

In the spring of this year 9 steamers were employed in the Seal Fishery, of which 5, of 1,066 tons, are registered in the Colony, and the 4 others, though not registered, are owned by people actually engaged in trade with the Island.

Five other small steamers are employed in carrying mails and passengers between St. John's and the outports and in tug service.

The Tonnage entered and cleared at Newfoundland ports in 1866 and 1867 was as follows:—

Entered.			Cleared.		
Year	No.	Tons	Year	No.	Tons
1866	1,161	157,004	1866	947	139,242
1867	1,260	167,108	1867	1,016	146,172

BANKS.

There are two Banks in Newfoundland—the Union and the Commercial. The following are the figures respecting them. (For the Union Bank, year ending 31st May, 1868. For the Commercial average for year ending 30th June 1868.)

	Capital paid up.	Circulation.	Deposits.	Discounts.	Specie.
Union Bank.....	\$200,000*	\$357,604	\$814,480	\$1,295,676	\$154,936
Commercial Bank.....	200,000	150,000	170,000†	1,260,000	100,000

* Reserve Fund \$100,000 besides. † At interest only.

The dividend of the Union, last year, was 8 per cent., and 4 per cent. bonus, its shares standing at 140. The dividend and bonus of the Commercial, last half-year, were 4 per cent.

SAVINGS BANK.

The Newfoundland Savings Bank is a Government institution. Interest paid 4 per cent.; offices at St. John and Harbor Grace. The following is the statement of its position, 31st December, 1867. (For previous years, see Year Books for 1867 and 1868.)

Amount on deposit.....	\$631,414 67	Assets—Cash.....	\$ 42,281 44
Deposited during 1867.....	\$95,899 01	Colonial Debentures.....	462,475 34
Withdrawn.....	99,012 79	Water Co. stock.....	65,000 00
Number of depositors.....	1,392	Mortgages.....	60,447 03
		Notes discounted.....	12,134 97
		Real Estate.....	2,678 92
			\$645,017 70

CROWN LANDS AND MINES.

During the year 1867 there were issued for agricultural purposes 1,827 grants, containing 568 acres, 1 rood, and 20 perches. Besides this, 31 licenses for occupation were issued, covering 648 acres. It will be seen by this that the holdings in Newfoundland are small in size—varying from half an acre to about 20 acres. The price paid appears to be about 50 cents an acre. Increased activity in selecting and cultivating land is this year reported, and, no doubt, with such a fine cash market at hand as there is in Newfoundland, stock and sheep farming, and the raising of coarse grains, for which the soil and climate are suitable, would be highly profitable.

Nine grants were made to work copper and lead mines.

Twelve applications for licenses to search for minerals were granted; eight others remaining over to await the decision of the Imperial Government on "the French shore question."

The French possess treaty rights to fish upon the greater part of the northern and western coasts of Newfoundland. Upon the plea that persons residing on the shore would interfere with the fisheries, they have claimed the right to prevent occupation. The Home Government, without admitting these claims, have forbidden the Island government from granting land or licenses to search for minerals. This part of the island is now believed to be rich in minerals.

The Governor of Newfoundland on a recent visit to England, is supposed to have succeeded in getting the restrictions removed, but the Duke of Buckingham (Secretary for the Colonies) wants to impose some restrictions which Mr. Carter, the Premier of Newfoundland, is not disposed to assent to. The matter may have to await for an issue favourable to the natural rights of the settlers—the union of the Island with Canada.

For detailed information respecting the mining actually done, see the article on that subject.

RAILWAYS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company—the only company having land lines in Newfoundland, over 649 miles of posts and 1,216 miles of wire. They have 84 miles of submarine cable between Port au Basque (Nfld.) and Aspy Bay, (C. B.); also 16 miles between Cape Tormentinae (N. B.) and Cape Traverse (P. E. I.) They submerged also, in the fall of 1867, a cable between Placentia (Nfld.) and Sydney, (C. B.)

Surveyors are at present engaged in laying out a line for a proposed railway between St. John's and St. George's Bay. It is thought that this will be an important link in the "short ocean route" between Europe and America, via Holyhead, (England,) Dublin and Valentia, (Ireland,) St. John's, (Newfoundland,) Shippegan, (New Brunswick,) and the Intercolonial and connecting railways.

MILITIA.

The annual vote in Newfoundland for the maintenance of a Militia Force is \$1,200. Uniforms are provided at the expense of the government.