

THE NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES.

The Government of Newfoundland, we understand, proposes to provide a bounty on herring cured by the Scotch process and exported and in other ways to develop the undoubtedly large piscatorial resources of the island, which during latter years have gone largely to the benefit of fishermen from the neighboring Republic. A sum of \$40,000 is to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying on an investigation into the movement of the shoals of herring around the coast, in order to find out where they go to when they leave the shore. A drift-net fishing steamer is to be obtained from Scotland and will be operated along the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador during the summer and fall, locating the cod fishing grounds and affording the fishermen good object lessons, not only in how to handle, pack and prepare for export the "Scotch-cured" herring, which commands such good prices, both in Europe and America. It is not perhaps generally realized that the Scotch herring fisheries employ no less than 42,000 men and 17,000 women and girls, besides 2,400 coopers in making barrels, and that the annual product is worth \$10,000,000 a year. Of course, before any such results as these can be achieved in the island colony, the population will have to increase greatly and markets will have to be found and exploited, but there is no reason why a material development of this very im-

portant asset should not follow the Government's present efforts.

At the present time the difficulty is to know where to locate the herring during a large portion of the year, as they withdraw altogether from the shores of Newfoundland. Similar withdrawals have taken place before. For instance, twenty years ago, Labrador was famed for its extensive and profitable herring fisheries. Suddenly they disappeared. Placentia and Fortune Bays, also fifteen years ago, were the home of this fish, and attracted large American fleets every season. This year, it is stated, not a single vessel sought a cargo there.

Various efforts have been made in the past of the Canadian Government to foster the herring industry, notably that by the late Mr. Prefontaine in 1904, reference to which has been made before in these columns. Operations were carried on by a steam fishing trawler, and though the catch, for various practical reasons, was small, the results from a market point of view, particularly in Russia and Germany, were very encouraging. The packing of herring from the Pacific coast has also been attempted with some success, though a defect has been found to consist in their fatness.

It is contended that the adoption of its proposed plan by the Newfoundland Government and the offer of a bounty of \$1 per barrel, on the exported product, will create a new industry for that colony in which the Americans will be unable

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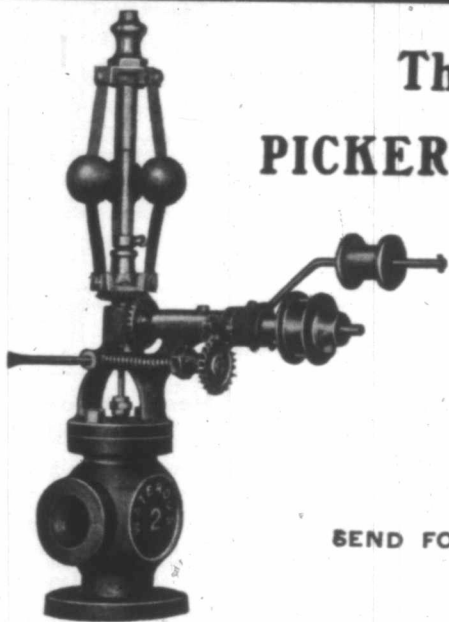
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