

of fishing vessels and by creating the Fisheries Board, under which marked progress was made in improving standards of production and methods of marketing. By 1939, though prices were still low, the industry was much better organized to meet new conditions of international trade.

An effort was also made to improve farming through education, cash bonuses and a scheme of land settlement. Little could be done for the forest industries since most of the forest land was already controlled by the paper industry, and its output depended on foreign markets. Geological survey was extended and new ore bodies investigated. The main line of the railway was restored to pre-depression standards, several new coastal steamers were added to the service, and local roads were provided for communities in urgent need of transportation to rail or steamer ports. A further accomplishment was the improvement in public services. Expenditures on health and education were doubled. The Civil Service was reorganized and methods of administration were greatly improved.

**The Second World War.**—At the outbreak of war in 1939, Newfoundland was without direct defences of any kind: it had no military forces of its own and no British garrison; it had no fixed defences or fortifications; it had no facilities for supplying naval ships; and although there was a dry dock at St. John's no large naval ship could safely enter the harbour. Newfoundland's strategic position for transatlantic civil aviation had, however, been foreseen and a new civil airfield had been constructed jointly by the United Kingdom and Newfoundland Governments at Gander, and limited

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*Fort Pepperrell, United States Army Base, is located on the north side of Quidi Vidi Lake on the outskirts of St. John's.*

