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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

MARL.
Morton, Feb. 21, 1898.

Question:—I would be much pleased if you could give me some information regarding a certain white substance which lies almost immediately below the surface in swamp in this section. It is soft and pliable, and somewhat resembles infected putty. Could you please tell me what its proper name is, and if it is of any commercial utility? Please answer in your weekly edition. Yours, etc.

GEORGE WATSON.

Answer:—The white substance mentioned is marl, or carbonaceous marl. If you could send to the Free Press office a specimen of this deposit we might give you more definite information. There are two marl deposits, and it is useful to know which by your specimens. We will give you an analysis of the top soil and the subsoil or marl; but the top soil or swamp-muck must be perfectly fresh in order to test the absorptive powers of the upper layer.



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NEWFOUNDLAND AFFAIRS.

St. John's, Nfld., March 1.—Sir Herbert Murray, the Governor of Newfoundland, is awaiting instructions from the Colonial Office in London before signing the much-discussed contract with Mr. Reid, Sir Jas. Winter's banking company, for the purchase of the island.

Colie and Kinney Difficulty.—Mr. J. W. Wild