

In the summer the coast of Labrador swarms with thousands of people from Newfoundland, who engage in the cod, herring and salmon fisheries during the season—and return in the Fall to their own country. They are of course, not included in the Labrador census.

SCHOOLS.—There were only 4 schools in operation this year at Labrador, viz. :—

Place.	Teachers.	In operation.	Scholars.	Salary.
Battle Harbor.	Rev. W. E. Wilson.	Summer and winter.	233 summer. 13 winter.	\$24
10 Pinware.	Mrs. O'Dell.	do. do.	20 summer. 47 winter.	36
Cape Charles.	Mrs. Young.	Summer only.	25 summer.	24
Matthew's Cove.	Mrs. Tobin.	" "	15 "	8
				\$92

I paid the above salaries out of the money placed in my hands by the Government and supplied the schools with books.

Labrador is not a favourable country for the establishment of schools, the people there are so scattered that, with a few exceptions, it is impracticable to get a sufficient number of them together for that purpose. The general  
20 and most effective mode of instruction is by supplying books to the isolated inhabitants and thus enabling them to learn at home by their own firesides, where they teach one another. I distributed the books furnished by the Government to a great many families, who have thankfully received them, and will, I am sure, make good use of them. The medicines which I took down with me and distributed among the inhabitants were very useful and much valued, for on this coast they are not, in most cases, to be procured in any other way.

The weather at Labrador last summer, was particularly wet, cold and backward; consequently the curing of fish was retarded, and the shipments for market were delayed much beyond the usual period.

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I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

ROBERT JOHN PINSENT,

Judge of the Court of Labrador.

## No. 536.

## JUDGE PINSENT'S REPORT, 1870.

C.O. 197/52. APPENDIX. JOURNAL OF THE COUNCIL, NEWFOUNDLAND.  
No. 34.

Report of R. J. Pinsent, Esq., Judge of the Court of Labrador, to His  
Excellency the Governor, 1870.

To His Excellency Colonel Stephen I. Hill, C.B., Governor of  
Newfoundland, etc., etc.

St. John's.  
December 31st 1870. 10

[31 Dec.,  
1870.] SIR,

I have the honor to report to your Excellency my proceedings and observations at Labrador, during my Circuit the past summer.

On the 10th of June I sailed from St. John's, in the schooner William Stairs, a vessel employed by the Government as a Revenue cruiser and Circuit ship on the coast of Labrador.

Mr. Knight and Mr. Canning, Collectors of Customs were on board; the former gentleman having the general direction of the destination of the vessel. In consequence of the prevalence of Northerly and Easterly winds, and of information that there was much field ice obstructing the passage by the Northern route, we proceeded South about, through Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Straits of Belle Isle: being favored with fair winds, we accomplished, by this unusual and generally objectionable route, our passage to Labrador in five days, arriving at Blanc Sablon on the 15th of June. 20

From that period up to the time of our departure from Labrador, we were continually cruising on the coast, going as far North as Hamilton Inlet, and visiting all the principal Harbors and settlements.

We sailed from Labrador, on our return home, on the 17th of October, and after a very stormy and dangerous passage arrived in St. John's on the 25th of the same month.

I was happy to learn at Labrador, that the resident inhabitants had, last winter, been exempt from the sufferings experienced the previous winter, from want of a sufficient supply of food. 30

The legal cases brought before me during the Circuit were :—

- 2 cases of Larceny,
- 1 of assault,
- 1 of trespass on land,
- 1 of damage to nets,
- 1 of killing goats,
- 1 of misconduct of servant,
- 1 of bastardy,
- 2 of debt,
- 10 2 cases of inquiry respecting the death of two men.

In one case, in which the Bailiff of the Court was obstructed and assaulted in the execution of his duty, I brought the matter under the consideration of Her Majesty's Attorney General, who indicted the offender in the Supreme Court at St. John's. Although few cases are actually brought before the Court, there is no question but that its annual circuit at Labrador, has the important effect of preventing the commission of offences and wrongs which might otherwise be done with impunity. I consider the general conduct of the people at Labrador very creditable to them; few serious crimes, or other offences, are committed there, considering the great number of men con-  
20 gregated on that coast during the fishery season, in addition to resident inhabitants.

I beg leave to bring under the consideration of the Government, two subjects, which I think require to be provided for by Legislative enactment, viz.: The Recovery of Debts; and the Regulation of the Salmon Fishery at Labrador.

With respect to actions for the recovery of Debts at Labrador, I would suggest an enactment to prevent the injustice that arises, in cases in which creditors on the spot obtaining judgment for old debts require the levy of execution for the amount, out of the produce of the current voyage, without  
30 reference to the claims of the absent supplying merchants, the fishery servants, and other creditors. Under the present state of the law, applicable to the Court of Labrador, the Judge cannot refuse, in such cases, to issue a writ of execution and levy for the whole amount of the judgment; for he has not authority to declare a debtor insolvent (sic), and make distributions of his effects, according to the Law of Insolvency.

I am of the opinion that power should be given to the Judge, when it appears to him that a defendant is insolvent, to limit the amount for which attachment or execution should issue against goods for debt; or to suspend the issue thereof. And in cases where execution against the person, for debt,  
40 appears to the Judge to be oppressive, to refuse to issue such execution.

With reference to the Salmon Fishery at Labrador, I think it very desirable that the legislature should define the rights of persons to occupy the stations (posts as they are called), where they set their nets.

In the Bays of Labrador, such as Hamilton Inlet, Sandwich Bay, and similar places, the permanent residents, and others who regularly resort to the

coast, have occupied certain fishing stations, where in the summer they carry on the Salmon Fishery ; these Salmon posts, as they are called, have been exclusively occupied by such persons for many years, and their subsistence depends on the possession of them.

But very lately a question has arisen of the right of these people to the exclusive occupation of their salmon posts, and strangers threaten to interfere with them. This is a matter of vital importance to the old inhabitants, and requires legal decision, I think by an Act of Legislature.

Under all the circumstances of the case, it appears to me reasonable that they should have secured to them the exclusive right to the Salmon posts 10 which they have hitherto held and occupied, so long as they regularly and annually continue to fish them, and in other respects conform to the law.

It has been represented to me, by several persons well acquainted with the Salmon Fishery, that the distance now required by law, in the setting of salmon nets, is not sufficient ; that at least double the distance between such nets ought to be required. As far as I am competent to give an opinion on the subjects, I consider this representation well founded, and worthy of attention.

#### SCHOOLS.

Only four schools were in operation this year at Labrador, viz. :—

Place.	Teacher.	When in Operation.	Scholars.*	Salary.	20
Matthew's Cove, Battle Harbor.	Mary Marshall.	Summer only.	59	\$24·00	
Cape Charles.	Catherine Young.	Summer only.	25	24·00	
Red Bay.	John Bailey.	Winter only.	18	24·00	
Pinware.	Mrs. O'Dell.	Summer and winter.	40	36·00	
				Total \$108·00	

\* On the Books, but the number in attendance varying, according to the season of the year.

I paid the salaries out of the money placed in my hands by the Government for that purpose, and I supplied the Schools with books.

I distributed books to a great many resident families on the coast, by 30 whom they were thankfully received, and to whom they will be very useful in promoting education, in the only way in which it can be generally accomplished, by instruction among themselves in their own houses.

The medicines supplied annually by the Government, for the use of the people at Labrador, are esteemed by them as a great boon : in many cases which came under my notice they proved of essential service.

This season the quantity of field ice on the coast of Labrador was unprecedented ; it remained in many places until late in July, the effect of which was most injurious to the fisheries, by preventing the fish from striking in to

the shore at the usual time, and obstructing the harbors, so that boat and vessels could not get to their fishing stations in due season ; the result being that the voyages of cod and herring were the most unsuccessful perhaps ever known on the coast of Labrador.

The Salmon catch, in the great bays, was about half an average voyage.

The weather was boisterous and wet, with a prevalence of Northerly and Easterly Winds during the whole season.

I have the honor to be Your  
Excellency's most obedient servant,

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ROBERT JOHN PINSENT,  
Judge of Court of Labrador.

## No. 537.

## ACCOUNT OF EXPENDITURE ON LABRADOR COURT, 1870.

COLONIAL OFFICE RECORDS 197/51. JOURNAL OF THE ASSEMBLY,  
NEWFOUNDLAND. Appendix.

31 December, 1870.

## FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

[31 Dec.,  
1870.]

Detailed Statement of Expenditure on account of Labrador Court Act  
for the year 1870.

1870.		Warrant.		
May 20.	Amount paid Judge Pinsent on account of	No. 111	\$92	10
	Labrador schools . . . . .	" 112	52	
" 23.	Ditto ditto ditto . . . . .	" 112	17.90	
" "	Maurice Fenelon, for books . . . . .	" 112	16.18	
" "	William Bulley " . . . . .	" 113	34.57	
" 27	Thomas McMurdo & Co. for medicines . . . . .	" 117	24.00	
" 31	Amount paid Jonas Purchase, advance. . . . .	" 269	183.69	
Oct. 31.	Ditto ditto balance of salary. . . . .	" 269	923.08	
"	Ditto Judge Pinsent . . . . .	"		
Nov. 3.	Ditto W. & J. Hackett, hire of schooner "William Stares" . . . . .	" 270	2,464.80	20
			<u>\$3,808.22</u>	

RICHARD HOWLEY.

St. John's, Newfoundland,  
31 December, 1870.

No. 538.

## JUDGE PINSENT'S REPORT, 1871.

COLONIAL OFFICE RECORDS 197/53. JOURNAL OF THE ASSEMBLY,  
NEWFOUNDLAND. Appendix.

Report of R. J. Pinsent, Esq., Judge of the Court of Labrador, 1871, to His  
Excellency Col. C. J. Hill, C.B., Governor of Newfoundland, etc., etc.

St. John's,  
December 30th, 1871.

SIR,

10 I have the honour to make my report to Your Excellency on my pro-  
ceedings and observations at Labrador during my circuit this year.

[30 Dec.,  
1871.]

We were detained there [L'Anse a Loup] by ice, until the 21st [June], when  
we succeeded in getting to Blanc Sablon, which is the southern boundary of our  
Labrador territory.

From thence we proceeded north as far as Hamilton Inlet, touching at  
the principal settlements on our way.

On the 26th August, we returned south and on the 6th October, sailed  
from Red Bay for St. John's, where we arrived on the 15th of the same month.

20 During the period we were at Labrador we were continually cruising  
about, visiting the various harbours and settlements on the coast and attending  
to such business of law and revenue as came within the scope of our several  
departments and duties.

The legal cases brought before me during the circuit were :—

Four of debt,  
Three of malicious injury,  
One of sureties of the peace,  
One of killing goats and dogs,  
One of title to land,  
One of intestate estate,  
Two of trespass of goods,  
One of larceny,  
One of bastardy,  
One of affidavit of debt.

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Twelve of examinations taken of witnesses in cases pending in  
the Supreme and Northern Circuit Courts.

I am, while at Labrador, frequently applied to for information and advice in matters of a legal character, but which it is not necessary to treat formally.

The conduct of the people resident and transient at Labrador, is generally peaceable and honest. Very few serious crimes are committed. However, I believe that the presence of the Court annually has a salutary effect in preventing offences.

The fisheries at Labrador last summer were on the whole good.

The catch of salmon on the sea-board, was about an average; but in the great bays such as Sandwich and Hamilton Inlet, where that fishery is almost the only one carried on, the catch was not more than half the usual 10 quantity.

*Education.* Four public schools were in operation this year at Labrador, viz. :—

Place.	Teacher.	When in Operation.	Number.	Salary.
Matthew's Cove, Battle Harbor.	Mary Marshall.	Summer only.	59	\$24
Cape Charles.	Catherine Young	Summer only.	30	24
Red Bay.	John Bailey.	Winter only.	22	24
Pinware.	Catherine O'Dell.	Summer and winter.	46	48

The above are the numbers of scholars on the list, but their attendance 20 is variable. I supplied these schools with books and paid the salaries of the teachers. I distributed educational books to the resident inhabitants of the coast, by whom they are highly valued and used well for the purpose of instruction in their families.

The medicines placed by the Government at my disposal I dispensed to all who required them. I am sure they were of great service to the people, and by them greatly appreciated.

The Mail Service for Labrador, introduced by the Government last summer, was doubtless of great utility and convenience generally to the merchants and fishermen engaged in the trade and fisheries of that coast; but I know that 30 the mercantile house at Blanc Sablon, the southern extremity of our territory and the Hudson Bay Company at Rigoulette, Hamilton Inlet in the North are dissatisfied that the postal steamer does not call on those places, as they are thus practically excluded from the advantages enjoyed by the rest of the, mercantile community.

I would respectfully call the attention of the Government to this subject, as I think that these establishments are entitled to great consideration, for one half of the whole revenue collected at Labrador is paid by them. I believe from my local knowledge of Labrador, that it is quite practicable to arrange the Mail Steamers Service so as to call at those places in the course of her rounds. 40



I was requested to bring this matter under the notice of the Government. The general condition of the trade and fisheries at Labrador last season was an improvement on that of some previous years, and the collection of revenue greater in amount than had ever before been realised.

I have the honour, etc.,

(Signed)                      ROBERT JOHN PINSENT,  
Judge of the Court of Labrador.

No. 539.

## JUDGE PINSENT'S REPORT, 1872.

COLONIAL OFFICE RECORDS 197/57. JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,  
NEWFOUNDLAND. Appendix No. 14.

Report of J. R. Pinsent, Esq., Judge of the Court of Labrador for 1872.

To His Excellency  
Col. Stephen J. Hill, C.B.,  
Governor of Newfoundland, etc., etc.

St. John's,  
December 31st, 1872. 10

SIR,

[31 Dec.,  
1872.]

I have the honour to make my annual Circuit Report to Your Excellency.

As usual we traversed the coast from Blanc Sablon to Hamilton Inlet and were constantly engaged during the period of our stay at Labrador in visiting the various settlements and attending to our official duties of Law and Revenue.

The legal cases brought before me during the circuit were :—

- 4 of debt and damages,
- 2 of Trespass,
- 2 of Assault and Battery,
- 1 Sureties of the Peace,
- 1 Public Nuisance,
- 1 Larceny,

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I am frequently applied to for information and advice, which I give to the people, and thus prevent serious disputes and litigation.

A report was propagated at Labrador this summer that a woman had been murdered at White Bear Island, near Indian Harbour ; it reached Newfoundland, and the Government sent a small party of police to Labrador to see into the matter ; they fell in with H.M.S. " Eclipse " at Indian Tickle, and reported this to Capt. Hoskins, who offered to convey them in the ship to their destination. On his way thither he called at Grady Harbour for me. I accompanied

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him to Indian Harbour, where we investigated the report, and found it to be false.

I consider the general conduct of the people at Labrador very creditable to them. When it is remembered how many thousands of men are engaged during the summer in an arduous and exciting occupation, the absence of serious crime is highly satisfactory and remarkable.

The salmon fishery in the Great Bays was very short of an average voyage, but on the seaboard the catch was better.

*Education.* Five public schools were in operation this year at Labrador, 10 viz :—

Place.	Teacher.	Time.	Salary.
Pinware.	Mrs. O'Dell.	Summer and winter.	\$20
Red Bay.	John Bailey.	" " "	20
Cape Charles.	Eliz. Young.	Summer only.	10
Matthew's Cove.	Mary Marshall.	" "	10
Battle.	Rev. G. Bishop.	Summer and winter.	25
		Currency	. . \$85

I received the reports of the teachers (with the exception of that from Battle Harbor) and have sent them to the Colonial Secretary. I supplied the 20 schools with books and paid the teachers their salaries. I distributed additional books and stationery to the resident inhabitants of Labrador, who value them highly, and will make good practical use of them.

The medicines supplied by the Government for the use of the people of Labrador, I dispensed to those who required them. This is a very useful annual gift to the inhabitants, who are not able to procure them otherwise; and I believe I may truly say that aided by the practical skill and experience of our Captain, I have been in this way instrumental in affording relief to many sick persons, and in some cases in saving life.

The Mail Packet Service at Labrador this season has, with reference to 30 place of call and the time of waiting for letters, been much more satisfactory than it was last year; but the service is still considered susceptible to practical improvement.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) ROBERT JOHN PINSENT,  
Judge of the Court of Labrador.

No. 540.

## JUDGE PINSENT'S REPORT, 1873.

COLONIAL OFFICE RECORDS 197/59. JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.  
NEWFOUNDLAND. No. 49.

Report of Judge Pinsent, Labrador Court, 1873, to His Excellency,  
Col. Stephen J. Hill, C.B., Governor of Newfoundland, etc., etc.

St. John's,  
December 31st, 1873.

SIR,

[31 Dec.,  
1873.]

I have the honour to make my circuit report to Your Excellency. 10

I sailed from St. John's on the 17th of June last, in the schooner "William Stairs," Hackett, master—a vessel employed by the Government as a revenue ship on the coast of Labrador.

Messrs. Knight—Collector of Customs—Canning and Stephenson, Sub-Collectors, together with Mr. Frederick Crowdy, a medical student of the University of Edinburgh, who was employed by the Government to vaccinate the resident inhabitants of Labrador, were my fellow passengers.

We proceeded north-about, and after harbouring several times on our way, owing to contrary winds and obstruction from ice, we arrived at Red Bay, Labrador, on the 8th July. 20

After landing Messrs. Canning and Stephenson at Blanc Sablon, our vessel proceeded northward, and during the whole season continued cruising along the coast of Labrador, visiting the various settlements from Blanc Sablon to Hamilton Inlet, inclusive. On the 11th of October, we returned to St. John's.

The legal cases brought formally before me during the circuit were:—

5 for debt,  
2 sureties of the peace,  
2 injuring nets,  
1 title to land,  
1 larceny.

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In many matters I am applied to by the people for information and advice, and thus disputes are adjusted and litigation avoided. Although the cases tried are few, the fact of the annual presence of the court is beneficial and important in the prevention of offences.

The general conduct both of the residents and of the fishermen at Labrador during the fishing season, is very creditable to them ; few serious offences are committed ; and there is on the whole but little disorderly behaviour.

This season we went in our vessel where I had not been before, to the N.W. River at the head of the magnificent bay called Hamilton Inlet, for the purpose of enabling Mr. Crowdy to vaccinate the Indians belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company, who have their principal Labrador establishment there, and where Mr. Connolly, their chief officer, resides. It was owing to his representation and request last year, that the Government determined to send a medical man to Labrador, for the purpose of vaccinating the inhabitants. Mr. Crowdy performed the operation on all the Indians here assembled, nearly two hundred men, women and children. These Indians are from Canada and the Mountaineer race—they speak the Indian language and follow the Indian mode of living. It was curious and interesting to see them encamped in their birch-rind covered wigwams, at N.W. River, employed in building and repairing canoes and other work, preparatory to their journey into the interior of the country for hundreds of miles, on their annual furring expedition, for which purpose they are supplied by the Hudson's Bay Company. In these journeys all go—men, women and children ; they travel by land and water, ascending rivers, crossing lakes and passing through woods and over barrens. They start from N.W. River in the summer and return the following spring with their catch of furs. They are Roman Catholics and are attended by a clergyman who comes down for that purpose every summer.

These Indians are quite a different race from the Esquimaux who inhabit the north coast of Labrador, and who generally occupy themselves in catching fish and seals.

Our visit was very satisfactory to all concerned. We ourselves were interested and amused by the scenery and by the Indians. Mr. Connolly was gratified by the attention paid by the Government to his application, and the job was well carried out by Mr. Crowdy.

While on this subject I beg leave to recommend to the Government what would be very useful and acceptable to the residents to those resorting to the Labrador during the fishing season, that a medical man should be sent in the circuit vessel for the purpose of attending to cases among the thousands of people congregated there in the summer. There is no doctor residing on the coast of Labrador. The medicines supplied by the Government to me, I disposed of as usual among the people, to whom they were of great use and highly valued.

## EDUCATION.

Five schools were in operation this year at Labrador, viz. :—

Place.	Teacher.	Time.	Scholars.	Salary.
Pinware.	Mrs. O'Dell.	Summer and winter.	30	\$80
Red Bay.	John Bailey.	do.	20	80
Cape Charles.	Laura Young.	do.	26	40
Battle Harbor.	Thomas Ward.	do.	36	100
Matthew's Cove.	Mary Marshall.	Summer only.	70	40
				\$340

The people of the United States seem to have given up, as a fishing station, 10 that part of Labrador comprised within the limits of the Newfoundland Government.

The Mail Packet Service at Labrador was this season satisfactorily carried out. The steamer "Walrus" employed, was built to do the work properly, and her master, Capt. Delaney, was in all respects well qualified for his duty.

(Signed) ROBERT JOHN PINSENT,  
Judge of the Court of Labrador.