

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

GLOUCESTER, Aug. 4, 1877.

COUNTY OF ESSEX, SS.

Then personally appeared the above named James L. Anderson, Captain, and made oath, that all the statements by him subscribed, are true, to the best of his knowledge and belief, before me,

(L. S.)

DAVID W. LOW,
Notary Public.

No. 270.

GLOUCESTER, Aug. 27, 1877.

I, Jesse Lewis, Master of the American schr. *Alice M. Lewis*, of Gloucester, on oath do depose and say, that I was born in Kittery, Maine, am 48 years age, and have been engaged in the fisheries 35 years. I have just arrived from the Gulf of St. Lawrence from a mackereling trip. I commenced to fit my vessel for this trip the 1st of July, 1877. I sailed from Gloucester the 5th of July, arrived in the Gulf of St. Lawrence about the 14th of July. Was fitted with a purse seine and boat, and one small seine. The first mackerel I took two miles off East Point, in the seine,—about 100 brls., mostly twos; from there went off Point Miscou and Gaspe; got no mackerel there; came back to Prince Edward Island; caught 50 brls. on the hook near the shore. We afterward went to the Magdalen Islands, and caught about 50 brls. on the hook, along the shore. The average of these mackerel were twos, worth 12 dollars per bbl. Our trip packed out 175 bbls., and brought 2,100 dollars.

My trip will consume just two months' time, for vessel and crew.

The charter of my vessel, at \$250 per month,	\$500 00
Wages of 15 men, at \$30 per month,	900 00
Outfits, viz., provisions, salt, barrels, etc.,	500 00
Insurance,	100 00
Packing,	131 25
Expense of seines, wear and mending and use,	200 00
Hooks and lines,	25 00
Total cost,	\$2,356 25
Total receipts,	\$2,100 00
Actual and real loss,	\$256 25

I have been in the Bay 28 seasons,—24 mackereling and 4 codfishing. My average stock for the whole of the seasons in the Bay is \$4,500 a season. Not over one-third of the mackerel I have taken there were taken within three miles of the shore. We always throw overboard the cleanings of the mackerel, except what we save to use as throw-bait. The fish come eagerly after this offal. I never heard of any being poisoned by it; but they swarm to get it. I never heard any fishermen complain, as I have seen them this year, the British boats throwing all their offal overboard. This is the universal practice of all fishermen, American and English.

The practice of lee-bowing is universal, both by English and American vessels. I never knew of any British boats being injured by the American schooners. The American and British mode of fishing are entirely different, as the boat fishing is a shore fishery, and the large American schooners cannot, on account of the depth of water, fish where the boats generally resort. The boats obtain many favors from the American vessels, such as using their mills to grind bait, and often giving them salt and bait. The boat fishermen, as a class, have always been jealous of the American fishermen. I have this year given bait to a number of their boats. The years that our fishermen were totally excluded from the inshore mackerel fishing by the cutters, they made the best fares. That is my personal experience. I know of no inshore codfishery pursued by American vessels in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. I never caught a codfish there inside of 15 miles from the shore, nor ever knew of any American vessels so doing.

There are more British than American vessels engaged in the codfishery of the Gulf of St. Lawrence; they all throw their offal overboard, including the shore boats. I went to Newfoundland 19 years ago, for herring; have been 15 trips since. I never caught a herring there, but invariably bought them, and paid the inhabitants for them. When I first went there I paid one dollar per bbl.; they are now worth from \$1.50 to \$2. The American trade in herring has kept the people from starvation, and raised whole communities from poverty to comparative affluence. I have known \$60,000 to be paid for herring in Fortune Bay alone, by the American fleet, in one single winter, and there would have been none sold otherwise, as there is not any demand for these herring, except by Americans, for the American market. I think there are about 100 sail of Americans in the Bay this year. The average number of