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NEWFOUNDLAND AND HER FUTURE.

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A PROPOS of the development of the coalfields of Newfoundland by Canadian capitalists, it is worth noting that Captain Cook drew the world's attention to the wealthy coalfields of "Terra Nova" many years ago. For several years successively the great circumnavigator explored the shores of the island and he seems to have been wonderfully impressed with the coal. "There are in Newfoundland," he reported, "some wonderful coal mines, so rich in fact, that if the Crown would but grant leave to speculators to work them, their produce would be sufficient to supply all Europe and America abundantly; some are even so commodiously situated that the coals might be thrown directly from the coalworks themselves into the ships, as they lie close to the shore" (History of Voyages and Discoveries in the North, by John Reinhold Forster. Translated from the German). These coalfields are probably identical with those of Cape Breton. Cape Breton's coals drop into the Gulf between Scataric Island and Cape North and reappear on the coast of Newfoundland. The hypothesis is that the measures drop to the Atlantic again and travel along the range of mountains which con-

nects Newfoundland with the British Islands, under the surface of the ocean. However this may be, the coal is in Terra Nova and her coal bill of some \$200,000 a year to outside countries, will now be gradually retrenched and kept at home. Newfoundland will thus be about a quarter of a million dollars richer every year as time rolls on and the Nova Scotian mines will gradually lose their market down there. This is an important sign of the time of the island's development.

The smuggling of liquors, etc., into the country is an enormous loss to the revenue. Newfoundland has lost \$5,000,000 at the least through her smugglers, and if she does not stamp the pernicious practise out she will lose millions more and stay poor. It is interesting in these days of Prohibition talk and temperance work to notice that both prohibition and temperance laws are, at least, 250 years old down in Newfoundland. The Privy Council of England expressly forbade taverns; and in 1640 we find the Justices of the peace of the town of Exeter forwarding several petitions to the Privy Council from merchants and others interested in Newfoundland's progress complaining that taverns had