

by Portuguese and Spanish fishermen, and there is no evidence of English fishermen there before 1517. When they went they did not mean to stay, but got the Government to keep the Island as a place for drying fish, not for settlement, by decreeing that all fishermen should return to England at the close of each fishing season. It was further decreed by the Star Chamber that the master of the first ship entering a harbor in the Island was to be admiral and magistrate for the season. Thus began the grotesque system of government by "Fishing Admirals" that was confirmed by Act of Parliament even so late as 1689. It was not until 1729 that the first governor was appointed by the Crown and the way prepared for constitutional freedom, which was at length obtained in 1854 by the grant of responsible self-government. Newfoundland has been popularly, but somewhat unjustly, regarded as a backward Colony, yet what a contrast between her position to-day and that under the rough, ignorant, and often unscrupulous "Fishing Admirals"! Seven hundred miles of railway now traverse what was then the undisturbed haunt of deer and wolf and fox; in what was believed to be the desert interior coal-beds and copper, iron and asbestos deposits have been discovered; lumbering and agriculture have been steadily developed. Practically the making of modern Newfoundland has been the work of the Queen's reign. The mineral wealth of the Island is not yet appreciated as it seems to deserve. How many people, for instance, know that the copper mines have already yielded ten million dollars' worth of ore, and that one of the most valuable iron mines in the world has been recently opened near St. John's? Less than a year ago a gold-bearing quartz reef was discovered at Cape Broyle, which yielded three ounces of gold to the ton. It is yet too early to say whether Newfoundland is to take permanent rank among the gold-producers of the world, but it is worth recalling that since the first geological survey under Mr. Murray, geologists have, from the character of the formations in many districts, predicted the discovery of gold in the Island. Recently, too, a discovery of petroleum has been made, and the deposits are believed to extend over a large area. As to agriculture, Dr. Harvey says that if we take the whole area of the Island at 42,000 square miles, and deduct one-third for water, there will remain 28,000 square miles, of which about 7,000 are available for culture or grazing, the rest being in forest, etc. The greatest source of wealth to the Colony, of course, is in the fisheries; and it may be said that its prosperity rests upon a foundation of cod fish bones. The products of the fisheries constitute four-fifths of the entire exports, and over one-fourth of the population are engaged in catching and curing fish. Touching the commercial disaster and political crisis of 1894, Dr. Harvey says the Colony has now got over its troubles, and that the crash was by no means an unmixed evil. It was, indeed, a blessing in disguise, as it compelled reform of the commercial system, swept away abuses, introduced improved methods of trade and finance, and placed the business of the Colony on a sounder basis than it had ever been. And hereafter, Dr. Harvey thinks, the Island of Cods, Dogs and Fogs will be the happy haunt of tourists, hav-