

ing factors in the decision being apparently, in addition to an adequate supply of raw material, the advantage of having an ocean port free to navigation throughout the year, and the practical independence of railroad transportation. There may perhaps be the additional factor that it was possible to obtain a better bargain with the Government of Newfoundland than with the Governments of the eastern Provinces.

The Newfoundland Government has entered into an agreement with the Harmsworth Syndicate, the main provisions of which appear to be the following:—The corporation is permitted to secure a solid block of timbered land, containing 2,000 square miles, for 99 years without rental. The concession makes pulpwood free of dues, other timber being subject to a royalty of fifty cents per thousand feet. It also gives virtual ownership of the land with mineral rights. The company is required to spend a quarter of a million dollars during the first four years, and a million dollars during twenty years. Game and fish are reserved for the public, the natural migration of the caribou is to be left unrestrained and the right of way for roads, railways, telegraph and telephone lines is also reserved.

A strong agitation against the confirmation of this agreement arose in Newfoundland, and the bill has been fought at all stages, and appeal has even been made to the British Government for disallowance. The movement is strengthened by the fact that the bargain made in 1898 with the Reid syndicate, for the building of a railway across the island, gave away large public privileges, without the matter having been submitted to the people, and the feeling that the present agreement is a repetition of the same process.

One of the chief objections made to the bargain is that it does not specifically require the building and operation of a pulp mill within a fixed period, although the grantees are obliged to spend \$250,000 in and about the providing of water powers, and the erection of a mill or mills within four years. The reply of the Syndicate to this argument is that many exhaustive investigations have yet to be made as to mechanical and engineering data, and to force their hand might be to cause them to erect a mill that