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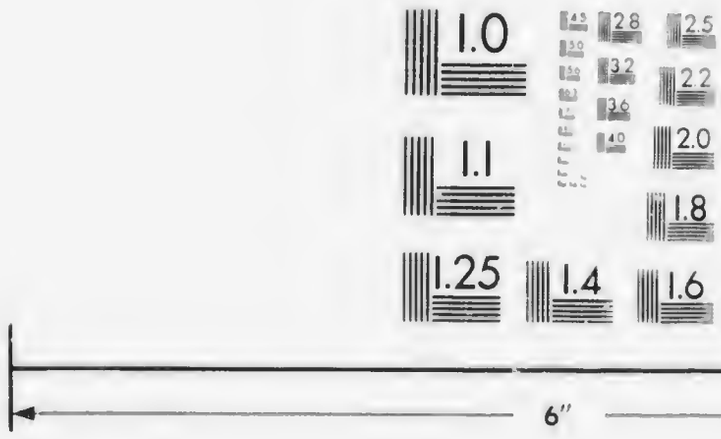

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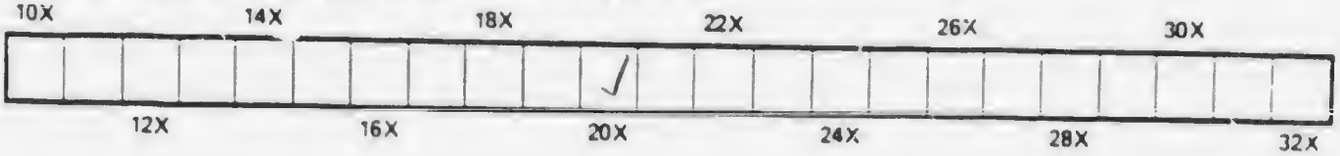

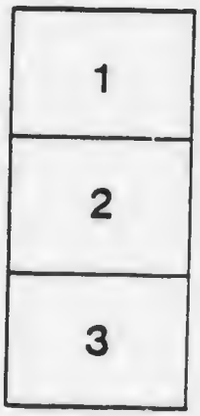

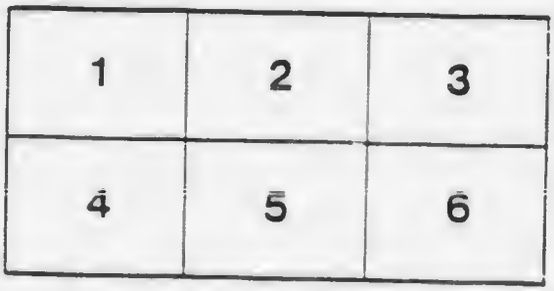

Newfoundland Colonisation

HAND BOOK,

CONTAINING

A GENERAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

AGRICULTURAL & MINERAL LANDS,

THE PROPERTY OF THE

Newfoundland Colonisation & Mining Company, Ltd.,

WITH AN APPENDIX,

BY

WM. WINGFIELD-BONNYN,

C.E., M.E., A.M.I.C.E., M.A.S.C.E

Offices of the Company:

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GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION.

Geographical Position.

Newfoundland is situated in the North Atlantic in Lat. 47° 51½′ and Long. 53° 59½′, and covers an area of 57,000 square miles.

Up to a not far distant period, it was believed by almost every European nation to be a barren waste, void of natural resources, enveloped by constant fogs, with no climate to speak of, and a soil utterly unfit for any attempt at Agriculture. Its numerous natural bays and harbours encouraged Cod-fishing from its shores and from the neighbouring Banks, which for centuries have produced a constantly increasing yearly crop, and indeed practically have constituted the principal if not almost the only resource of the Island. I shall spare my readers the history of its discovery in 1497, and of the first attempts that were made then and later on at settlements; Joseph Hatton, Moses Harvey, and the Very Rev. M. F. Howley have all most ably illustrated historically, whilst Alexander Murray and James P. Howley have solved the geological wealth that can be derived, and the nature of the soil and of the climate. It would therefore be out of place on my part to attempt to improve on description or on the result of the researches of such distinguished authorities; a reference to their several works will do more for the intelligent reader seeking information than any additions of mine, which, to say the least, might savour of plagiarism. My object is to expound my personal impressions of the country and its capabilities, founded upon experience covering three lustres of my life devoted to enquiring as to the mineral wealth of the undersoil, the agricultural ability of the upper soil, the nature of the climate, the possible productions in all their variety, agricultural and mineral, its industries, commerce, means of transport, navigation, railways, tramways, roads and ways, postal and telegraphic services, political

Cod-fishing.

Historians.

Geologists.

Refer for Information.

Object.

organisation, revenue budget, public education, primary schools, public assistance, scientific and literary institutions,

Description of Towns.

description of the towns of St. John's, Harbour Grace, Heart's Content, Carbonear, Placentia, Twillingate, Burin, Burgeo, Channel, St. George's Bay, Bay of Islands, Bonne Bay and Ingarnachoix, and the descriptive round trip of the Island back to St. John's, by Hare, White, Notre-Dame, Bonavista, Trinity and Conception Bays, all of which will

Principal Object

be brief and concise, geographically speaking. My principal object will be centred in enlarging on agricultural and mining pursuits, on the subject of soil and climate, across the country through the Lake and River districts, and the best industries to follow, according to locality; also to discuss the possible improvement of the cod, herring, mackerel and other fisheries, and concentrating their

Fertilisers.

separate waste into valuable fertilisers, rich in ammonia and phosphate of lime, thus utilising *that* which for centuries has been literally *thrown away*, and which might have been a source of wealth as an export to those countries whose soil requires invigoration, thus avoiding the fouling of the fishing grounds both on the banks and the shores.

POPULATION.

Population.

The population of Newfoundland is only about 200,000 souls, which, when judged in proportion to the size and the age of the Colony, clearly shows that it has been limited to a solely fishing population, which it has remained ever since.

People.

With a fractional exception the people are healthy, strong, willing, honest and good-natured, being principally Irish and Scotch, the English forming the minority. They may be termed slaves to their general fishing vocation on the share principle, and are kept in thraldom, servitude and debt by a

Truck system.

pernicious "truck" system, which it is to be hoped may eventually be exterminated, and leave scope for the practical intelligence of men who are worthy of and deserve a better fate.

Wages and Shares.

Fishermen should be paid the wages of their labour and the proportion of their shares, and left to supply themselves with

the necessaries of life wherever and from whomsoever they list or choose. Anything in the shape of *barter* of fish against drygoods and grocery snpplies, should be left to their own *free* action and choice. Until such a method is carried out, the fishermen of Newfonndland will be worse off than the serfs in autocratic Russia. Newfoundland Fishermen.

MINERAL WEALTH.

For the prevalent formation of the Island, &c., I refer to Murray's and Howley's work, "The Geologieal Snrvey of Newfoundland." The minerals of the Colony comprise coal, gypsum, copper, lead and iron. Salt springs also exist on the western coast. Coal formations are clearly traced between Cape Ray and Anguille, near Bay of Islands, Cape St. George, Round Head, Humber Arm, and more particularly from Flat Bay and between the Robinson and Middle Barachois Rivers, eight miles up in an eastward direction. As far back as 1867 Mr. Murray resolved to verify Mr. Juke's representations, and to trace them to their furthest limits, so as to ascertain the commereial importanee of the formations, but from some unforeseen circumstanees the verifieation was impeded. Later on the task was resumed by Mr. James P. Howley (Mr. Murray's suecessor as Geologieal Surveyor), and with a confirmation that the St. George's Bay measnres were very promising. During last summer (1889) Mr. Howley made an extensive investigation, and will publish it for public edification, at the same time enriching the museum at St. John's with an extensive elassificatiou of samples, having sent also some to the United States of America, and some to England for detailed assays. This last investigation appears to settle the question that the troughs follow clearly the indications first obtained, and whieh I had also verified in 1881. The carboniferous formation, however, occupies other areas known as the Port-á-Port, Humber River and Grand Pond troughs, of whieh details are given in Murray's reports for 1873—1874. At Deer Lake the formation was again recognised on the west side. Minerals. Coal.

Gold.

I will say nothing of gold, as I have failed everywhere, not excluding the neighbourhood of Brigus, to verify anything approaching the small samples shown in the Museum at St. John's, and until further results are obtained I must maintain my scepticism. I am loth to deal credulously in equivalents of auriferous strata in minute and invisible particles, my very best and most powerful lens having failed to assist me, despite my determination to *seek* and *find*.

Copper.

Copper ores, in all forms of sulphurets, are of frequent occurrence in divers parts of the Island. I have found fair ores in the "Come-by-Chance" Grant No. 5,435 of this Company, between it and Piper's Hole River, but not having my boring machines at the time, I was compelled to give up my investigation, resolving, however, to resume it later on. The presence of copper ore is ascertained in Conception Bay at Holyrood, but in ill-defined veins; the prospects of this mine, I have lately been told, are now more encouraging, yellow sulphurets showing rather abundant. Efforts are being made to prosecute working as soon as a syndicate provides the means. Cross Gulch, English Cove and Turk's Gut have tolerably well defined lodes, drifts have been driven, but no works of importance have disclosed any certainty of an outcrop. Tilt Cove, Bett's Cove and Little Bay have all given unmistakeable results, but after the late copper crisis, and the excessive fall in value of the metal, the expenses of working left little or no margin; it is, however, to be hoped that the probable market rise will soon be followed by an active resumption of work.

In Placentia and St. Mary's Bay there are some fine indications of rich ore, but it appears to be in pockets and otherwise distributed in isolated masses. Mines are bound to spring into existence if well directed persistence of search is followed up with energy.

Lead

Lead.—The veins of this metal are of very frequent occurrence, many being charged with galena and with other ores. This fact is most remarkable at the Lamanche mine (the

property of this Company) in Placentia Bay, of which I have made a particular study, and in the working whereof I have concentrated my special ambition to arrive at the logical result so clearly delineated and indexed by surface showings and undersoil workings. The history of this mine, which was let on royalty to three several companies from 1857 to 1873, is well known. I shall not enter into details beyond regretting that it ever was so let, and practically destroyed to such an extent as to require no uncommon courage to rehabilitate it; but the reflection that about 2,500 tons of good ore had been raised to surface in the most unskilled methods of mining, with six shafts and an adit of nearly 1,600 feet, and a three feet wide vein taken all over, which occasionally is seven feet wide, were a sufficient inducement for a pretty sure success if properly worked; where the vein was intersected, running N.E., the ore was found in great abundance, some in bunches or pockets. I believe that by prosecuting the adit bearing E., slightly S., a system of steaning will lead me to the continuation of the lode for at least a mile and a-half or more, in what dimensions remains to be proved; meantime the surface index leaves a logical result leading to a moral certainty of success. I am convinced that the fortunes of the mine have languished more through want of unison, and in consequence of mismanagement by its late proprietors, who also lacked capital, than from any diminution of ore. Our present Company may congratulate itself on re-possessing it, and in their behalf I intend to try its capacity most vigorously within the limits of prudence and the possibility of its yielding power. Lead crops up also in various localities in Placentia, St. Mary's and Conception Bays, also at Bay-d'-Espoir and Port-á-Port, but the Lamanche mine carries the palm, and will prove it.

Lamanche Mine.

Other Localities.

Salt.—I have verified numerous indications to exist through the carboniferous region, in rock and in springs through some of this Company's grants in township No. 4 in St. George's Bay. None of the springs have yet been utilised

Salt.

as a source for manufacture, although they have elicited my attention for future consideration.

Other divers Metals, &c.

Manganese, magnetic iron, antimony, gypsum, barytes, building stones, limestone, grindstone, whetstone, red and yellow ochres, petroleum, osokoryte, peat and shell-marl are all economical substances that abound in different districts of the Island. Metallic silver has been reported in the vicinity of Ship's Cove, St. George's Bay (North), on this Company's grant No. 5,646. I doubt the statement, but whilst boring in that neighbourhood I mean to prosecute the search; for if silver exists in combination with the lead ores,

Metallic Silver.

then that native silver *may* exist is quite within possibility. Had I seen any specimens I might speak with more certainty. Thus much is an abridgment as to the mineral riches of the colony, and I must agree in the conclusion of the late Mr. Murray, who foresaw that if large blocks of Newfoundland territory were sold to wealthy capitalists under certain restrictions, whose interest would urge them to foster

Emigration.

emigration and cultivation of the soil, a very few years would be required to convert the then (1874) wilderness into flourishing settlements. Since then much has been *done*, but much more has yet to be *achieved*.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture.

As soon as land grants were legalised, settlers began to enclose and cultivate small particles of soil round about their fishing hamlets when the soil was found fit for cultivation

Fishing and Farming.

On an average the soil yielded very good results, some combined fishing and farming, others preferred farming, and were the most successful, but being on the sea-board, fished sufficiently for family nourishment, and became independent. Year after year cultivation was extended in different parts and settlements established. Even around St. John's, where

Avalon and around St. John's.

the soil is the poorest in the Island, farms and homesteads gradually increased. In 1874 the census showed that 36,000 acres were under cultivation, it has since considerably in-

creased, and taking the Codroy Valleys and St. George's Bay (West), were there an agricultural population settled on those fine fertile lands, the greater part of all that is now required for consumption could be raised on the Island.

It follows that, besides lumbering and mining, many hundred thousands might find comfortable homes and a profitable outlet for their industry from those fertile lands.

Murray and Howley Statements.

It has been said that these are random assertions or exaggerated statements—indeed I have heard some of Murray's and Howley's geological and agricultural statements impugned as the coinage of fertile brains, and as imaginary and fantastic visions, but as it has pleased Providence to permit of my going over most of the same ground, and at a later period, I am proud to state (whilst I quote their authority abundantly), that I have more than verified all their assertions, and hence have had frequent occasions to resent these malignant aspersions with the contempt they deserve. Newfoundland owes a great deal to the late much lamented "Murray" and to the happily living "Howley" Their united names will be "*household words*" of the future generations, and few, if any, *will achieve* so much for their country's good as *they have done*.

I repeat what I said in 1888, "Newfoundland has very great agricultural resources which only require the strong arm of labour for their development, and its *forest wealth* is as great as its *mineral deposits* are of untold value." My words are nearly identical with those of the above high scientific explorers I quote, and whom I have followed on the same field.

This Company's Land.

This Company owns large tracts of land in St. George's Bay, Port-á-Port, Deer Lake, Grand Lake, Gander Lake and Gander River, besides those on the Avalon Isthmus and "Come-by-Chance," on the extreme north end of Placentia Bay, in all making a total of 100 *square miles*, or 64,000

acres, with all the mining and lumbering rights thereunto belonging, and at a not distant future the railways will cross and run near the greater portion of the grants, thus acquiring easy access to and communication with St. John's (East) and St. George's (West), opening up local and export markets for all their production. It would be difficult to find any other colonisation company possessing lands under brighter future prospects.

CLIMATE.

Climate.

The climate of the Island is more temperate and more favourable to health than that of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. It is rarely and only for a few days that the thermometer falls below *zero* in winter, while in the summer it rises from 65 to 80, which it rarely exceeds. It is a variable climate, some years the winters are mild and temperate, others occasionally are severe, the arctic current exerts an unfavourable influence all along the eastern coast, the gulf stream creates the fogs, but modifies the cold, in fact the salubrity of the climate is evinced by the robust healthy appearance of the people. The fogs never penetrate inland to any extent, and are almost unknown on the *western* coasts.

Experience.

Mr. Howley, like myself, has experienced the climate of the interior, roughing it in camp more or less over a period of fifteen years, and like myself testifies that in July and August the weather in the interior was delightfully clear, while fog prevailed at the same time all along the *southern* coast. I repeat, the climate is severe, but is healthful, the mortality is small, while in no other country is old age attended with greater bodily vigour and mental animation.

Winter and Summer.

As a rule, winter lasts from December to April, as an exception (often verified), spring and summer are thirty days ahead. Summer is short and warm, seldom hot except in *western* districts.

Forests and Woodlands.

The forests and woodlands are rich in spruce, pine, birch, larch, tamarac, willow and mountain ash, while a variety of berry-bearing shrubs clothe every swamp

and open tract; grasses of various kinds abound, as also natural red and white clover. Crops are abundant in the general sense, potatoes particularly, grain crops also thrive well, wheat having been known to yield 50 bushels per acre; but the climate and soil in the *western* parts of the Island are more favourable to pasturage and green crops than to grain. The wild animals are the cariboo, deer, bear, wolf, hare (a kind of rabbit), beaver, marten, otter, dogs, cats, rats and mice; the domestic animals are the ox, cow, horse, mule, swine, goats, sheep, cats and dogs—the latter are no longer the traditional Newfoundland dog, of which but few are left, but the mongrel, whelp, hound and curs of low degree abound. Of late the Irish spaniels and pointers have been introduced as favourite sporting dogs.

Crops.

Wild Animals.

Domestic Animals.

Dogs.

Cattle and their produce are increasing fast in the colony, and on the grazing-land in the Codroy Valley, at Romaine's farm in St. George's Bay, and in other western districts, there is no reason why, in the near future, that a cattle export trade may become an important feature; mere rearing of cattle, and an increased number of small farms, is better than corn-growing. Home-bred horses and oxen will suit the requirements of the country better than imported animals, and the rearing of pigs, goats, and poultry would be of more importance than has hitherto attracted attention.

Cattle.

GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION.

The Government of Newfoundland is administered under a Constitution, granted in 1832, by a Governor, an Executive Council, who also compose the Legislative Council, and a House of Assembly, consisting of 36 representatives. Justice is dispensed by a Chief Justice and assistant Judges. The Police is under the management of one Chief and two Juniors. The most perfect toleration is extended towards all religious sects. The educational institutions consist of male Orphan and other

Government.

Religion.

Institutions.

Schools. Asylums, Grammar Schools, Academies and Convent Schools. Elementary Schools are established, in almost every district in the island, by the local Legislature.

St. John's. The town of St. John's, the capital of the island, situate on an acclivity, consists of three streets at three different levels, with cross streets up the hill, all rather irregularly built, though the town on the whole has much improved since the great fire in 1846. It is well supplied with water and gas, and of late with electric lights. The public buildings are the Government House, House of Assembly, Lunatic Asylum, Hospital, Custom House, the Markets and the Atlantic Hotel. The Churches are the Roman Catholic Cathedral, the Episcopalian Protestant Cathedral, both fine and spacious buildings, the Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Church of Scotland, Free Church, Methodist and United Presbyterians are all well represented with very suitable and some handsome buildings. There are several societies, religious and benevolent, a mechanics' institute, Post Office, Museum, under the direction of James P. Howley, the Government Geological Surveyor; Library and reading-rooms attached in the Athenæum building, an agricultural society, breweries, distilleries, flour-mills, foundries, lumber saw-mills, boot and shoe, and furniture factories.

Churches.

Buildings.

Trade. The trade in St. John's is now more extensive, and supplies imported articles of fashion and personal requirements for the people and gentry. All the principal merchants keep stores literally retailing from a *needle to an anchor*, but principally doing the "truck" supply business with the numerous skippers and sailors constituting the cod and seal-fishing population. The harbour of St. John's, though it has a very narrow entrance, is excellent, the channel being wide. The narrows leading to the harbour were once protected by water level batteries and a cross chain, but are now altogether free. The trade is carried on by sailing vessels and steamers from London, Liverpool, Greenock and Glasgow, for dry

goods and salt; from Hamburg, Copenhagen, Portugal and Spain with provisions, salt, and preserves of all kinds; from Cuba and the West India Islands, with sugar, molasses and rum; from the United States and Canada, with butter, pork, beef and flour; and from Cape Breton, with coals (a regular trade). The export of fish and fish oils is from August to end of December to Great Britain, Bilboa, Oporto, Cadiz, Figuera, Leghorn, Genca, Naples, Marseilles, Barcelona, the West Indies, and to the Brazil and Argentine Republics. The sealing fishery commences in March, and the return of the fleet is sooner or later, as warranted by good or indifferent catches. The population of St. John's, is about 30,000 to 35,000, of which about 8,000 to 9,000 are fishermen.

Imports.

Exports.

Sealing Fishery

Population.

Harbour Grace is a small maritime town on the west side of Conception Bay, and although it is considered the second town in the island, it is in reality a single long straggling street along the north side of the Harbour, nevertheless, it is the seat of an important fishery, and has a population of about 8,000. A pretty excursion from Harbour Grace is to Carbonear and Heart's Content, the latter being the spot where the Atlantic cables emerge from the ocean, by which messages are transmitted to Europe by the Anglo-American Telegraph Company.

Harbour Grace.

Carbonear.

Ocean Cable.

Placentia, in the bay of the same name, is a charming summer excursion, and reached by railway, with a change at the Harbour Grace Junction Station, from whence the line is worked by the Government. I may as well mention Trinity, Bonavista, Twillingate and Notre Dame Bays, and go on describing the whole coast of Labrador, but the sameness all the way, being points of call for the fishing and mining industries, would render my narrative prosy and monotonous, and indeed the sameness applies to the western route, with the exceptions I have already delineated.

Placentia.

Bays.

Fishing Stations.

They are strictly fishing grounds, especially St. Mary's, Grand Bank, Burin, Harbour Briton, Burgeo and Channel; north of St. George's Bay come Bay of Islands for herring, Bonne Bay for the same up to Ingarnachoix, *via* Cape Norman, Pistolet, Hare and White Bays. The round is completed at the Copper Mines on the north side of Notre Dame Bay. In summer the round trip is very varied and interesting, especially including the run along the coast of Labrador, visiting Mecattina Harbour, Salmon Bay and River, Blanc Sablon, Bradon Bay, York point, and all the way up to Cape St. Lewis, calling at Bell Isle, touching Fogo and coming down the northern route to St. John's, the starting-point. The magnificent scenery of these arctic latitudes have their charm, but I leave amateur tourists the task of description, for although I am a great admirer of beautiful and sublime nature, my mission had quite *another* and *special* object, which engaged all my time.

Labrador.

Agriculture and Mining combined.

Although as yet agriculture is not a chief source of wealth and revenue, in effect the working of mines encourages indirectly the cultivation of the land in the interior. However few miners there are at present, they will only consent to work on condition that others should cultivate the nearest district and provide them with the articles of food necessary to their subsistence. Thus it is that agriculture has commenced and kept pace with the working of mines, and there is no doubt that, under a proper organisation, all the latest improvements in machinery, implements and modes of cultivation, may be introduced and employed. The system hitherto adopted has caused the cultivation of a considerable surface with a relatively small number of labourers, but the change that would take place is easy to foresee, if a gradually growing European emigration were encouraged and carried out; thus, as the price of labour increases, the value of cultivated land becomes greater, it is therefore a necessity to intensify cultivation. I have already shown in my report of 1888

Emigration.

(See Appendix), that such a transformation might be easily brought about, and could take place on this Company's Grants, if an immigration of farmers were encouraged, who, while making their own fortune, would assist the Company, and facilitate the division of its lands.

Cattle and their production would increase apace; sheep raising is already far advancing; pigs and poultry likewise; wool spinning, weaving and knitting are quite an industry out westward. The progress onward of the country can be only secured by emigration from Europe, not of paupers, but of fairly to do farmers, labourers and tradespeople, such as carpenters, joiners, blacksmiths, shoemakers, tailors, bakers, butchers, builders, coopers, plumbers and glaziers, stone-workers, miners, sailmakers, painters, &c. These would all assist in forming settlements, and all could have with profit a few acres for market and kitchen gardening.

Newfoundland, in fact, appears to me (as Sir John Harvey has also said) to be calculated to become essentially a rich grazing country, and its varied agricultural resources seem only to require *railways, roads and settlements* to force them into highly remunerative development for grazing purposes. Besides the Codroy Valleys, there are large tracts along the inner lakes and rivers, and in the Exploit Valleys, which I believe cannot be surpassed in British North America, and when I look at the proximity of the Colony to England, and the all-important consideration of short voyages for live stock, the advantages possessed are too manifest to become a subject of argument. So much evidence is borne of the great fertility of the soil in the above-mentioned districts that to me cattle-raising appears a paramount business to be seriously looked into and followed up.

Now that I have said all I can consistently say on the agricultural and mineral prospects of Newfoundland, I will give my humble opinion of the fisheries. In many places

Fisheries.

on the south and west coasts, as in some on the eastern coasts of the island, the people can support themselves altogether independently of the fisheries; they make their own butter and cheese, raise large and small flocks of sheep, and weave their own clothes, and when it is considered that recurrences of good fisheries have become few and far between, I maintain it is an impossibility and a folly to depend altogether on the fluctuating fortune of fisheries, when one can accomplish so much by giving attention to other industries. I do not mean, however, to infer that the fishing vocation should be neglected, or partially abandoned, far from it. I consider it should be followed and improved,

Improvements in putting up Codfish.

both in the mode of fishing, salting and drying. The codfish can be put into many other forms, much more palatable than the ever-plain dried, and more or less soaked, insipid, meagre edible, so much used by French, Spanish, Italians, West Indians and South Americans. Codfish and other fish, so treated, would command remunerative returns, obtaining good markets in concentrated shapes for making appetising frys, stews and grills. Our neighbours in Maine are ahead of us in this, as well as in many other modes of fish preparations.

Newfoundland Fishermen.

The Newfoundland fishermen are not the fools they are *too often* taken for. They are intelligent, and of late years after repeated bad fisheries have been compelled to turn their attention to the cultivation of the soil, seeing a *first* profit in the yield of potatoes and vegetables for family use, and gradually many have extended their holding to several

Farming Fishermen

acres. I know some fishermen in the Codroy Valleys between the rivers that are prospering beyond their own anticipations; they farm about 15 acres each, and each have over 20 head of cattle and 35 sheep. With a few exceptions, however, they cannot be farmers and fishermen on any large scale; but when a fisherman has taken up farming, I have invariably found that he has preferred it, and not returned to the sea life. It is the same

in St. George's Bay and Port-á-Port; Murray and Monsignor Sears have both quoted the above districts, and the Very Rev. Dr. Howley and Mr. James P. Howley are living witnesses that the soil is of the most fertile description, and that the spontaneous grasses afford a continuous food from season to season for winter feeding. Sir Richard Bonnycastle and the Right Rev. Dr. Mullock wrote and lectured extensively on the wonderful ease with which garden vegetables and fruit, wheat, barley and oats are reared and brought to the greatest perfection. My estimate of Newfoundland's agricultural capabilities fully equals that of the above mentioned authorities, and I believe that if we had large farming communities we could support them in comfort.

Soil.

Bonnycastle and Mullock.

I cannot conclude my narrative of Newfoundland without expressing my sincerest thanks to all the different Governors and Executive Councils during the last fifteen years, who, up to date, have afforded me every facility and information conducive to the attainment of my object, and I take the same opportunity of thanking the officers of the British and French ships of war on the Newfoundland station for their kind assistance and general courtesy during the same period. My acknowledgments in the same direction are due to Mr. James P. Howley, the present Geological Surveyor, to the late Surveyor General, and particularly to Mr. Thomas Long, the ever obliging head Clerk of the Crown Lands Office. Indeed I may say with exultation that I have been much impressed with the very friendly reception I have met from the official, the gentry, and the commercial communities of Newfoundland.

Conclusion.

If the present effort (in a condensed form) to acquaint my readers in general, and the shareholders of the Newfoundland Colonisation and Mining Company in particular, shows them *what Newfoundland really is*, I shall feel satisfied

in having achieved that which may hereafter prove instrumental in making known a Colony that has been most *unfairly* dealt with, but which will nevertheless triumph both in trade and industry, and become commercially and generally known to the wide world.

APPENDIX.

REPORT

ON

The Newfoundland Land Co.'s Grants of Land

IN THE

ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND,

BY

WM. WINGFIELD-BONNYN, C.E., A.M.I.C.E.,

In September and October, 1888.

I find that the result of the bank fishery this year does not fall much short of that of last year, which was an exceptionally prosperous one, and the marked improvement in the Labrador catch, though late in the season, is certainly a herald indicative of a dawning prosperity. Bank F

During the past five or six years, which were characterised by bad or indifferent fisheries on the Eastern Coast, the people have tried to turn their attention to the cultivation of the soil. Cap Lan

It is a mistake to say that a fisherman will ever turn to be a *farmer*, not even on giving him inland communication and opening markets for his produce; but if roads and railways are pushed into the heart of the country, the result will soon be found that immigrants with agricultural pursuits will gain the lead. Even now almost every fisherman in the outports *can* and *does* raise each year vegetables enough for his own consumption; but his agriculture ends there—there is no inducement to raise more. Fisher

In the *West* coast, for instance, the people *can* support themselves altogether by establishing and fostering other than the *fishing* industries—they make their own butter and cheese, they raise large flocks of sheep, and weave their own Other Indust

clothes. There is a spirit of enterprise forcibly dormant, but that would awaken so soon as the railway whistle sounded across the country. There is no lack of spirited and thoughtful men who *have* faith in the resources of their country, but their cry is, "*give us highways and byeways*," and they will not only initiate, but carry out many industries.

ple's Desire

As a rule, the people of Newfoundland, from a knowledge of recent experience, are getting tired of continuing to be *totally* dependent on the fluctuating fortune of fisheries, and are anxious and desirous of turning their attention to other industries. It only remains with the Government to assist in making ways for the people to get from the heads of the different bays inland, into the good agricultural and timber lands.

ood Lands.

The good agricultural lands of any extent lie through the regions included from ten to thirty miles inside the heads of the bays. For instance, the "*Gander Lake*" districts are easy of approach from Freshwater Bay, E., the "*Gander River*" from Gander Bay, E., whilst from St. George's Bay, W., the fine lands between "*Fischel's*," "*Robinson's*," and "*Crabb Rivers*," and those round the "*Cairn Mount*," are quite accessible, and the "*Port-á-Port*" shores, both in St. George's Bay and on the West Coast, at the root of Long Point, include over 150 square miles of the finest agricultural land in the whole island.

Capabilities of Lands.

It is difficult to say what the soil of the country is capable of producing in the way of cereals until it has been given a fair trial, for the cultivation on the east side of a few miles on the seaboard will certainly not furnish a criterion sufficient to assert that wheat will *not* ripen in the country. The *western* districts are an eloquent proof to the contrary, where wheat, as well as barley and oats, come to maturity even under most unfavourable circumstances. The railway, inland tributary roads, and extensive cleared tracts of land 30 or 40 miles in from the coast, will work a change of circumstances productive of untold progress, and with regular markets at St. John's and Harbour Grace for the eastern side, and St. George's Bay and Bay of Islands in the west of the island, would soon tempt intending farmers to settle in the interior, founding their homesteads with confidence once they know that they are on the highway of daily communication with the capital and other important towns; they will rear live-stock, sow cereals, and plant vegetables on a corresponding scale, which would be much larger than ever before attempted. It is only by such means that almost all

the now imported produce would be driven out of the market.

From the foregoing statements it is quite evident that the completion of the railways, preceded by the making of good roads to tap them at the different stations, is of paramount and primary necessity, and their absence must check all the chances that are open for agricultural, mineral and other pursuits, leaving the people no other choice than remaining only what they have hitherto been, "A Nation of Fishermen." Railways and Roads.

The South Shore of St. George's Bay, from Flat Bay along the valley to Crabb's Brook, is generally level and gently undulating, and is densely covered by the prevailing forest timber, much of which, particularly the yellow birch, is of large size and excellent quality. The soil appears at all parts to be even superior to that on the banks of the brooks, and for about three miles of the lower reaches the stream passes through a wide expanse of country, with some wooded and useful marshes, and many low, flat islands in its midst, all of which when cleared yield spontaneously the most luxuriant crops of wild grass, which are naturally irrigated annually by the freshets of spring. South Shore St. George's. New Grant square mile. John Berry statement verified.

West Bay (Port-á-Port) has exceptionally rich and fertile soil particularly at this spot, where at least 45 square miles are level, densely wooded, and intersected by several brooks of good size. The chief approach from St. George's Bay is by the "*Gravels*," forming the two beaches, and being the name of the locality, the *very narrow* isthmus at this spot suggests it being opened into the inner East Bay, thus providing a safe harbour for vessels and boats during the south-western and equinoctial gales. This I am certain could be done effectually and inexpensively. West Bay Approach. Cutting of Gravels Isthmus.

The land area of Port-á-Port, which lies off its western shore, is about 150 miles (square); the bays are bounded on the north-west side by a strip of land between two and three miles across at its base, where it leaves the main body of the peninsula at Black Head in West Bay, which runs thence in a north-easterly direction, tapering gradually as it approaches its termination. The Company's acreage runs from the base of the Long Point strip five miles north-east in the straight direction, and is about one mile wide from shore to shore at its boundary line, which is correctly marked out with the Company's T. The south-east base down south from the mouth of the north-west Barachois River is a two-mile quad- Port-á-P Land. Grant N Company Boundar Marks.

Louis Felix's Statement verified.

rangle of a rich soil, gently sloping on each side from a central hill not more than 80 feet above the sea level. The abandoned clearings in West Bay are full of luxuriant wild grass, and the timber produced over the other parts of the area is of good quality, chiefly white spruce, balsam, fir and

No Pine Trees.

yellow birch. I did not notice any pine; if it exists it must be scarce. With further clearances there is no doubt that excellent crops of grass, grain, potatoes and turnips could be raised, and winter wheat might be grown, as it has been by

Mr. Romaine's Farm.

Mr. Romaine on his farm on the north side of the bay. I believe that all the variety of hardy grain might be cultivated to a large extent if mills were built in the districts to make it into flour, as there is ample water power upon every

Other Farms.

brook. Many of the small farms near Romaine's even now maintain a good stock of cattle, sheep, horses and pigs.

Murray's and Howley's Reports.

The reports of the late Mr. Alexander Murray, and Mr. James P. Howley, the Geological Surveyor of Newfoundland, leave no doubt that the colony contains thousands of square miles of fertile land, and the opinion of these eminently competent judges of the soil is founded on what they have actually *seen* and can vouch for. Mr. Howley is living,

James P. Howley.

and can be referred to at any time. I have long had the privilege of knowing both the eminent gentlemen, and the *survivor* is aware of the deep interest I take in the development of agriculture in Newfoundland. I am quite sure he will confirm that neither in Nova Scotia or Western Canada can any land be found that is *better* than that in West Bay (Port-á-Port) and on St. George's Bay from "Flat Bay" down south to "Crabb River," whilst the land on the north bank of "Deer Pond," "Grand Pond" (north end), "Gander Lake," and "Gander River," and down to the Gambo Ponds, is all unexceptionally good land, well timbered,

Comparison of Land.

and remarkably easy to clear and cultivate. Even the

Marshes.

marshes can be easily drained and converted into excellent pasture land. I have seen shallow ponds drained and produce abundant crops. Practical men will gladly reserve 10 out

Bog Land.

of 100 acres of bog-land, bog being useful as a fertiliser and for fuel, and not to be despised. Again, bog-land is easier to drain than wood-land to clear, and costs much less, which in clearing for pasture land is a consideration. It is difficult to convince those who have never crossed the country to appreciate the investigations of such men as Murray

Verification.

and Howley, which I have more than verified. Sportsmen seeking *Cariboo* and other *game* are seldom judges of soil or of timber, nor of their respective value in the agricultural standpoint.

There is no doubt that Newfoundland has been neglected and much abused, but facts are facts. The island might support many hundred thousands of contented, prosperous and loyal people, half of whom might be farmers; but faith in the future and energy at present must go hand in hand. Let the fishing population keep to their calling, and not shift their hand from the net to the plough; let them use their splitting knives and not turn them into pruning-hooks; and let their women raise vegetables, knit socks, and make homespun. Open up the country with roads and railways; let the press and the clergy do their duty, directing the minds of the people to cultivate the land, to go ahead and to look straight before them, and let the young be taught "agriculture" in the schools; the rest will surely follow. Facts. Roads and Railways. Agriculture

The fishing industries should not be neglected, but improved in every possible way, and maintained by establishing fish hatcheries for codfish, salmon and trout, and cultivating an increase of lobsters on the "ground" where they prevail. Codfish and herrings can be prepared in many profitable ways other than simple salt-curing and drying, whilst the greater abundance of salmon and lobsters might open up canneries for preserving their meat, and factories for utilising their waste into fertilisers. Fishing Industry.

A second inspection of the south-western district of St. George's Bay clearly shows that the drainage is mainly effected through the channels of the rivers, namely, the Little Barachois and Flat Bay Brooks, which fall into Flat Bay; the Fischel's, Robinson's, Middle Barachois, and Crabb's Brooks, which empty directly into the Great Bay; and the Great and Little Codroy Rivers, which fall on the southern side of Cape Anguille. All these streams take their rise among the barren wastes of the Long Range Mountains, but the lower reaches of each, for distances varying from 12 to 20 miles, flow through richly-wooded and fertile valleys intersecting the plateau. Second Inspection S.W. St. New Gr

These valleys, and much of the higher lands, now a primeval wilderness, are in every respect well adapted for agricultural settlement. By deducting the tract occupied by the Cape Anguille range of hills, amounting to 256 square miles, which is too high and too steep for ordinary tillage, although well suited as runs for sheep or cattle, the remainder of the block, viz., 560 square miles, is certainly to a large extent reclaimable; and there can be but little doubt that the construction of roads, which must necessarily be the consequence of occupation, together with the clearing of the forest, will Valleys and High L

Mineral Discoveries.

lead to mineral discovery of vast importance to the colony. These streams rise with wonderful rapidity every rainfall, but the supply is as readily exhausted, and the normal state is shallow, rendering canoe navigation always precarious and often impossible. Water power for the purpose of driving machinery is obtainable at almost any point desired, the low-lying flats offering every facility for buildings or mill sites.

Gander Bay and River.

Grants—
No. 5448R.
" 5449R.

New Grants.

Grants—
No. 5456L.
" 5451L.
" 5453L.
" 5452L.

From Gander Bay up the river to the lake, and all the western part of the lake, the land is densely covered with green timber. From Fourth Pond up to the lake and about the west end, *good pine* is abundant on and near the banks. The banks of the river are low, the land rises to between 50 and 109 feet at half-a-mile back; it then falls again a little and runs very level for a distance of three miles. The soil is no doubt of excellent quality; wherever it overlies slate it is thin in part, but half-a-mile back becomes very strong. The fine large river abounds with salmon (I saw them jumping about every day). Trout is scarce, and water-fowl also.

Gander Lake.

Wild Grass.

Timber.

Gander Lake (entrance from Gander River) land is very good, with acres of wild grass on the marshes that any cattle would thrive on, and which, if cut, would keep them in good condition during the winter. The trees are of great height and girth; some measured were four times the length of my walking-stick in circumference. The soil is fine loam; there are thousands of acres of wild hay all around. The general landscape reminds one of a nobleman's park with ornamental trees and water and cultivated meadows. If this district is once opened up by railways and roads there is plenty of room for thousands of people and cattle.

Railways and Roads.

Company's Mark.

I found that the work of cutting lines and measuring has been very regular, moving from station to station, marking off all the six lots of the Telegraph Company with a T. The front boundary stations are marked by a pile of stone with the lettering "Telegraph Company, 1884," cut deeply on the face.

Cairn Mount.

Grant No. 5481.

Cairn Mount is a remarkable and conspicuous hill 1,012 feet above the level of the sea. The Company's land is direct north, is level and undulating, for the most part thickly grown over by a young growth of mixed forest timber, and drained by numerous streams, several of which are navigable for small boats or canoes. For several miles inland the maximum width of the level region opposite the mountain is reduced to about *five* miles.

The available land on the south side of St. George's Ba is included within *nine* townships, which are numbered in red. At every sixth mile or township corner side lines at right angles are run to the coast on the one hand, and towards the mountains on the other. The base line is cut out to the shore from the twelfth mile-post, striking the coast about one mile west of the mouth of Crabb's Brook. At the end of six miles the front line of the townships runs close along the seashore and parallel to it, and the principal base line then starts on either side. This line, further extended westerly six miles, passes through the settlement known as the Highlands, and terminates at Ship Cove, near the foot of the Anguille Mountains. In its easterly extension it crosses the estuaries of Crabb's, Little or Middle Barachois and Robinson's Rivers, inside of Robinson's Head, passing over the bank a mile beyond. For a length of about ten chains distant from the bank, at the mouth of Berry Brook, it again takes to the land, and passing somewhat over a mile inside of Bank Head, it finally runs out to the shore on the south side of Flat Bay one and a-half miles from its extreme head.

New Grants 30 sq. miles. (2nd ed.)

Front Line marked out.

A narrow fringe of land on the immediate coast line, and outside the township lines, has been used in common as a pasture for cattle during the past half-century or more, and as such it has been decided to allow it to remain, any attempt at subdividing it proving utterly hopeless.

Land Fringe Reserved as per treaty with France.

Altogether one hundred claims were laid off along the coast, averaging about one hundred and thirteen and a-half acres each, or a total area of 11,350 acres, about two-thirds of which is probably available for agricultural purposes.

Coast Claims

Good lands preponderate in townships 4 and 5; the soil is of superior richness up to the fifth range (including the first, which is the coast fringe range). In the vicinity of the rivers, where much interval land occurs, the prevailing character of the soil is a deep red or yellowish sandy loam, but the alluvial interval deposits partake more of the character of a rich, dark, and sometimes nearly black mould. The fertility of these latter soils is well attested in the soil and quality of the timber they support — birch, balsam, poplar, maple, and large spruce and fir are the prevailing varieties.

Good Lands

New Grants above mentioned.

Soil.

Railway and Roads.

The construction of a main line of road through this valuable tract of country is of paramount importance. This subject has been frequently urged, and must still be agitated with the Government, whose action is slack, but who promise earliest attention to the important subject.

WM. WINGFIELD-BONNYN.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,
October, 1888.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

I have handed to your Secretary, Mr. LAVINGTON, my Report of all the land I have been able to inspect, including the new grants, which I have selected and fully secured to the Company, by Government documents. With that Report I have supplemented eleven other several documents of details, among them a proposed code of bye-laws to regulate the Company's future operations. I beg to call your particular attention to the following additional remarks:—

1st.—The main object of the Company must of course be to let lands on lease, say for 5, 10, or 15 years, with pre-emptive rights in favour of the tenants—such lands may be let in their present state at a small profit with certain obligations to the Company over and above those of the Company to the Government, but chiefly in semi-improved or in general improved condition, at heavier yearly rentals per acre on a sliding scale, according to the extent of improvements put upon them, and to the average of the farm, which must not be less than 100 acres.

2nd.—By semi-improved farm of the minimum acreage, I mean a farm with a log dwelling-house about 16 by 18, stable 15 by 24, barn 18 by 30, and a well, fenced round within a clearance of not less than five acres. Price about £2 10s. per acre; rent about 5s. per acre.

3rd.—By a generally improved farm of 640 acres (one square mile) I mean a farm of which at least 100 acres are cleared and fully prepared for cultivation, to contain a good frame dwelling-house, a log-house with shingle roof, a dairy, barn and storehouse, a stable and small out-huts, well, poultry yard and pig pens, all fenced, in about five acres of ground. Price about £4 an acre; rent 5s. per acre.

I mean the above prices and rents to be approximative; as a rule farms of the above tenure should yield rentals equal to an average of 10 per cent. on the sale price claimed after 5, 10, or 15 years sold pre-emptively to the tenants.

4th.—Any land or farms let on lease, may, after 5, 10, or 15 years (the tenant having fulfilled all the conditions of his lease), be commuted at a fair and mutually [illegible]ed valuation at per acre, against fee-simple title and conveyance.

5th.—The rates of rent per acre may be fixed at a percentage per annum upon the eventual purchase-money, which must be done on such easy terms as not to weigh too heavily on the first five years of the lease, during which the farmer's prospect of success generally depends. The Company, as land owner, should reserve the option of selling or not at the end of 5 or 10 years, but should sell as above under pre-emptive right at the expiry of 15 years to any tenant in occupation having fulfilled all the conditions of his lease.

The above provisions are based on antecedents of my own experience, and I consider them, therefore, an onward step in a trodden pathway; they will be tentative and gradual in their operation, and will create peasant proprietors, which is a manifest want both at home and in most of our Colonies. In the latter, however, there will be no strangling drawback of incumbrances to be cleared by advances more or less limited, according to amounts of mortgages; a clear title in fee-simple being secured free of any weight whatsoever.

5th.—The different industries in which the Company can profitably engage by degrees, as opportunities arise, are mining, lumbering, fishing, fish-curing, manufacturing manure from codfish and lobster waste or offal, fish oil, from herring particularly, and from other fish yielding it; and manufacturers of window sashes, doors, and panels for exportation; corn mills, saw mills, pulp mills, and paper mills; having also *depôts* of agricultural machinery, field implements and tools, root and grain seeds, domestic requirements of every kind. In a word more or less all that constitutes a well-provisioned general store in the different districts where land is owned by the Company, and wherever it may contemplate to form settlements.

7th.—So soon as the Government roads are more developed, I strongly recommend that the Company's inland roads between the different farms should be directed to tap the main roads at the township boundaries, which will tap the railways, thus opening up inter-communications and securing to every farm the benefit of the nearest markets for their produce, available by land or by sea.

8th.—The Newfoundland Government grants road money annually to every district; elects a road board, headed by a local magistrate, so as to encourage road-making in general throughout the Colony to meet any railway traversing it. The Government also grants a bounty of $12 per acre to every person for the first five acres of woodland cleared and fully prepared for cultivation in any of the lands in the country, this also being to encourage agricultural pursuits generally.

9th.—With respect to minerals, I must call and recommend your special attention to the Lamanche Lead Mine belonging to you, which

has been almost destroyed. Though not utterly ruined, it can be made to produce a good income by working it, or at any time thereafter, when in good condition, to sell it to an independent body or company at an improved value.

The coal seams on the fifth range of the New Grants, Nos. $\frac{7}{V.}$ and $\frac{11 \text{ and } 12,}{VI.}$ and the Salt Springs in the same ranges are, in my opinion, entitled to your first attention, for the production of those two staples is a source of incalculable wealth.

Finally, to develop the farming lands, and gradually carry out some of the foregoing industries, I think a minimum amount of not less than £20,000 might be sufficient to raise at present, as should any sales of mining rights be effected to independent companies, whether for coal, copper, silver, lead, or other minerals, further calls on the shareholders (if any) would follow few and far between, and certainly not before a fair dividend had been earned and distributed. My object is to limit expenditure judiciously, which I am certain will approve itself to all who wish to see the largest possible amount of work done with the least possible investment of the Company's money; but it is no less imperative in the interest of all concerned that a profitable and therefore successful result should be obtained by a measured system of economy in the general working necessary expenditure. I can only declare that you possess elements beyond a doubt in all the hundred square miles of land now indisputably your own.

I trust that I have carried out my mission with all diligence and conscientiousness, and as effectually as I could compass within the time and the late season. I have recorded all facts ascertained, and carefully surveyed and analysed most of the details; a reference to and perusal of the records I have delivered, and of others I can produce, I trust will secure for me the confidence I have aimed at from the start, and your approval of my Report.

I remain, GENTLEMEN,

Yours faithfully,

WM. WINGFIELD-BONNYN.

To the Directors of

THE NEWFOUNDLAND LAND COMPANY, LIMITED,

DASHWOOD HOUSE,

LONDON, E.C., 28*th November*, 1888.

EXTRACT.

I have always been of opinion that allotments of small holdings in new colonies are strongly a necessity, for their extension, both from the economical and social standpoint, as they must naturally become the factor in the commercial prosperity of any settlement opened up. Minimum allotments may be made for such owners as fishermen, miners and field labourers who receive weekly wages, and who require the land to cultivate vegetables and other produce for their own and their family's supply; but small holders are few, who cultivate a piece of land to profit, and who are practically, if not entirely, dependent upon it. Thus, one man takes land to supplement his wages from his other occupation, and another takes it for the purpose of gaining a livelihood. It is the latter I advocate and wish to facilitate. Small holdings should preponderate. I anticipate a rush for them as soon as my intention to grant them becomes known. I am convinced that a steady and increased demand for them will arise. Small farms will compete with the large, and gradually machinery and improved implements must increase in use and demand. Amalgamation should not be prevented; but neither should it be encouraged. The consolidation of small farms is a work of time, and might follow when a union of strength becomes attainable. *Three* poor farms and *seven* well-to-do farms would not make *one* large *good* farm, whilst *ten* well-to-do farms would. I furthermore believe that when small holdings are extensively created it will prove wise to interdict private mortgages, not to sanction them even to a small extent, except under special arrangements with the original grantee, direct to the holder, and without prejudice to Government or State help.

Viewing the foregoing in a social light, it is not to decide merely by considerations affecting the produce of the land under the *large* as against the *small* farm system, but as a condition of prosperity and strength, to secure a numerous prosperous peasantry; for whilst I believe that *large* farms are *not* less productive than *small* ones, I am opposed to them as tending to destroy the peasantry. At present almost all alimentary requirements are imported into Newfoundland from Canada and the United States; such articles as eggs, bacon, hams, butter, cheese, vegetables and fruit might be raised in the Island (especially on the West Coast) by *small* cultivation, they could not be raised so well on *large* farms, because so much personal attention is required on the part of the cultivator. Hence I have determined to encourage *small* farms, and encourage a *small* farmers' Union for the sale of the product of their labours, opening up local market places on the coasts and near the railway lines, thus offering the required facilities and creating supply and demand at one and the same time.—(W.W.B. letter 27th November, 1889.)

Approximative Analysis of the average Soils between Fischel's and Crabb's Rivers, from one to six miles from the Sea-board.

Moisture			21	460
Organic Matter containing Nitrogen, equal to 23 Ammonia			11	160
SALINE MATTER:—				
Phosphate	0	380		
Carbonate of Lime	1	560		
Carbonate of Magnesia	5	120		
Alkaline Salts	1	446		
Oxide of Iron	3	087		
			11	593
SILICIOUS MATTER:—				
Sand and Silica	48	502		
Alumina	7	285		
			55	787
			100	000

The above Soils are very rich in organic matter, and contain the full amount of the saline fertilising matters found in all soil of good bearing *quality*, as eloquently proved by the fine root crops obtained round the fishermen's habitations on small patches of unturned ground.

(W. W. BONNYN, Sandy-Point, St. George's Bay, Oct., 1888.)

The following abstract is from certain remarks on part of the Western Shore of this Island by the Surveyor General, the Honorable Joseph Noad, from personal investigation so far back as 1847.

BAY OF ST. GEORGE.

This Bay is large and beautiful, on either side. The land rises not to a mountainous height, but to an elevation of easy access, and offering no obstruction to its being appropriated to useful purposes. At its entrance it is about 40 miles broad, and Flat Point (now called Sandy Point) where the largest settlement has been established, is about the same distance from Northern Head.

The land of this Bay and adjacent to it is of a totally different character to that on the Southern and Eastern shores of the Island. In

the latter the soil rests on a slaty formation, and in clearing ground the agriculturist encounters large quantities of stones, the removal of which from the surface is indispensable, and can only be accomplished by much hard labour and consequent expense. In the Bay St. George no difficulty of this nature presents itself; there the soil is rich and deep, and when the trees and stumps are removed from it, no further obstacles exist to prevent the land being at once brought under the plough. To clear land near St. John's, and generally on the *eastern* shore, so as to fit it for the reception of a crop, costs from £4 to £15 per acre; to put an equal quantity of ground in a similar state at Bay St. George would not involve an outlay beyond 40s. or 50s.

It would be almost impossible to estimate correctly the number of persons who might secure to themselves a comfortable maintenance; but having reference to the valuable fisheries and to the great extent of cultivable land around and near it, the Bay of St. George would appear capable of supporting many thousand persons. The export of codfish and herrings is to Quebec, Cape Breton, and Halifax, but there is no doubt that a valuable and extensive fishery must follow, as the caplin's annual visitation is never-failing.

Coal exists within a short distance of the southern shore, and on the northern shore, near Port-á-Port, where it is equally certain that valuable minerals are abundant, many fine specimens having been brought from there.

To persons visiting the *western* shores of Newfoundland, after having been acquainted with the *southern* and *eastern*, the difference of climate between those places, and the different effects produced on the weather by the winds, becomes at once apparent. The *southern* shore is frequently enveloped in fog, and the *eastern*, although not subject to that visitation to an equal extent, as the bank of fog more generally keeps at some distance from it, yet when easterly winds prevail they bring cold and disagreeable weather. On the *western* shore, fog is rarely seen, and the climate is much milder in consequence. It follows that Bay St. George is not only a desirable district on account of the goodness of the soil, but also from its geographical position, its occupancy and permanent settlement will be a measure of some natural importance.

N.B.—"*It must be remembered that Mr. W. E. Cormack crossed the interior of Newfoundland about the years* 1821 *and* 1822, *and at that time no European had done as much. Mr. Cormack was born at St. John's, Newfoundland, in* 1796, *and died in British Columbia in* 1871.

Extract from the Journal of their visit to the North by the Rev. Moses Harvey and the late Governor Sir John Glover, G.C.M.G., on Deer Lake, its Soil and Products.

Finding that our time would not permit us to explore the country around Deer Lake, the Governor despatched two of our men across the portage, nine miles in extent, between Grand Lake and Deer Lake, with orders to purchase specimens of the vegetables raised there by the only two settlers who had ventured so far inland. They returned, bringing with them some splendid vegetables grown on a small farm which had been cleared by Mr. Nichol, a native of Cape Breton. He came with the men to pay his respects to the Governor, and from him we obtained some very interesting information regarding the country, as he is a very intelligent and industrious settler. He was loud in his praises of the land on the northern side of Deer Lake, which he described as superior to any he had seen in Nova Scotia or Cape Breton. The extent of the good land he estimated at thirty-three miles in length, and with a breadth varying from two to five miles, all of it perfectly level. The soil is a deep sandy loam, and for the growth of root crops could not be surpassed. He had grown potatoes which weighed each three pounds, parsnips and carrots twenty-two inches in length, and beans and peas one-third larger than the same kind grown in Nova Scotia. He had raised a small quantity of wheat as an experiment, and found it quite equal to Canadian wheat; clover and buckwheat also grew luxuriantly, and he found the soil specially favourable to the growth of flax. He had not an opportunity of trying fruit trees, but from the character of the soil and the sheltered position of the district, he was of opinion that apples would thrive there. There were along the river rich "interval" lands, which would make splendid meadows, and on some of which he had cut natural grasses for hay. The timber is large, consisting of pine, spruce, birch and fir. In proof of his statements he brought with him specimens of his vegetables, which we thought finer than anything of the kind we had seen grown in Newfoundland. His potatoes were of the kinds called "Boston Rose," "Early Rose," "Pink Eyes," "Island Blues," and a new variety which he had raised from the apple, and which I named "Purple Nichols." His potatoes were never diseased, and for size and quality could not be surpassed. He also produced fine specimens of turnips, parsnips, broad beans, scarlet runners, California garden pea, and flax. He considered the district referred to as admirable for settlement, and was of opinion that if a road were constructed through, it would speedily be occupied by settlers from Cape Breton, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

M. H. & J. G.

The Company has a Grant (No. 5480) of 1,920 acres on the northern side of Deer Lake.