

the resident population steadily increased and obtained a firm hold upon the soil, shows an energy on the part of the people to which it would be difficult to find a parallel. In the teeth of these unjust and absurd laws, designed to make an island larger than Ireland a mere stage for the curing of fish and a place where fishermen might spread their nets, the population increased ten-fold in ninety years. Had the laws and governments fostered instead of thwarting their efforts, Newfoundland would to day be among the foremost of Britain's colonies. Only sixty years have elapsed since the repeal of these oppressive enactments and the introduction of reasonable and just government. The progress made by the colony in that time is of the most satisfactory description. Still the injury inflicted by the policy of England was felt in many ways. A state of antagonism and embittered feeling between those desirous of permanent settlement and the fishing merchants, who wished to keep the fisheries in their own hands, was thus fomented during many years, misrule, anarchy and turbulence were unchecked among the inhabitants; education was not introduced, and all attempts at civilization steadily discouraged. The evil effects in fact are felt still in many unsuspected ways.

FRENCH ENCROACHMENTS.

Another element that retarded the prosperity of the country was the presence and continual encroachments of the French. Their rule gradually extended over Nova Scotia (Acadie), Cape Breton and Canada, and as Newfoundland was the key to their trans-Atlantic possessions, and commanded the narrow entrance to the most important of them, it became a paramount consideration with France to establish herself in Newfoundland and to control its valuable fisheries. In 1635 the French obtained permission from the English to dry fish in Newfoundland, on payment of a duty of five per cent. on the produce, and in 1660 they founded a colony in Placentia, an admirably chosen site for such a purpose, and erected strong fortifications. Other positions along the southern shore were also occupied by them; and when war broke out between the rival nations, on the accession of William 3rd to the throne, Newfoundland became the scene of several skirmishes, naval battles and sieges. St. John's fell before a French attack in 1696, and the whole of the settlements, with the exception of Bonavista and Carbonier, shared the same fate. The treaty of Ryswick, in the following year, restored all these conquests to England, leaving France in possession of her settlements on the South-west coast. During the wars which followed in the reign of Queen Anne, Newfoundland was again the scene of sharp conflicts, and once more, in 1708, St. John's fell into the hands of the French, and for some years they retained possession of the island. The celebrated treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, ended hostilities, but did not deliver Newfoundland from the grasp of France. It secured, however, the sovereignty of the entire country to Great Britain, and declared that France should give up all her possessions there, but yielded to France, unfortunately, the right of catching and drying fish on the extent of coast from Cape Bonavista to Point Riche, on the western side. The disastrous consequences of this unlucky concession I have described in the April