REPORT FOR 1892.

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The appellation of "Terra Nova," or New Land, given to this Island by the early navigators is one of the most ridiculous misnomers conceivable—at least, in a geological sense. It is in reality a very old land, and had an existence, in large part as dry land, when but one small rock in the North-east corner of Great Britain represented that island. The 42,000 square miles comprising the total area of Newfoundland, are composed chiefly of the oldest known geological series, beginning with the Laurentian and endng with the Carboniferous. Not one of the higher or more recent Mesozoic systems, known to geologists, have any existence here, always excepting the superficial drift, chiefly made up of glacial debris, river-silt and ordinary clays, derived from disintegration of the rock surfaces. Much vegetable matter, in the form of peat, is found to occupy a large portion of the surface, especially over the less wooded areas of the interior.

The great Laurentian system, so largely developed in Canada and on the Labrador, occupies a very extensive portion. of Newfoundland. The southern coast line of the island, from Bay d'Espoir to Cape Ray, presents one bold front, 150 miles in extent, consisting of granites, syenites, mica, schists, &c., all referable to this period. They extend inland for many miles, and then branching out from the base into several great tongues, stretch across the island, forming the chief elevated ridges of the interior. One of those tongues or belts, commencing at the head of Fortune Bay, strikes in a northeasterly direction and comes out to the shore again on the north side of Bonavista Bay, forming most of the coast line between the latter and Gander Bay, in the great bay of Notre Dame. It also constitutes nearly all the numerous outlying islands, rocks and reefs, lying off this portion of the coast. The Funk Islands, a group of small granitic rocks, forty miles from the land, form the extreme north-east outlyer of this tongue. A second great ridge of granitoid and gneissoid rocks trending in the same direction strikes away from the base to the westward of Bay d'Espoir, and forms the beight of land between the two great valleys of the Gander and Exploits Rivers, narrowing towards the north-east and terminating in a point near the shores of Dildo Reach, Notre Dame Bay. The third and most extensive belt of Laurentian trends away north-easterly from Cape Ray, and passes between the Exploits and Humber Valleys, being split up in the