

7. The mackerel fishing begins about the first of July and last till the end of September any way.
8. As a general thing people here with nets can get as many herring as they want, they are used for bait. Every boat uses on an average seven or eight barrels for the season, that is the small boats along here. The large ones use much more.

Sworn to at Kildare, in Prince County, in Prince Edward Island, this 27th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

JAMES CONROY.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY,  
J. P. for Prince County, Prince Edward Island.

## No. 7.

I, James F. White, of Alberton, in Prince County, in Prince Edward Island, merchant, make oath and say:

1. That I have been engaged in the fishing business for the last fifteen years as the owner of boats and vessels. I know the fishing grounds well and I know where both boats and schooners fish, and the best fishing grounds. At the present time I have one schooner and ten boats, carrying about fifty men, engaged in fishing.

2. That about forty boats are fishing out of Cascumpec harbour during the present year. These forty boats are manned by about one hundred and fifty men. The average yearly catch of each boat is about seventy-five barrels of mackerel, fifty quintals of codfish and fifty quintals of hake. Herring are caught along the shore and are used for bait. Each fishing stage, in an average year, uses about three hundred barrels of herring for bait.

3. The American fleet generally enters the Bay during the month of June or the beginning of July. The mackerel are then generally on shore. The Americans are often afraid to follow the mackerel as close to the shore as the fish come, owing to the water being too shoal, close to the shore, for their vessels, and then they launch their boats and follow the mackerel in shore in them.

4. The mackerel generally move off shore about the first of October. The off-shore catch is very uncertain owing to the weather in the Fall being often bad.

5. During the Summer months the Americans invariably fish within three miles of the shore, and do very much damage to our boat fishing. They come in among our boats and draw off the mackerel. For the past ten years, I think the average number of American vessels would be two hundred and fifty, and they average five hundred barrels each year. The year before last (1875) some vessels took eleven hundred barrels out of the Bay in three trips. Last year the mackerel were scarce, and the highest catch about three hundred and fifty barrels. I never knew the mackerel so scarce in the Bay as they were last year. This year (1877) the prospects are good, the mackerel plenty, the bay appears to be full of them.

6. When the cutters were about, watching the fishing grounds, the American fleet would go out the harbour, send one of their number to keep watch off Kildare Cape, while the balance of the fleet would fish in shore, and the watching-vessel would signal if there was any sign of the cutters. Whenever such signal was given, they would stop fishing and stand out to sea. When the cutter was gone, they would come in again. I have seen this done myself.

7. Fully three-quarters of the schooners catch is taken within three miles of the shore, and I may say the whole of the boat's catch.

8. The number of boats fishing here has trebled in the last three years. The reason of this increase is that other business is depressed, and fishermen from the United States, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia are coming here to settle, attracted by the good fishing, so that we are now able to get crews to man our boats, which formerly we were unable to do. Another reason is that the year 1875 was a very good year, and owing to the successful prosecution of the fishing that year, people's attention was turned to the business, and they were incited to go into it.

9. The boat fishers all look upon the arrival of the American fleet, as the end of the good fishing. Too much bait is thrown from the vessels, and the boats have to give way to the vessels. The shore fishermen always look upon the arrival of the fleet to fish among them as a great loss and injury to them.

10. Generally there are more than enough herring caught along the shore for bait, this year, however, the herring fishery was a failure.

11. The Americans land here a good deal and trans-ship their fish. That is a very great advantage for them. The advantage is that, when a vessel starts for a trip she can only fit out for a short time, some five or six weeks, and having the right to trans-ship, they are able to refit. They, in this way, save about a fortnight each trip, which amounts to an additional trip for the summer. They can also generally buy their barrels and salt here cheaper than at home. They often come here and buy all their barrels, bringing none from home. I have supplied them myself. The right of trans-shipment saves them time.

12. The mackerel season is short, lasting, at the outside, from about the middle of June till the middle of October.

13. The mackerel, in Spring, come down the Nova Scotian shore, and then strike up the Bay to the Magdalen Islands, from there some shoals move towards the bend of this Island, and others towards