

# Newfoundland.

## Interview With the High Commissioner.

(Sir Edgar R. Bowring, K.C.M.G.)

It was in 1497 that John Cabot, a Genoese merchant adventurer and a naturalised Englishman, sailed out of the Port of Bristol with a sturdy crew of West of England sailors on a voyage that brought him to Cape Bonavista, in Newfoundland. In this way Britain's claim in America was established by the indefeasible right of discovery.

It is not generally recognised that with the early history of Newfoundland is associated the beginning of Britain's maritime greatness. The wealthy fishing grounds provided the training field for the bold West Country seamen, and the adventures of these men and their final ascendancy over their competitors established Britain's supremacy on the seas and developed a race of sailors, the nucleus of the present British Navy.

The progress of Newfoundland was retarded by a long period of struggles with the French which culminated in the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. By this Treaty the French were given the privilege of fishing on certain portions of the coasts of the Colony; this was construed by them as a grant of the sole right to engage in the fisheries from the fairest portions of the island, and thus began a long and heated controversy throughout which the humble settlers in the Colony sought in vain for many years to establish a right to live in the land they had discovered and had made their own.

For more than a century and a half settlement in Newfoundland was not only discouraged, it was forbidden. The merchant adventurers from the West of England had secured a monopoly of the fisheries, and, through their influence, laws were passed prohibiting colonisation; masters of ships were put under bonds to return their crews to England, and settlement within six miles of the coast was made an offence involving heavy penalties.

The development of the island was further retarded by the appointment of fishing admirals; the master of the first ship entering the waters of the Colony was constituted admiral for the season with full magisterial authority, and the settlers were at the mercy of these rough fishing skippers, who systematically thwarted every attempt at development in the interest of their wealthy merchant employers.

At length, in 1729, a Governor was appointed from England, and from that time Newfoundland was regarded as a British Colony. Since the granting of representative Government to the Colony in 1832, the progress of Newfoundland has been steadily maintained.

Such, in brief, is an account of the early history of what has long been known as "Britain's oldest self-governing Colony."

**NEWFOUNDLAND A DOMINION.**  
Newfoundland is now a Dominion changing the title from "Colony" last year. Soon after the change took place the Government decided that Newfoundland should be represented in the heart of the Empire, and Sir Edgar R. Bowring, who served on the Dominion's Royal Commission which travelled round the world before the war to inquire into Empire trade, was appointed High Commissioner.

Sir Edgar, who is a native of Newfoundland, having been born at St. John's in 1858, has since 1900 been president and managing director of Bowring Bros., Limited, steamship owners and fish merchants, of St. John's, with branches in London, Liverpool and New York. He was knighted in 1915 for his services in connection with the Dominion's Royal Commission.

**NEWFOUNDLAND IN LONDON.**  
Arriving in England towards the close of last year, he lost no time in setting to work. Representing a country with a comparatively small population—and here it may be mentioned that Newfoundland is about one-third the size of the United Kingdom and contains some 250,000 people, scattered round 5,000 miles of coastline—he felt it was not necessary to have an office of large dimensions, and has taken over from the Newfoundland Pay and Record Office a suite of six rooms on the top floor of 58 Victoria Street, Westminster—the building, by the way, in which Sir George Reid, first High Commissioner for Australia, conducted the business of the Commonwealth during his six years' term of office.

Accommodation is provided for the official Secretary, Mr. Victor Gordon, a young barrister of the Middle Temple, for clerks and typists, for visitors and for official records. Visitors have the opportunity of consulting these records, and also of perusing the latest Newfoundland papers. The office will grow with the Dominion.

**NEWFOUNDLAND'S NEW MINISTRY.**  
Before proceeding to give an account of an interesting interview which a representative of "The Financier" had with the High Commissioner, reference may be made to the recent change of Ministry. Sir W. F. Lloyd—who was Newfoundland's representative at the Peace Conference—it may be mentioned, succeeded Lord Morris as Prime Minister. On returning to the Dominion in May he landed in the midst of a political crisis, which resulted in the former Finance Minister, Sir Michael P. Cashin, K.B.E., forming a new Ministry, the members of which are:

Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Sir M. P. Cashin.  
Minister of Justice, Hon. A. B. Morrice.  
Colonial Secretary, Hon. J. R. Bennett.  
Minister of Public Works, Hon. William Woodford.  
Minister of Shipping, Sir John C. Crosbie, K.B.E.  
Minister of Fisheries, Hon. J. C. Stone.  
Minister without portfolio, Hon. A. Hickman, W. J. Ellis and A. W. Piccott.

The portfolios for Agriculture and Militia are not filled for the present.

### HIGH COMMISSIONER INTERVIEW.

Questioned with regard to the outlook in Newfoundland, Sir Edgar Bowring said that when he left the Dominion towards the close of last year it was exceedingly bright, "but," he added, "I cannot do better than quote the remark made by Sir M. P. Cashin, the Finance Minister, in introducing the Budget in the House of Assembly on May 15. After announcing a surplus for the financial year ending June, 1918, of 1,250,000 dollars and an estimated surplus for the current financial year of about 2,000,000 dollars, and stating that for the past four financial years there had been a surplus increasing from 500,000 dollars gradually to 2,000,000 dollars, he added that the general conditions of prosperity were unexampled in the Colony's history. This bears out a further statement that has been made by one of the Canadian banks, that not for twenty-five years has there been such universal prosperity in Newfoundland as exists to-day.

"Our chief trade, as you know, is with the United States and Canada, and our position is closely watched in those countries. What the Canadian people think of Newfoundland was illustrated in a marked manner last year in connection with our 'Victory Loan.' As soon as the issue of 5,000,000 dollars, bearing interest at 6½ per cent., was announced Canada applied for three millions, and asked for an additional million. The Government thereupon increased the issue to 6,000,000 dollars, leaving two millions to be subscribed locally. Altogether a total of 7,543,400 dollars was subscribed, including 3,543,400 dollars and it was decided to accept the lot.

"This year Newfoundland has done even better, the Finance Minister having announced, according to a cable received on May 20, that the Government has effected the sale of 5,000,000 dollars 5½ per cent. twenty-year bonds to a Toronto firm at 97.71 and interest payable in New York funds, the loan being required to repay the short-term loan raised in New York in the summer of 1916.

**NEWFOUNDLAND'S WAR EFFORT.**  
"Of course, there will be heavy expenditure in connection with the war; and here I may mention that when the great war broke upon the world in 1914 the sailors from Newfoundland needed no second bidding when the call of Empire came. Many of them were already Naval Reservists; the sea was their own calling, and, whether upon a battleship or in a modest fishing craft off the shores of their island home, it matter little so long as they bore in honour the name of their own beloved country. The landsmen of the island could ill be spared from the sparse population, but they, too, came forward with no uncertain purpose to 'present their bodies a living sacrifice' in the Empire's righteous cause.

"In addition to 6,000 voluntary recruits for the land forces, 3,000 men or thereabouts went into the Naval Reserve, making Newfoundland's war effort something like 9,000 men. Unfortunately, there have been 1,250 deaths and about 3,000 other casualties.

**THE FISHERIES.**  
"It is not a little remarkable, and it is a fact worth recording, that, notwithstanding the withdrawal of so many men from the fisheries, the output should have been greater, while the price of cod especially has enhanced considerably. It is not generally known that the fisheries of the island provide the main food supply of the poorer populations of Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Brazil, and the development of the fish industry—the preservation of fresh fish in cold storage—promises to secure a place in the markets of the United Kingdom for the products of the new Dominion.

"You will remember that the first shipment of 2,000 tons was sent over in the auxiliary steamer Bayano. The fish was landed in most excellent condition, and found a ready market on this side. Five-sixths of our export trade is on account of our fisheries, and they are capable of almost indefinite development. In fact, it is on the expansion of the fisheries that Newfoundland's future prosperity in a great measure depends.

"The catch of codfish for the season 1917 was the largest on record, and you will gather some idea of the importance of our fisheries when I tell you that the exports of the products of the same from July 1, 1917, to June 30, 1918, amounted to 25,547,334 dollars, against 17,651,001 dollars in the previous year. Of course, it is no use having large catches of fish unless we have the means to deal with them. Not only is there opportunity for improved curing, but we want more refrigerator steamers to carry the fish away. I am pleased to tell you that we have one of the largest cold storage plants on the Atlantic seaboard, and other plants are in contemplation, but if the export trade of frozen fish is to be developed we must have more insulated ships and regular sailings so as to supply the markets. The question of branding our fish in order to convince consumers that they are really purchasing the product of Newfoundland has been under consideration."

A most gratifying improvement has taken place during the past year in the curing of herring, especially by the Scotch method. This was noticeable last fall and shows the wisdom of adopting stringent rules and providing penalties to enforce them, without which any attempts at improvement would be futile. To better packing is due in large measure, if not the present demand, certainly the unprecedentedly high price which have been obtained this season, and great expansion in this branch of Newfoundland's fisheries is confidently looked for.

**MINERAL WEALTH.**  
Questioned with regard to the mineral resources of Newfoundland, Sir Edgar Bowring said:—"So great are the maritime resources of this country that its potential mineral wealth has been obscured. Since 1864 copper has been mined successfully on the island at Tilt Cove, and the rich deposits of iron ore from the famous Bell Island have yielded substantial returns. In addition, coal is known to exist in many places in workable quantities (the extent of the coal area would seem to warrant an estimate of 500,000,000 tons), and the geological formation of the island is indicative of the existence of lead, silver and gold. But before any extensive developments are possible in this direction there must be a thorough geographical survey.

**NEWFOUNDLAND'S FORESTS.**  
"Newfoundland has almost limitless wealth in her forests, the pine, spruce, birch, juniper and larch furnishing ample materials for a large timber trade, as well as for shipbuilding, an industry which has received a considerable impetus of late, upwards of 100 vessels, aggregating 8,000 tons, having been built during the period of the war.

"Great pulp and paper mills, exporting large quantities of paper, are in operation, and numerous lumber camps seen from the cross-country railway are the best evidence of this thriving timber trade. The forest growth of Newfoundland is of special value for pit-props, and large quantities of these were of great value during the years of war. In the rebuilding of shattered towns and villages of France and Belgium large quantities of Newfoundland timber will be available.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR SETTLERS.**  
"From an agricultural point of view, the possibilities of Newfoundland have never been fully made known. Extensive areas of grazing and pasture land are to be found within easy reach of the railway, which is running over a thousand miles of the country. Free grants of uncleared land (up to 100 acres) are offered to the settler, and while capital is required to tide him over the unproductive period opportunities are on all sides presented to the prospective colonist. The fertile valleys of rivers that teem with trout and salmon offer a special attraction to the colonist with some means.

**"A SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE."**  
"Now that the long years of war are over the sportsmen of this country, who will be looking about for fresh fields for the use of rod and gun, will, it may be hoped and expected, give some attention to Newfoundland, which abounds in wild game, and where deer-stalking and salmon-fishing may be pursued with gratifying success.

"The establishment of hotels and resting houses near the great sporting rivers and in the heart of the Caribou country would greatly increase the tourist traffic to this land, which is, indeed, the sportsman's Eldorado.

"In this connection I would like to say a word about the climate. Unfortunately, Newfoundland is under the disadvantage of having to live down a reputation for an unfavourable climate. The very mention of the name suggests to many great extremes of cold, heavy snowfalls and the constant presence of an impetuous gale. The truth is that the ther-

monster rarely goes below zero in winter, and ranges from 60 to 70 degrees in the shade in summer, and while there are heavy falls of snow during the winter months these modify the cold and provide a winter atmosphere that is healthy and invigorating. The fogs so often associated with the island's name are found on the banks, which are ledges or mountains in the sea, lie anywhere from 200 to 600 miles from the coast of Newfoundland, and the fogs created there rarely penetrate inside the shores of the island itself.

**TRAVEL FACILITIES.**  
"So far as the interior of Newfoundland is concerned, the means of communication are excellent. During the past few years the railway system has been greatly extended and developed. There are now 1,000 miles of lines in operation throughout the island, and there are also good roads for motor travelling.

"What would assist in the development of the country is improved trans-Atlantic steamer communication; in fact, this may be regarded as the first importance to Newfoundland. Local steam communication is most excellent."

**NEWFOUNDLAND'S OVERSEAS TRADE.**  
At the close of the interview the High Commissioner handed to our representative a copy of the tenth annual report of the Council of the Newfoundland Board of Trade, which gives detailed particulars of the trade of the island during the past year, with comparisons of previous years.

The value of the import and export trade of Newfoundland during the year ended June 30, 1918, far exceeded that of any preceding year in the history of the Dominion. The following table gives the figures for the last two years:—

	Year 1916-17.	Year 1917-18.
Imports	21,318,310	26,892,946
Exports	21,381,762	30,153,517
Total	42,700,072	57,046,463

In the year 1917-18 imports were derived chiefly from the United States and Canada, whilst exports were chiefly to the United States, Brazil, Portugal and Spain.

Trade of Nfd.	Imports.	Exports.
	Dols.	Dols.
Great Britain	3,248,781	3,322,931
Canada	11,107,542	2,750,990
United States	12,244,746	7,110,322
Other Countries	1,291,777	16,469,274
Total	26,892,946	30,153,517

The principal export items were as follows:—

	1918.	1917.
	Dols.	Dols.
Products of the fisheries	25,547,334	17,651,001
Products of agriculture	16,704	11,951
Products of the forest	220,609	686,157
Products of the mine	972,203	1,256,242
Manufactures (local)	3,045,893	2,600,623
Miscellaneous	250,774	175,738
Total	30,153,517	22,381,762

Adding the exports and imports together, it will be seen that the total trade of Newfoundland with Great Britain last year was 6,071,712 dollars; with Canada, 13,858,832 dollars; with the United States, 19,355,068 dollars; and with other countries, 17,761,051 dollars.

"The excess of exports over imports," says the report, "is an especially satisfactory feature of the year's trading, emphasizing as it does that the balance of trade was so very largely in our favor, a factor that is generally regarded as most important to the commercial welfare of any community."—The Financier (London, Eng.)

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### The Man on Horseback.

Fortnightly Review. — Sir Douglas holds that the system which provided the soldiers and leaders that fought through the great retreat and the first battles of Tynes and the Marne needs no vindication or apology, since it gave us troops of all ranks who could not be excelled for courage, discipline, resourcefulness, and endurance. The Commander-in-Chief, a cavalry officer himself, insists that modern war has stationary warfare the trooper was not rendered the mounted soldier obsolete. In the long period of not wanted in the saddle; but he came to his own again when the war of movement recommenced and played a considerable part in pushing back the retreating German divisions. He would have done more conspicuous service still in the final roundup of the beaten enemy if the armistice had only been delayed a little longer, in which case Haig's tanks and horsemen might have reproduced on a far larger scale the havoc worked by Allenby, another great cavalry general, upon the routed and disorganized Turks.

### Fads and Fashions.

The strictly tailored costume has returned. Seesaw trimming is liked on millinery. Necklaces should match the dress trimming. The newest scarfs are coats in themselves. The short sleeve is notably very smart. Short-sleeved sweaters are worn with stripes.

## PILES

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