

NEWFOUND-  
LAND,  
1896-7.

LUMBERING.

A great deal of activity exists in this branch of our industries, which is yearly becoming of more value to the people of the Colony. Lumber in all its forms is now produced to meet the local needs. The subject of pulp manufacture is being prominently brought forward, and will, no doubt, in the near future, be entered into largely, for there is abundance of timber in the island most suitable for this purpose.

MINING.

The product of our mines in 1896-7 was somewhat behind that of the previous year, but still came up to the average. Outside capitalists are evincing an interest in our mineral deposits, and if experienced miners, with the necessary capital behind them, can be got to develop these deposits properly, the future of Newfoundland as a mining country will be assured. Already we have several outside syndicates here who have, up to the time of writing (1898), expended large sums in machinery, tramways, and loading piers. Prospectors are moving over the face of the island, and up and down the coast of Labrador, and the indications of increased activity in mining are very apparent. The Government have afforded encouragement and help to all interested, by the establishment of a Public Assay Office, where minerals, discovered by those of limited means, will be tested and reported upon free of cost. The deposit of hematite on Bell Island still continues to yield as largely as ever, and operations on a still larger scale are proposed for the season of 1899.

In 1896-7 the export, compared with that of 1895-6, was as follows :—

|                  |        | 1895-6. |            | 1896-7. |            |
|------------------|--------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
|                  |        | Tons.   | Value.     | Tons.   | Value.     |
| Regulus (copper) | ...    | 22,922  | \$ 275,064 | 13,427  | \$ 161,124 |
| Copper ore       | ... .. | 41,750  | 208,750    | 48,361  | 241,805    |
| Iron pyrites     | ... .. | 36,496  | 182,480    | 31,185  | 155,925    |
| Asbestos         | ... .. | —       | 2,000      | —       | —          |
| Total            | ..     | —       | 668,294    | —       | 558,854    |