

manufacturing industries are very scanty and it boasts of but 92 factories of which 53 are saw mills.

The island possesses vast tracts of coal and with the impetus which confederation would impart to this industry, owing to the consequent influx of capital we might safely predict that coal mining will in the near future, afford employment to thousands of laborers and prove remunerative to those who invest their capital therein. More important still are Newfoundland's copper mines and even now it stands high up on the list of the copper producing countries of the world. Vast forests cover a great portion of the island, awaiting the capital necessary to develop the lumber industry.

Newfoundland is *par excellence* the fishing station of the world. Its numerous bays swarm with bait-fishes, without which the fishing industry of Canada and the United States could not be carried on, so valuable indeed are these bait-fishes that the United States has more than once offered very favorable trade advantages to Newfoundland for the privilege of entering them. Mr. Bond also made the very astonishing statement that he was justified in saying, that access to Newfoundland's waters can purchase a free entry of Canadian and Newfoundland goods into the markets of the great neighboring republic. Although the fisheries are almost entirely unprotected and undeveloped, they produce a return of \$7,000,000 annually and employ more than 50,000 men. The most important is the cod fishery. Swarms of cod invade its waters and though this industry has been carried on for the last 390 years, the cod are as numerous as ever. Seal fishing takes place among the ice-fields about 150 miles off the coast; the marvellous development in this branch is evident from the fact that only 100 years ago the season's catch was 5000 seals whilst at the present time it averages almost 500,000. The lobster fisheries produce an annual revenue of about \$250,000.

Newfoundland is the oldest British colony and possesses immense wealth of fishery, forest and mine, yet she does not prosper. And, why? Because she has been harassed by the French; she has been ground down by the favorites of the English courts; her very life-blood has been sucked away by the monopolists; she has been the victim of the stupidity, blundering and neglect of modern English statesmen.

There are but two fates for Newfoundland: Confederation with Canada or Annexation to the United States. Which will it be? Let Canadians pause and consider what will be the result, ere they allow the island to slip from their hands into the lap of the United States. If Newfoundland were a part and parcel of the American Republic, our fisheries—Canada's boast—would be crippled; the Gibraltar of the St. Lawrence water system—the grandest in the world—would pass into the hands of a foreign and perhaps unfriendly power, which could prevent a single ship from entering the Gulf.

The people of Newfoundland are of our kith and kin, and confederation would round off our national union. This might be termed sentiment. We think however that the vast majority of the people of Canada are quite willing to pay a little for sentiment, when it is, as in the present case, of a good nature and the cost is not too great.

Canadians could not do better than follow in the footsteps of those broad-minded men, the Fathers of Confederation, who put forth the most strenuous efforts to induce Newfoundland to enter the Union, because they clearly perceived that it was a land of great promise. Newfoundland cannot fail to be a most desirable acquisition to the young and vigorous Dominion of Canada; but by all means, as delegate Morris aptly said, let it be such a one as will not call for a divorce.

ALBERT NEWMAN, '93.