

a plan of action in which all the companies will agree will be soon adopted.

Under the energetic action of the military and local authorities order is being gradually restored, the homeless people are being sheltered and fed, banks are resuming business, and wholesale arrangements are in progress for rebuilding

NEWFOUNDLAND.

TIME OPPORTUNE FOR ANNEXATION, FRENCH SHORE DIFFICULTY REMOVED, A FRIENDLY FEELING ESTABLISHED WITH CANADA, TRADE AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF THE ISLAND, TIES FINANCIAL AND PERSONAL WITH CANADA.

The time is singularly opportune for efforts directed to the union of Newfoundland with the Dominion of Canada.

The long standing difficulty which has existed since the treaty of Utrecht in 1713, is now practically settled. The rights conferred by the Treaty by which French fishermen were authorized to land and dry fish on the northern and western shores of the Island have been an obstacle to the development of Newfoundland. There was for many years constant friction between the local Government and the Islanders, and the French Government and French fishermen as to the extent of the latter's rights on the soil of the Island. The right to land and dry fish was continuously strained to the danger point. Conflicts have taken place between the residents and the French fishermen who were prone to aggressive movements that seemed to betray an intention to claim part of the Island as French soil.

The gravity of the situation was evidenced by the presence of French armed cruisers who were required, or whom their Government deemed were needed, to insist upon the fishing rights and use of the shore by French fishermen being recognized by the Newfoundlanders.

While these conditions were maintained, which were a continual menace to the peace of the Island and its integrity as a British Colony, there was reasonable ground for Canada not being very desirous of Newfoundland joining Confederation. The danger of trouble with France was much exaggerated, no doubt, but the pretext for delaying the annexation movement was sufficiently reasonable to be effectual with the timid class of statesman, who, in years gone by, were so narrow and shortsighted as not to foresee and provide for the expansion of Canada.

There was a golden opportunity presented some years ago for the acquisition of Newfoundland which was thrown away because the price was considered too high by politicians whose ideas of national finance were based on the small economies of a retail business.

Newfoundland was supplying fish for England's seamen in the time of Henry VIII., and is the oldest British Colony.

The Island has an area of 40,200 square miles. The population, 1901, was 217,037, as compared with 178,657 in British Columbia in same year. There are 85,600 acres of cultivated land and the horses, cattle, sheep and swine, are in such proportion to the farm land as indicate a fair degree of prosperity and wealth.

The iron mines are very valuable, they are being worked on Bell Island and in Conception Bay on the east coast and deposits exist on the west coast. Gold, silver and lead also are found. Forests of pine and other merchantable timber are very extensive. Coal of excellent quality is found near St. George's Bay and in the Grand Lake District.

The foreign trade of Newfoundland is given as follows:

| Trade with Great Britain. | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1900. | 1901. | 1902. |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Imports into Great Britain from Newfoundland . . . | 2,381,000 | 2,663,600 | 3,216,800 |
| Exports from Great Britain to Newfoundland | 2,607,000 | 1,791,100 | 1,875,300 |
| Trade with Canada. | | | |
| | 1901. | 1903. | 1905. |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Imports into Canada from Newfoundland | 624,600 | 1,140,370 | 1,059,400 |
| Exports from Canada to Newfoundland | 2,257,400 | 2,510,900 | 3,473,600 |

The total imports and exports were as follows, with the respective proportions of Great Britain and Canada, for 1901, and of the United States also for 1902:

| | 1900. | 1901. | 1902. |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Imports, total | 7,702,500 | 7,681,000 | 8,051,300 |
| Exports, total | 8,863,900 | 8,589,000 | 9,783,400 |
| Canada per cent of imports from Newfoundland | | 8.1 p.c. | 13.3 p.c. |
| Exports to Newfoundland | | 26.2 p.c. | 33.3 p.c. |
| Great Britain's per cent of Imports from Newfoundland | | 34.6 p.c. | 22.0 p.c. |
| Exports to Newfoundland | | 20.0 p.c. | 27.0 p.c. |
| United States, Imports from Newfoundland | | | 15.0 p.c. |
| Exports to Newfoundland | | | 26.0 p.c. |

The course of the Island's trade is for Canada to sell a considerable quantity of the goods she exports to Newfoundland, but to buy only a small amount of what Newfoundland has to export. The balance of trade therefore is heavily against Newfoundland, as between the Island and Canada, but the reverse way as between Great Britain and the Island, as we sell there more than we buy while Great Britain buys there more than she sells.

With their characteristic enterprize the Americans have secured a large share of the Newfoundland trade, the aggregate of 1902 having been \$3,310,500, as compared with an aggregate of Canada's trade with the Island in the same year which amounted to \$3,436,200. Indeed, the Americans