

other writers have said the same. The only drawback seems to be the arctic current, which brings down ice from the north every winter; blocking up many of the harbours and bays, particularly on the north and east of the island, sometimes from December to May, and chilling the country for several miles inland. This must be borne, but after all it is no vital matter, for the days are longer than in Great Britain, and work can go on everywhere during the winter. Even the ports which are occasionally closed by ice could easily be kept open by ice-breakers, as in Sweden, and this we are told is now being done by Mr. Reid's steamer, the "Bruce," in Placentia Bay.

FISHING.

I need not say much about the fisheries, for they at least have a very wide reputation. Fish in Newfoundland means cod, and the cod fisheries of the banks and of the Labrador shores show few, if any, signs of exhaustion. The seal fishery is indeed languishing, but this is more on account of the low prices obtained for its products than for any other reason. As for herrings, salmon, and other ocean products that are elsewhere called fish, I am inclined to think that these will be dealt with on a much more extended scale before any long time has elapsed. And the same may perhaps be said of the lobster fishery and of the canning of lobsters. Even now about 4,000 people are supported by lobsters out of a population of little over 200,000, while the fisheries generally, support directly or indirectly, more than one-fourth of the entire community. Lord Bacon said that "the fisheries of Newfoundland" were "more valuable than all the mines of Peru," and, bearing in mind the fact that they afford an annual and apparently inexhaustible harvest, this is no doubt sober truth. The present annual value of the fisheries is nearly 7 millions of dollars, or about equal to the Norway sea-harvest in value, and considerably greater in weight. I believe this industry could be, and will be, greatly expanded in the near future, although low prices will no doubt make it absolutely necessary to use all possible skill and knowledge in securing the fish when they are in the best condition, in adopting the best known methods of packing and transport, and in properly utilising every part of