

## Prosperity of Newfoundland.



NO Colony of the British Empire has made such progress in recent years as has Newfoundland, the oldest, and, for a long period, the most neglected of all—for well nigh four centuries “the sport of historic misfortune,” as Lord Salisbury put it. Indeed, when one considers the disadvantages with which she had to contend during all this period, one cannot but wonder that she has made such headway as she has against such adverse conditions.

While discovered by Cabot in 1497, and continuously frequented ever since, Newfoundland, the tenth largest island in the world, contains less than 250,000 people to-day, though standing at the threshold of the New World, sighted by every ship that crosses the ocean, and possessing the greatest fisheries on the globe. Its mineral wealth is also known to be enormous; its forests cover vast areas; its farm and pasture land can support thousands; and as for hunting and tourist traffic, it is destined to become the playground of America. Yet, because of the selfish greed of the early West-country fishing “venturers,” colonization was forbidden, commerce was restricted and later on valuable fishery and seaboard rights were surrendered, and a policy of studied neglect was practiced towards it, typified by the instructions given to one Colonial Governor that “what the colonists want raw they should be given roast, and what they want roast, should be given them raw.” This policy bears fruit to-day in the fact that there is scarcely a hamlet in the whole island beyond sight of the sea; that fishing is almost the mainstay of the people, as it was generations ago; and that by the last census, while Newfoundland contained 1,372 settlements, 854 of these possessed less than 100 inhabitants each, every creek and cove around the sea-board having its little aggregation of fisherfolk.

Thus one can imagine the amazement, amounting almost to incredulity, with which the world abroad, and many in the Colony