

REPORT

OF AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE COAST OF LABRADOR

BY THE GOVERNOR OF NEWFOUNDLAND, DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1905.

WITH the intention of paying a short visit to the Coast of Labrador, I left St. John's on the 30th July, 1905, by the 5 p. m. train, and arrived at Lewisport on the East Coast at 7 a. m. on Monday the 31st July. There I joined the Newfoundland steamer *Fiona*, with Messrs Dawe and Reeve on board. Mr. Cleminson had just arrived from Lagos, by way of London, to join our party, having come from Liverpool by the Canadian route. Lewisport is a scattered village which extends round a spacious, picturesque bay, and subsists principally on the lumber trade. It does not possess any specially valuable fishery. The *Clyde*, a subsidized steamer of the Reid-Newfoundland Company, was in harbor, and sailed soon after the arrival of the train for other Coast ports. A large Norwegian barque was shipping lumber at one of the wharves. We sailed about half-past seven for St. Anthony, where we expected to meet Dr. Wilfred Grenfell of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. We had a calm sea all day, with a cold light breeze. We passed several large icebergs during the day as we steamed along the coast. As fog was threatening, we turned into the splendid harbor of Croc about 7 p. m., to pass the night there, where we were under perfect shelter. There were some three or four "builtow" fishermen at this place, all doing very well. One said he had caught 20 quintals of fish that day. Formerly there was a large French station in this harbor, but it has now been completely removed.

The coast from Lewisport to Croc is generally formed of precipitous cliffs, often nearly perpendicular, a hundred or more feet high. The greyish sedimentary rocks are at many places being encroached on by the sea. Generally they are covered by low scrubby bush, often, however, shewing only moss or lichens on their surface. We did not see more than two or three schooners on that part of the coast; and at two or three places one noticed a solitary fishing row-boat, but the coast line is practically uninhabited, as far as visible from sea. The whole coast is rocky, rugged, without large timber, and in the distance looks unfit for agriculture; but it is well provided with excellent harbors.

2 We left Croc Harbor at 4 a. m. on the 1st August, and arrived at St. Anthony two hours later, where we found Dr. Grenfell in the Mission Hospital steamer *Strathcona*. He was starting for Battle Harbor in order to take some patients there, but he most kindly turned back with us, and conducted us over the Mission premises. The Bay is about a mile across, and has houses scattered all round it. The population is altogether about 200. We anchored off the wharf which has been built near to the Mission Station. This establishment is practically a new foundation. It consists of a Hospital, a Club House, an Orphanage, and a Storehouse.

The Hospital contains six beds for male, and seven beds for female patients. All these buildings are constructed of timber, which is sawn at the Mission's own saw-mill, which has been erected chiefly to supply work to the people of the district when fishing cannot be done. The Hospital was then, in the absence of Dr. Grenfell, in charge of Mr. Mennell, a medical student and volunteer; and of Miss Kunz, a qualified nurse, also a volunteer. The hospital, it was hoped, would be permanently open from September. This is the only hospital on the Island of Newfoundland outside of St. John's. It was not supposed to be open for patients at that