

To begin with, we can not be blind to the present condition of our own Colony.

The advocates for a continuation of the present political situation, under any circumstances, must admit the impoverished state of the people, and the continued destitution of years standing, from which they can point to no means of escape, and for which they can devise no remedy out of any resources we can now command.

Mercantile enterprise is certainly not so active as it was—the amount of capital used in prosecuting the trade and fisheries of the country has been diminishing year by year. Supplies are curtailed—comparatively little credit is given to the fisherman upon the faith of coming voyages—confidence in the result of the country's staple industries must therefore have diminished, or mercantile speculation has for other causes been reduced—the once flourishing middle class of planters and seal-killers has almost ceased to exist. We witness constant emigrations of large numbers of the best and ablest of our people driven from their homes by untoward circumstances to seek for those means of subsistence they fail to secure here. We find the number of tradesmen, shopkeepers and artisans, immensely diminished, and the position of those that do eke out a livelihood very different from what it was in former times. We see in the Capital of the country, the chief seat of its trade, an immense reduction in the value of all property; whole blocks of valuable buildings tenantless, and not worth their ground rent, when some years ago they were hives of thriving industry and busy trade. In foreign markets, we who once had no considerable competitors, have lost our credit as the best of codfish curers and exporters, and are looked upon as second-rate. Our herring and salmon fisheries, especially the former, which ought to be sources of wealth, almost sufficient of themselves to support a population, are from want of fuller prosecution and from bad management of comparatively small account as a staple industry. The endeavour to develop any means of operative employment beyond the fisheries is limited to a few attempts at mining, and there seems to be no intention upon the part of local capitalists to engage in a business which would appear under circumstances of encouragement to be hopeful of valuable results.

The successful seal and cod fisheries of the past season have not effected that improvement in the condition of the people at large, which was anticipated. The general result is that pauperism has become a system—a political institution involving a regular item of public expenditure, yearly amounting to nearly