

opened for traffic. The total capital of the 29 companies was 89,643,000 yen, and that of the government lines (580 miles) 56,554,000 yen.

A sum of 25 million yen has been voted for the construction of a double line from Tokio to Kobé, 376 English miles, and passing through the industrial centres of Japan, viz., Yokohama, Kyoto, Osaka and Kobé.

#### No. 4.—NEWFOUNDLAND.

379. The following paragraphs are in continuation of the statements respecting Newfoundland which appeared in the Year-Book for 1893. Newfoundland's geographical position is unique and singularly important, and commanding. Anchored at no great distance off the North American continent, and stretching right across the entrance of the Gulf of St. Lawrence to which it affords access at both its northern and southern extremities, it might be regarded as a place of arms and defence; for the power which possesses it, holds the key of the St. Lawrence. Its south-western extremity is within 60 miles of Cape Breton, while its most eastern projection is but 1,640 miles distant from Ireland. Thus it is adapted by nature to serve the peaceful interests of commerce and to facilitate intercourse between the Old World and the New, being a stepping stone between them. (*Newfoundland Hand-book.*)

380. AREA.—Newfoundland has an area of 42,000 square miles, its greatest breadth is 316 miles, and its greatest length is also 316 miles. It is about twice the size of Nova Scotia, one third larger than New Brunswick, and one-sixth larger than Ireland.

381. MOUNTAINS.—The most important range of mountains is the Long Range which commences at Cape Ray and runs in a north-easterly direction for 200 miles; some of its summits reach a height of 2,000 feet. The Anguille Range runs from Cape Anguille to the highlands of Bay St. George with summits 1,900 feet high. The Blomidons extend along the south coast of the Humber Arms; some of the summits reach 2,085 feet. There are numerous other mountains and hill ranges.

382. RIVERS.—Large rivers are few but the numerous bays pierce the land in all directions. The three largest rivers are the Gander, the Exploits and the Humber. The Exploits has a length of 200 miles, and drains an area of between 3,000 and 4,000 square miles. At its mouth it is a mile wide. The Gander and its tributaries drains an area of nearly 4,000 miles, and is itself about 100 miles long. The Humber drains an area of 2,000 square miles. Numerous other rivers discharge their waters into the sea, after short and turbulent courses. The largest lake on the Island is Grand Lake, 56 miles in length, and 5 in breadth. Red Indian Lake is 37 miles in length; Gander Lake 33 miles.

383. The summer temperature ranges from 70 to 80 degrees. In the winter the thermometer rarely sinks below zero. The mean annual temperature for eight years was 41·2 degrees.