

Roads were also to be constructed through the district, in the making of which the settlers were to be employed. The Act was a good one and it is doubtful if any country in the world offered anything like such inducement to settle on its wild lands. This district being so admirably situated in every respect for trying the experiment was selected and laid off as mentioned above but here the whole thing seems to have ended, and up to the present time nothing further has been done in the matter. That the land is of good quality and capable of yielding excellent crops has been amply verified long since by the settlers who have made their homes here, all of whom are in prosperous circumstances. There is no reason whatever why a much larger number should not succeed in the same manner, if only industry and perseverance were brought to bear. The facilities the railway now affords for reaching the markets on the eastern coast should be a great inducement to settlement. There are few more favored localities in the island. A very few years should suffice to render it one of the most prosperous localities in Newfoundland. Norris Arm is at present the terminus of the subsidized portion of the Northern and Western Railroad, and also the principal point for the accommodation of mail and passenger traffic for the whole of the immense district of Notre Dame Bay. The Messrs. Reid have erected an hotel and station-house here, also a wharf for landing coal, iron, and other requisites for the construction of the railway. After leaving Norris Arm the line now runs up the valley of the Exploits, following the south side of the river to Bishops' Fall, where it is spanned by a magnificent iron bridge, probably as fine a one of its kind as any in North America. It has three spans supported upon solid granite piers. One span is 200 feet long, the others about 150 feet each. Altogether, it is a splendid piece of workmanship, and gives ample evidence of the thorough manner in which the Messrs. Reid are carrying out their contract. Having crossed the river the line continues along the north side, passing inside the Grand Fall and coming out occasionally to the river's bank beyond. It crosses the Badger at its confluence with the Exploits forty-five miles from the mouth of the latter. Here, again, there is a fine, iron bridge of substantial structure. Along this section the line is tolerably level with very easy gradients. Fine has again, within a very few years past, laid waste a vast area of the country on the lower valley of the Exploits, and an immense