

have fared badly. I have kept in pretty close touch with this region since I gave up active business there, visiting it nearly every year, and I believe that, in the main, conditions are much the same there now as they were then. I know that they have no regular steamer service like the Newfoundlanders have and that most of their trade is done via the West Coast of Newfoundland, because of the facilities the weekly mail boat there gives them, and I know that last Fall there was a great outcry in the newspapers about distress on that part of the Labrador coast and that the Quebec Government had to send a steamer with supplies to feed the people, just as the Newfoundland Government sometimes has to send supplies for its people east of the boundary. 10

I make the foregoing statement voluntarily, verily believing it to be true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

JAMES G. JOY.

Witness P. T. McGRATH.

Dated Apr. 2/22.

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT OF WILLIAM COLLINGWOOD, OF ST. JOHN'S.

[27 March,
1922.]

Mr. Collingwood, who is now in his 81st year was born in Poole, Dorset, England, in 1842, and came to Labrador in 1855, as a clerk with T. and D. Slade, of Poole, Dorset, England, who had a fishing premises at Battle Harbor. 20 Here he remained for twenty years, staying all the year round except on rare occasions, when he got a holiday. The first 16 years he was with the Slade firm, and for the remainder with Baine Johnstone & Co., of St. John's, a firm connected with the fisheries of Newfoundland for nearly a century, and who bought out the Slades. Then he was transferred to the main business of Baine Johnstone & Co., at St. John's, and last year after spending fifty years in the firm was retired on a pension. His statement is as follows:—

I, William Collingwood, of St. John's, Storekeeper, say that I was born in Poole, Dorset, England, in 1842 and came to Battle Harbor in 1855 as a clerk in the employ of Slade and Company, who had fishing premises at 30 Battle Harbor and Venison Island. I came out in the schooner "Lord Nelson," commanded by my father Capt. T. Collingwood. I stayed with the firm of Slade until they sold out to Baine Johnstone & Co., of St. John's in 1871 and then I went with that firm. I remained on the coast until 1883. I was then transferred to their establishment at St. John's. In the early days at Battle Harbor and Venison Island our vessels brought supplies partly from England, and partly from Hamburg, and then made trips to New York to bring us pork, beef, flour, molasses, and rum. Another firm

of Slades had houses at Twillingate, and Fogo, on the east coast of Newfoundland, and the people from these places often came to Battle Harbor and vicinity to fish, although the French, who claimed rights at different points, and also the American and Nova Scotians, who fished along the coast, made it very uncomfortable for them.

When first I went to the coast we paid no duties whatever, but about 1857, I think, Mr. J. L. Pendergast, a member of the Newfoundland Legislature came down to the coast in a brig with painted ports, the name I cannot recall, with some authority to collect duties, but everybody refused to pay 10 and he took no drastic measures to compel them to do so. About 1863, I think, Mr. James Winter came down as Collector of Customs in the schooner Volant, with Capt. Pike as Master; and Mr. Bendell, our agent at Battle Harbor paid duties under protest, and Mr. Brockway, our agent at Venison Island, did the same. The next year our Principals instructed us to refuse absolutely to pay, which we did, until Mr. Winter threatened to seize our property and then we gave in. After that we paid the duties every year. At the outset of this controversy the Slades were so incensed that they sold the Venison Island property to Ridley's of Harbor Grace, and Liverpool, who failed a few years later, and the property was then purchased by John 20 Rorke & Son, of Carbonear, who also had a premises at St. Francis Harbor, on the Labrador coast.

During this period we had some resident English clergymen at Battle Harbor. Before I came there was a Rev. Mr. Disney, and in my own recollection Rev. Mr. Hutchinson, Rev. Mr. Botwood, Rev. Mr. Wilson, Rev. Mr. Bishop, and Rev. Mr. Weary. Rev. Hutchinson, in the winter of 1861, made a trip up the coast to Sandwich Bay, I got him a good team of dogs and accompanied him as far as Venison Island. He made the trip successfully, he was the first to do it, and after that it became a regular thing every winter. In those days the population in the Straits from Bonne Esperance east was 30 quite large, compared with what it is now. There were lots of settlers from England and Ireland, but mostly English. Battle Harbor and vicinity had in those times about 600 people. But in the '70's, owing to bad times and other causes a great number of the people moved away, a lot of them to Bay of Island, on the West Coast of Newfoundland, as the farming possibilities appealed to them; and a great many others to Canada and United States.

After Mr. Winter came as Customs collector for the Newfoundland Government, we had the late Mr. Michael Knight, then Mr. Berteau, and in recent times they have had permanent customs officers on the coast. After the first refusal was overcome there, no one refused to pay duties. I never 40 saw or heard of any Canadian officer, nor did I hear of Canada claiming any jurisdiction or authority on the coast, and no Canadian revenue cruiser or officer ever made any attempt to collect duties from us. Mr. Winter began the practice, which his successors continued, of forcing the Canadian and American vessels, who came to the coast to trade with the people, to pay duties, just as he did the mercantile firms that were settled on the coast.

The staple industry of the people along Labrador in the area where my

work carried me, was fishing with hunting for furs as an auxiliary ; and the residents went inland as far as was necessary for the latter purpose.

These conditions continue, I think, practically unaltered down to the present day.

I make the foregoing statement voluntarily, verily believing it to be true, according to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

WM. COLLINGWOOD.

Dated at St. John's, Newfoundland,
Mar. 27/1922.

Witness: P. T. McGRATH.

and, again, as

Names of Settlements.	No. of Inhabitants.
Born in Nfld.	668
" " England	124
" " Ireland	9
" " Scotland	21
" " Brit. Cols.	1,635
" " other coun.	22
	<u>2,479</u>

and, still again, as—

Church of England	1,803
" " Rome	483
" " Wesleyan	165
Others	28
	<u>2,479</u>

10

I can only explain the disparity between the 1,420 persons as shown in the detail above, and the 2,479 given in the recapitulation, as the total population, on the assumption that another page of detail, covering settlements north of Square Islands, is omitted from our copy of the Census, the only one extant, to my knowledge.

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Apparently the Eskimo population of Labrador was not taken in this year, as the tables of origin and religion given above prove that the 2,479 people embraced therein are of the white extraction.

At Battle Harbour one school was maintained during the winter and summer seasons, and one during the summer only.

(Sgd.) ARTHUR MEWS,
Deputy Colonial Secretary.