

one great advantage over their rivals. The cod can be caught only with fresh bait, consisting of young caplin, squid, and young herring, and these can be obtained in sufficient quantity only in the southern bays of Newfoundland. In order to protect her own people, Newfoundland does not allow the bait-fishes to be exported except under licenses, for which a heavy fee has to be paid, and this has caused a large decrease in the catch upon the banks by foreign fishermen.

The shore fishery is followed along the whole coast-line by those who are too old, too poor, or too timid to engage in either of the other two mentioned, and who manage for the most part to mingle a little farming with their fishing.

Beside the catching of cod, herring, and salmon, the capture of seals, and the canning of lobsters are important industries, and altogether the harvest of the sea in one form or another constitutes the mainstay of the island's prosperity.

Yet in the matter of mineral wealth its possessions are great. Copper exists in vast quantities. Nickel, lead, iron, and coal abound. Gypsum, marble, and slate are to be had for the trouble of taking them. Asbestos and petroleum have also been found in quantities which promise good returns to diligent workers.

A few figures may now be added to the facts above given, in order to have a clearer understanding of Newfoundland's status. According to the census of 1901 the population was 216,615, and to-day probably stands at 220,000, whereof the city of St. John's, the capital, accounts for one-seventh. For the year 1901 the revenue reached \$2,060,581, and the expenditure \$2,024,952.

Glancing over the imports from other countries we find that the chief contributors were Great Britain, the United States, and Canada, their shares being in round numbers as follows:

	1897	1899	1901
Great Britain..	\$2,015,000	\$1,985,000	\$2,392,000
United States..	2,190,000	1,980,000	2,150,000
Canada	1,635,000	2,145,000	2,557,705

From this it appears that the island has been becoming a better customer of Canada's

as the years increase, and that it only needs proper attention on our part to obtain and retain the bulk of the business.

In the matter of exports Canada naturally does not show up quite as well. She has such fine fisheries of her own that she is not so dependent upon the Newfoundland supply. The figures for the corresponding years run thus:

	1897	1899	1901
Great Britain..	\$277,250	\$296,500	\$376,426
United States..	110,000	127,400	181,658
Canada	98,250	111,300	146,250

The harvest of the sea being, as already mentioned, Newfoundland's main dependence it is of interest to note the total values of the different kinds of fish exported in 1901. The cod reached \$5,172,000; lobsters, \$448,500; salmon, \$140,000; herring, \$146,000, and sealskins, \$282,800.

The improvement in the financial condition of the people is shown by the steady growth in the deposits in the Government Savings Banks. In 1897 these amounted to \$1,102,000; in 1900 to \$1,193,708; and in 1901 to \$1,432,692.

Having thus sought to convey in brief space a conception of Newfoundland and its resources, we have now to consider her relation to the Dominion. When the great scheme of Confederation was in progress the co-operation of the island was sought, and her representatives took part in the earlier deliberations. But they were not satisfied with the terms offered by the other partners, and withdrew from the undertaking.

Since then the question of entering Confederation has been frequently discussed, and in 1895 a conference was held at Ottawa for the purpose of arriving at a satisfactory basis of union. The time was particularly favorable, and it is altogether unfortunate that, owing to the endeavors of the Canadian representatives led by Sir Mackenzie Bowell to drive as hard a bargain as possible, the conference came to nothing, the Newfoundland delegates, led by Sir Robert Bond, clearly intimating that unless Canada assumed the public debt, completed the railway to Port aux Basques, and provided \$650,000 towards local government ex-