

QUANTITY OF FISH.

The quantity of fish taken in these Bays is enormous. Sometimes the fish will enter the Bay as early as the end of October. At this season it is taken in the usual way by nets and seines.

Fishing and trading vessels come from various ports of the New England States, from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward's Island. Some to catch the fish themselves, but the greater number purchase their cargoes from the inhabitants, giving them all manner of provisions, groceries and dry goods in exchange. This trading is, as a general rule, appreciated more by these fishermen than cash payment, for thus they procure easily their supplies for winter.

As there is no Government Official to take direct cognizance of the exports, it is not easy to give the figures correctly of the quantity of fish thus exported. But it is pretty correctly computed to have amounted to from 30,000 to 60,000 barrels per year.

Last year I directed parties to take an estimate of what was taken away from another Bay, much a smaller one, some thirty miles north of Bay of Islands, viz, Bonne Bay, and find that from the first arrival of herring in October till December, the exports were 50,000 barrels, and this rate of taking the poor fish continued till May; from December till April, of course, it is taken through the ice.

Our people here take absolutely what they want. Our merchants have literally all they want, &c., all that they can manage to store up, their stores and vats being literally filled, and yet we are no more than half through the winter.

It was well this winter that some two large vessels belonging to the firm of A. & M. Petrie of Sligo, Ireland,