

SPECIAL
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BOOK
REVIEWS

NEWFOUNDLAND.

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Newfoundland is Britain's most ancient colony. For a century it enjoyed this distinction. For two more it was undiscovered, and laws were passed by the influence of monopolists forbidding its use, except as a flake, for drying the fish caught in its waters. The fishermen were not allowed even to make gardens in summer, and for the winter they were compelled to return to their homes in the Motherland. Only in very recent years have its resources been discovered. Thus Terra Nova is not the misnomer that it at first seems. Very much of the island is still virgin soil.

The Reids have done the most to open up the island. They have built a railway from St. John's on the east to Port aux Basques on the west, 548 miles, in the form of an arc, touching much of the coast on the north and west. This was opened for traffic in July, 1898. A fine steamer, S.S. "Bruce," connects Port aux Basques with North Sydney, in a six hours' sea trip across Cabot strait. The same company, the Reid Newfoundland, has a fleet of steamers plying around the coast and up Labrador. Other steamers run in opposition on the littoral, and ocean liners call at the capital. Thus at last Newfoundland is easy of access to Canadians and Americans.

The sporting world is beginning to turn its eye upon Newfoundland's enchanting game areas. The deer drink in the streams where the salmon sport. The railway will set you down among the caribou by the river's side. The outing world is coming, too, when the heat of the continent is oppressive, and the rush of the city too taxing. The whole coast is a series of most charming scenes. Few days are hot, for the cool, bracing air of northern waters tempers the rays of the sun; and often the breath of the iceberg fans the locks of convalescents. Capital is beginning to realize that this is a legitimate field for successful operations. The island is believed to be rich in copper, iron, and coal. Certainly Bell Island, in Conception Bay, is one of the most wonderful deposits of iron in all the world. It was secured first by the Nova Scotia Steel Company, and a part was sold to the Dominion Steel Company. Both companies are working it extensively. Copper is being successfully mined at Tilt Cove. It is thought that the coal areas of Cape Breton are continued in Newfoundland. The future will reveal the treasures now hidden. The mineral exports of the last fiscal year were \$1,288,565. The forests of the west coast, especially, are of immense value. The Newfoundland Timber Estates is the largest company, incorporated in 1903, with a capacity of 300,000 feet daily. The Harmsworths, of London, have just secured extensive areas, and have begun their pulp mill from which our island expects great things. There is also much good agricultural land hitherto undeveloped, because the inhabitants have looked to the harvest of the sea for their living. The fisheries vary from year to year, but they are already too well known to need any words in this brief article.

French rights around Newfoundland have been the prolific source of much ill feeling and strife. It is not merely the possession of St. Pierre and Miquelon on the "Banks" of the south, but especially the rights given the French fishermen on the west coast, around to Cape St. John on the north, where the trouble has arisen. This has long been the bone of contention between Great

Britain and France. Now it seems that a satisfactory understanding has been reached; and these two nations are on better terms than heretofore. It is believed that gradually the friction will entirely disappear.

Our present Governor is Sir William MacGregor, a very scientific as well as most practical man. Having made a name for himself in his former sphere of rule, he has set himself earnestly to his present task of advancing Newfoundland to a front rank in the world. Soon after his coming in 1904 he made a record in his "Report to the Colonial Secretary on the trade and commerce of Newfoundland." This is what we might expect, knowing him to be a Scotsman and a Presbyterian. Lady MacGregor and the beautiful daughters most gracefully uphold the exalted name of the Government House.

St. John's is the metropolis, a city of 32,000. Its safe harbor is well known, and the enterprise of its citizens. Its electricity for its street cars and its light is generated by water power, nine miles out, at Petty Harbor. The spiritual well-being of the city is in the hands of a strong force. There are two cathedrals and a large number of churches, with a variety of beliefs sufficient to meet the idiosyncrasy of each conscience.

Harbor Grace is the "second city." Its population is over 5,000, and it is beautifully situated on a lovely harbor, off Conception Bay. By rail it is seventy-five miles to St. John's, as the bay runs far inland. It has a boot factory, a seal, a whale, and a freezer for cod oil. It has a cathedral and four churches, and a newspaper. Tourists come in the summer from St. John's, New York, Boston, etc. In the winter the mercury seldom falls below zero. Last winter had the worst storm in fifty years, and the winter scene in Harbor Grace, accompanying this, is unusual. We very seldom see any fog, though some that pass Newfoundland in the ocean greyhounds think otherwise. There is fog on the Grand Banks. Last summer I did not see an iceberg. This summer a few have come within the range of vision northward.

Newfoundland sits at the mouth of the St. Lawrence, like a swan ruffled by the storms of the boisterous Atlantic. She has not yet annexed Canada, nor the United States of America. The island is a part of the continent geologically. It is not what was left over, but the outcrop of the early formations which form the foundations of America.

It seems strange to us that although Newfoundland was discovered only five years after the discovery of America by Columbus, the history of this great island has hitherto been a sealed book, and it is only after four centuries of isolation, by the completion of the Trans-Insular Railway, through the heroic and persistent efforts of the late R. G. Reid, that her people have been brought in touch with the outside world. During all this long time the conditions of life there were most primitive, and generation after generation has existed, confronting the pitiless rigors of the climate in winter and the terrors of the sea. It was from this hard discipline of privation, isolation and self-sacrifice that heroic qualities were evolved. This, then, is the bounteous reward, of far greater worth than all material gains, which Nature gives to those who abide continually with her, and whose destinies are continually in her keeping.

But if those of us whose lives have been cast amidst the stirring scenes of this fast advancing age, coming to this peaceful land, have new and valuable ideas to impart, so we have in turn much

to gain. To rest for a time from life's warfare amidst these tranquil scenes, is to gain new health and nobler aspirations. It is to realize the true import of life.

The best time to visit this beautiful land is, of course, in the summer. If a few weeks can be spared, it will richly repay the city worker to visit one of these typical Newfoundland fishing villages, whose hardy, rugged fishermen have for generations after generations braved the perils of the sea and gone on in the way of their fathers in Nature's own way, that we find a sympathetic, humane and kindly people, who dwell in peace and contentment. It is a picture of natural repose and tranquil lives, when the visitor witnesses such scenes and leaves behind the world of bustle, trade and show. He has forgotten its strifes, its anxieties and its ambitions; its struggles, its weariness and its vanities are things of the past. He has entered into a world apart, into a different existence, where true peace abides. The needs of man are few; his desires are many. It is little to supply his needs; his desires are the source of his woes. Who, tossed on the ever restless billows of life's sea, ever seeking, but never finding rest, would not learn a lesson of wise living from these happy and contented villagers of Newfoundland? They are never in a hurry. The bustle and worry of our life is unknown to them, and yet on all sides we may find, not wealth, but genuine evidences of thrift and plenty. In the summer and early fall it is an inspiration to see the abundant crops, to inhale the pure air, laden with the odors of new mown hay, and to look upon the cultivated land, adorned with well kept homes, in which even the stranger finds genuine hospitality. And for these reasons Newfoundland is attracting more interest each year among visitors from the United States, from Canada, and elsewhere than ever.

On account of the "fog banks" on the fishing grounds when passing on our European voyage, many infer that Newfoundland is enveloped in almost perpetual fogs in summer, and given over to intense cold and a succession of snow storms in winter. It is true that it partakes of the general character, to a great extent, of the North American climate, and is therefore much colder than lands in the same latitude in the Old World, but in the American sense of the term it is by no means a cold country. In summer it is simply delightful.

The scenery of the island is unusually fine. As a sanitarium, or health resort, Newfoundland is likely to take a high place, when once accommodations for travellers and invalids are provided, and for this arrangements are now in progress. There is something peculiarly balmy, soothing and yet invigorating in the summer breezes, whether on sea or land, which cools the fevered brain and smooths the tired brow.

St. Andrew's Manse, Harbor Grace.

It is better to be beaten in the streets of life than to be victorious; if the victory can only be won by unholy alliance. 'Tis better to live in obscurity than to be lifted into public notice by methods repugnant to moral sense. It is better to be poor, and filled with the consolations of Christ, than to be rich and empty hearted. It is better to be loved by a child than to be flattered by those whose only purpose is to serve personal ends.—"Thiekewellian Ethics."