

384. After being a mere fishing station for 250 years the idea of a railway entered the leading minds of the colony, and in 1878 Sir William Whiteway introduced resolutions for the construction of a railway. Newfoundland has a railway $83\frac{1}{2}$ miles long between St. Johns and Placentia; another between Whitbourne and Exploits (200), and a third of 17 miles long. All are on the 3 feet 6 inches gauge.

385. According to the census of 1891 the Island of Newfoundland* had 197,934 of a population, of whom 100,775 were males and 97,159 females; children below 10 years of age numbered 28,984 males and 27,801 females, being 825 fewer males and 140 fewer females of that age period than in 1884. From 10 to 20 years old males numbered 22,776 and females 21,515, being 899 males and 1,337 females of that age period more than in 1884. Between the ages of 20 and 50 years there were in 1891, 37,302 males and 36,647 females, being 44 fewer males and 935 more females than in 1884. Over 50 years old there were 11,313 males and 11,196 females, being 1,018 more males and 1,247 more females than in 1884.

There were 31,983 married men and 33,098 married women, 2,973 widowers and 5,800 widows, being as compared with 1884 an increase of 1,846 married men and 2,927 married women, 670 widowers and 155 widows. In Canada the proportion of widowers to married men is 7·8 per cent, and widows to married women 16·3 per cent. In Newfoundland the widowers are 9·3 per cent of the married men and the widows are 17·5 per cent of the married women.

The native born number 193,353 of the total population of 197,934, or 98 per cent against Canada's 86·6 per cent. The foreign-born, *i. e.*, those born outside of the British Empire, numbered only 369, or 0·18 per cent. The population is, therefore, almost entirely British-born. There were 136 deaf and dumb and 187 blind, while 280 were of unsound mind—about 30 in every 10,000 of the population against 42 in every 10,000 in Canada.

386. According to religious belief, the population is divided as follows:—

	Number.	PROPORTION IN	
		Newfoundland	Canada.
Church of England.....	68 562	34·6 p. c.	13·37 p. c.
Roman Catholics.....	72 342	36·5 “	41·21 “
Methodists.....	52 672	26·6 “	17·54 “
Presbyterians.....	1 477	0 7 “	15·63 “
Congregationalists.....	782	} 1·6 “	2·25 “
Salvation Army.....	2 092		
Baptists and others.....	37		

* Labrador had a population of 4,106, making the total population equal to 202,040 against a population of 197,335 in 1884, an increase of 2·4 per cent.