

fully established. The Council, forced to acknowledge this fact, a few years later sagely admitted that "a number of inhabitants, not exceeding one thousand, might be usefully employed in constructing boats, stages for drying fish, and other matters connected with the fisheries." This affable recommendation was merely a recognition of the fact that there now lived in Newfoundland men who would not be displanted,—sturdy settlers to the number of two hundred and eighty-four, hiring no less than eighteen hundred and ninety-four servants, possessing three hundred and ninety-seven boats, and catching annually 102,000 quintals of fish. The English merchants at the same time employed four thousand two hundred and fifty servants in two hundred and fifty-two vessels.

In 1728 a governor was appointed to the colony, but his presence did little for its welfare. He came out in the spring, looked chiefly after the fishery during the summer, and in autumn returned home, leaving the Newfoundlanders to govern themselves, with the aid of some queer, crooked old justices, chosen from their own ranks. Quarrels raged everywhere, oppression and injustice still rode rampant for nearly fifty years longer, when Governor Sir Hugh Palisser bestirred himself to create a diversion of troubles. With his assistance an Act was framed (known as Palisser's Act) similar to those already in existence providing for the oppression of the colonists, but with some outrageous additions. To sustain the fisheries and furnish recruits for the navy, seamen were induced to go to the Banks by the offer of bounties of from ten to forty pounds sterling to those vessels making the quickest and most successful trips each season. But the seamen were forced to return to Britain in the autumn by withholding of forty shillings of their wages until they reached home, and placing their masters under penalties if they failed to see their servants shipped for home. At the same time, emigration to the west was forbidden, captains giving passage to any emigrants being fined £500.

Now the Newfoundlanders were most wretchedly situated. They were forbidden to leave, barely allowed to stay, and they had no rights,—nothing but wrongs. They were liable to be ousted from their homes at any time, for the holding of any