

in the island to enable the people to raise all the potatoes, cabbage, turnips, hay, oats, butter, eggs, poultry, and fresh and salt meat required for their needs, a sum of \$3,500,000 annually would be retained and circulated amongst them, that now goes abroad for the purchase of these articles. Newfoundland is the greatest consumer of flour per head in the world to-day, its annual consumption being twice as much as in Canada where the wheat is grown. The explanation is this: the people confine themselves to a very limited dietary, and bread is the chief item therein. It is not considered possible, of course, that this flour item can be entirely eliminated as wheat that can ripen in this Colony has not yet been perfected, but it is believed that the people can be gradually induced to vary their menus and to eat more vegetables and local products, so that the flour bill can be cut in half, and the import of potatoes, turnips and other articles can be abolished altogether and these products grown at home. Every effort is being made by the present ministry to stimulate increased agricultural effort on the part of the people, and should it meet with the expected success there is no question but that a great achievement will have been wrought, though perhaps not one of spectacular character. All things considered, it is doubtful if any country, circumstanced as ours is, can show a better exhibit for such a period than the foregoing represents, illustrative, as it is, of what is possible for a comparatively small community to accomplish, who have to depend for the greater portion of that period on almost one industry and who had to bear as well the burden of a machinery of government sufficient for a population four times as great.

#### HALF A CENTURY'S PROGRESS.

A few other figures will be found of interest as showing the progress the colony has made, not alone in the fifteen years under consideration, but in the fifty-five years that have elapsed since it was granted Responsible Government in 1855. The population was then 97,000. To-day it is 240,000. The customs revenue then was \$368,572. To-day it is in round figures, three and a quarter million dollars. The postal revenue was then \$2,175, to-day it is \$80,000. The value and volume of the fishery products