

recording ; it is dated 1760, and the Governor's name was James Webb. It goes on to say—"Whereas a number of Irish adventurers are in the habit of coming to this country not in the regular way of the fishing business, and not contributing to the support of the Colony ; and whereas it is necessary to build Court Houses, Jails, and Stocks, be it therefore ordered, that every Irish boat-keeper shall pay twenty shillings a year, and every common Irishman five shillings.

In 1769, the Hon. Levison Gower, being Surrogate, and sitting in Court in Placentia, laid down the following Rules of Law :—

That a constable had a right to beat any one, in carrying out the law.

That he had an action against everyone who interfered with him in the discharge of his duty. But no action whatever can be taken against him.

Captain Molineaux Shuldam is answerable for the following *dicta* :

Selling liquor without a license—punishment, banishment from the Country.

"All idle and useless women to be punished according to law, and then sent out of the Country."

A very curious case between parties residing at the Ram Islands, Placentia Bay, came before the Court, which illustrates the social character of the age. John Gumby, Plaintiff, sued John Heffernan, Defendant, for carrying away his wife. Defendant pleaded that he bought the wife from her Uncle for £20 stg. Judgment, damages £20 stg. It appears that these learned Justices were not satisfied with taxation ; they carried their authority still further and made the merchants write out their prices, which were submitted to them, whereupon an agreement was made that these should be the prices for the season. In these records is the