

miles of land, and employ a large number of men. The timber from these mills mostly comes to England, and is considered to be of a very good quality.

As to agriculture, very little has, up to the present, been attempted, the unfounded prejudices that exist in the Mother Country as to the climate and soil of the Colony, having prevented emigrants from choosing it as their home. As to the suitability of the soil of Newfoundland for agricultural productions, I cannot do better than quote from a paper published by Mr. Howley, the geological surveyor, in June, 1889. He says:—"The valleys of the Gander and Exploits rivers contain large areas of fine land. A dense forest which covers the entire country has added, and is continuously adding, its decomposed woods, leaves, etc., to the surface. When we take into consideration the advantages these tracts possess in point of climate and situation, together with their undoubted superiority of soil, there can hardly be any question as to their future agricultural development." Speaking of the lands in the Codroy valley, he says, "In some places they are naturally so fertile as to need no manure." Again, he says, "I believe the land to be richer than that of Prince Edward's Island."

There are many thousand square miles of country eminently suitable for all classes of farming; I have seen excellent samples of wheat, oats, and barley, grown upon the Island, while potatoes and root crops do as well as those at home. Sheep and cattle raising will, I feel sure, be one of the future industries of the Colony, the experiments already made in this direction having proved more than satisfactory. Natural grasses abound, and the barrens of the interior are eminently suited for the purpose. The climate is not so severe as that of Canada, the winters are shorter, and the cold is not so intense, while the distance to England is but 1,750 miles, and some day I fully expect to see a large supply of beef and mutton shipped to the Mother Country.

In conclusion, I would merely state that if the finances of the Colony are able to bear the strain of the extensions of the railway system now in progress, then I am convinced that the large and undoubted natural resources of the Island will make it one of the most valuable possessions of the British Crown, and open up a field for large emigration from this country. Newfoundland has suffered in the past from misrepresentation, but in these days of general knowledge and enlightenment the clouds that have hung over her for so long are sure to be dispelled, and the people of England will recognise that in their oldest Colony they have a possession second to none in the Empire.

CECIL FANE.