

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION.



THE Island of Newfoundland has an area of 42,000 square miles, its greatest breadth being 316 miles and its greatest length about the same. Its shape and its numerous inlets, bays, harbours, and outlying islands render its appearance on the map somewhat deceptive as to size, but it ranks tenth among the world's islands and is about one-third larger than Ireland. If we include the Labrador, which is also under the jurisdiction of Newfoundland and might justly be regarded as forming part of it, the actual area under control of the Colony is very much greater. The Labrador coast, indeed, adds largely to the total output of the fisheries and forms a valuable asset of the Colony.

The island is situated at the entrance of the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, and from its geographical position as the nearest point to the British Islands, may some day serve, with its railway and its service of steamers on the other side, as the quickest route to Canada.

Its coastal scenery is grand and imposing, but usually too rugged to please the eye, but its numerous bays, and particularly its splendid harbours, which, while affording absolute protection to shipping, are large and extremely deep, supply an unlimited variety to those who have time to visit them.

The islands in its bays, especially those of Green Bay in the North, are extremely beautiful, and the tourist whose time is not too limited, especially one who is armed with camera, rod or gun, cannot do better than take the steamer round the East coast to Green Bay and spend his time sailing among the islands, fishing, shooting, berry picking and exploring, until his holiday approaches completion, when he can return by the train through the heart of the Island. The railway traverses country unsurpassed for interest to the tourist and profit to the sportsman. But for fuller information on these points the various later sections of this book, which deal individually with special routes for travel, etc., must be consulted.

Until the railway—which now stretches from St. John's to Green Bay (otherwise called Notre Dame Bay) in the North, and from North to West and South-west, and also from St. John's to various points on the Peninsular of Avalon, on whose Eastern side the capital stands—had been completed, the interior of the Island, in addition to being *terra nova*, was practically *terra incognita*. There are, indeed, still parts which have been but little explored, although these are being rapidly prospected, and in many cases opened up.

Although not largely blessed with rivers—the Humber, Exploits, and Gambo Rivers being the three largest—it is “thrice blessed” with lakes. So common indeed are these that the inhabitants constantly describe them as “ponds,” and such names as “twenty-mile pond” and “sixty-mile pond” give some idea as to their size. These ponds and rivers teem with the finest trout and salmon in the world, and, in conjunction with the surrounding country, which is well supplied with antlered and feathered game and with valuable fur-bearing animals, form a true sportsman's paradise.

For the lovers of the pine and fir, of river rapids and cascades, and for those who enjoy a quiet picnic in the woods—where edible berries, from the wild raspberry and strawberry through an endless variety of wild fruit to the rarer capillaire berry, abound in profusion scarcely to be seen elsewhere—most of the outports form ideal headquarters, and St. John's itself stands well in the forefront in this respect.

Notwithstanding the fact that our capital, St. John's, is situated in the same latitude as Paris, its location directly in the path of the Arctic current has given to Newfoundland a climate which is somewhat severe, although healthy and usually pleasant. In the Winter