

coast line of 2000 miles, and a Railway from St. John's to Port-aux-Basques 548 miles. Allowing an average of a five-mile exploration coast-line all around the Island, you have 10,000 miles which we will call explored; but you will agree with me that many of the bays around the Island are very sparsely inhabited, and the requirements of such settlements, or even of more largely inhabited places, do not carry the people five miles inland. I have visited several places on our south and west coasts, and on enquiry was told that the people do not go more than a mile or two for firewood in winter, and in summer they seldom go inland at all. This is more usually the case where no horses are kept.

Taking these facts into consideration, a five-mile average of an explored coast-line all around the Island is evidently a fair allowance. When I say explored, I mean land that has at least been gone over by some one at some time or other, if for no other purpose but to cut a load of firewood.

We will then take 548 miles of Railway, St. John's to Port-aux-Basques, with a five-mile exploration average to every mile of road, we have 2740 miles, which together with the 10,000 miles of coast-line, give a total of 12,740 miles,—leaving over two-thirds of the whole Island unexplored.

Some of the settlements along the Railway are more than two and a half miles from the same, but with very few exceptions they are on the coast-line. On the other hand, most of the settlements along the Railway as yet are sparsely populated, and to this hour many a mile right by the track has been trodden only by the Red Man in the past.