

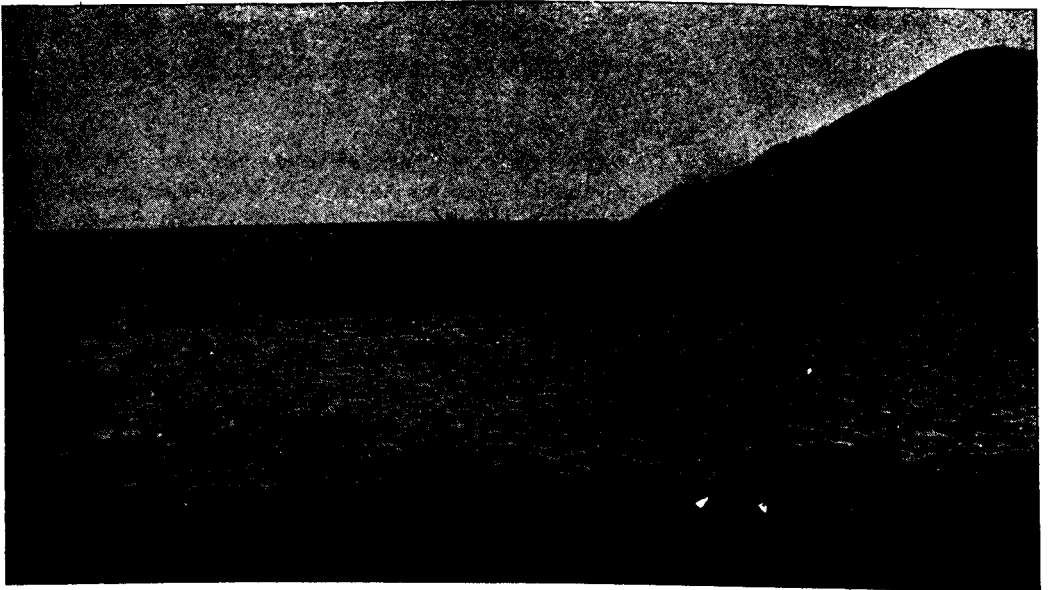
as expressed in the *North Star*, formerly published at St. John's by Mr. Robert Winton, gives perhaps a clear and concise view of some phases of the question :

" We believe—and we believe it honestly and sincerely—that our refusal to enter the Dominion is a matter of serious political and industrial embarrassment to us, and that it may some day, not very far distant perhaps, involve us in serious commercial and political disaster. At present we are being ground to powder beneath the upper and the nether millstone. Our treaty relations with France, on the one hand, are annoying and offensive not only to our own Government, but to that of the United Kingdom, and the everlasting importunity of the United States government and its people are quite as intolerable as the other. Union with Canada would have enabled us to fight both issues on their merits—to cut off our relations with the latter entirely, and to hold the former to the strict terms of the Treaties. It is lamentable to reflect that the immunities and privileges which have so long been enjoyed by a few of our own people at the expense of all the rest, at the expense too of Colonial and Imperial patience, are still permitted to stand in the way of the only possible solution of our difficulties. Those who occupy that position have grave responsibilities to answer for, and it is time they should take these matters into serious consideration before they, too, are compelled to take their

share of the common misfortune."

Since these prognostications were delivered every one of them has been realized in the financial and industrial relations of the province. The grip of France has been tightened, and the importunity of the United States has been persisted in with much resulting commercial disadvantage. A few years ago, Newfoundland could enter the markets of the world upon an equal footing with the most favoured nation ; to-day she is handicapped in the same markets by the bounty fed produce of France and the United States, taken from her own waters and disposed of at about one-half the price of her own. Her isolation has been otherwise very prejudicial to her interests, and has seriously cramped her social and political improvement. It is to be hoped that she may ere long throw off her obstructive policy of isolation, and take her place in the family of provinces to which she belongs. Her people are splendid examples of physical and intellectual manhood, hardy, cool, brave and industrious, accustomed for the most part to find their bread upon the waters and to gather it with their lives in their hands. An intrepid race of men, such as they are, inhabiting that Gibraltar of America, would be a valuable acquisition to the maritime force of the Dominion, and a valuable addition to its industrial and intellectual activity.

A. C. WINTON.



Drying codfish on the Newfoundland Coast.