially opportune. The island was just then in the throes of financial difficulty from which it has since brilliantly extricated itself, and is now on so sound a basis that it has no thought of again making overtures. Those must come from Canada, and it is very certain that when negotiations are resumed the demands of Newfoundland will not be as reasonable as they were in 1895. Meanwhile, let us consider some of the reasons why the island should belong to the Dominion.

It lies athwart our Gulf of St. Lawrence. It and the Labrador coast comprise a moiety of the British-American Atlantic coast line. Our trade skirts its shores and passes under its surveillance. Were a foreign power to own it, the situation would be intolerable. Under the present semi-independence, grave difficulties have arisen, and may arise again, and, in addition to possible dangers, there are immediate difficulties. The farmer of the prairies and the cattle-shipper of Ontario alike are interested in the safety of the St. Lawrence route. The road from Montreal to the open sea should be lighted like a street, but over seven or eight hundred miles of rugged coast line the Dominion has no jurisdiction. By virtue of its position, therefore, the entrance of Newfoundland into Confederation is of the first importance to Canada.

Again, the accession of Newfoundland to the Dominion would give the new and larger Canada control of the great Atlantic fisheries. The situation in some respects is simple. To catch cod a particular species of bait is necessary. The coast of Newfoundland supplies this bait in abundance; the Nova Scotian coast has a limited supply; United States fishing vessels have no home supply of bait whatever. Consequently, American fishing schooners must get all and Canadian vessels must get part of their bait from the Newfoundlanders. American fishermen stay in the business only by sufferance

of Canada and Newfoundland, and by playing the one against the other. Were Newfoundland part of Canada, her fishermen and those of Nova Scotia would have common interests, and the American fishing interest would be at the mercy of the Dominion Government. At present an oppressive tariff keeps British fishermen out of the American market, although the Gloucester fishermen are not able to catch fish enough to supply the demand, and drive a thriving trade in buying fish from the British fishermen and selling them as their own catch. If Canada controlled the bait supply, the American tariff on codfish would come down with a rush, or Gloucester would cease to send fishing schooners to the Banks. The Nova Scotian and the Newfoundland fishermen alike would profit by union. In Confederation lies the Canadian opportunity; at any moment the United States may offer Newfoundland a measure of reciprocity which will keep her aloof from us and deprive Nova Scotia of all hope of the American market.

The addition to the Canadian home market need not be despised by our manufacturers and farmers. The population of the colony is over 200,000, and when it is joined to Canada active development of its timber and mineral resources may be expected. These resources are considerable, and when pulp mills have been erected and iron and copper mines have been opened, the people at once will become more numerous and will consume more. Our farmers will have free access to, and in some cases control of the Newfoundland market for flour, meat, dairy products, fruit, and similar articles. Our manufacturers will supply the island with sugar, molasses, woollen and cotton goods, boots and shoes and numerous other articles which they now can sell in Newfoundland only by surmounting a high tariff wall. It will benefit the Newfoundlanders immensely, for they will get the necessities of life more cheaply; it will benefit our manufacturers and farmers, because they will add to their home market an area already possessing a considerable population, promising to support a larger population, and permanently unable to supply its own wants in regard to