

Even this Province of New Brunswick, though the first white men came to live on its coasts 300 years ago, and though more than 125 years have passed since settlement began in earnest, has not yet got a population averaging 12 to the square mile. One of its leading statistical authorities considers that only 15 per cent of its surface is "wholly unfit for agricultural purposes." This may prove a far too favourable estimate. But it must be remembered, as the same writer points out, that England herself, after a thousand years of cultivation, still has about 18 per cent of her area graded as unfit. In Ireland this unfit area is 26 per cent; in Wales it is 36; and in Scotland it is as high as 70 per cent. Yet Scotland has a population of 150 to the square mile. Supposing that even half of New Brunswick's total area had to be left out of account, it remains clear that she could with perfect ease support a very much larger population than is now scattered over her territory.

To say that she could support a far larger number of people easily is only to state half the fact. She not only has room for them but would be benefited as much by their presence as they would be benefited by going there. The New Brunswickers know that they are not numerous enough to develop the wealth of the country by themselves, and they are evidently prepared to welcome with open arms those who can really take an effective part in its development. Professor Johnston expressed an opinion half a century ago that if New Brunswick was found to possess enough coal for her domestic wants the Province might hope to sustain in comfort a population approaching 6,000,000, but if wood had to be grown for fuel this figure might have to be nearly halved. Now, New Brunswick's coal resources are by no means contemptible; but even if she had not



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an ounce of coal within her own borders, she would have no reason to complain, as she can get an unlimited supply close at hand in the mines of Nova Scotia.

If, without rhyme or reason, we reduced the "population which New Brunswick could easily support" to some figure so small that the most grudging critic would pass it as well within the mark,—