

there were about one thousand sail of American vessels, which with an average of 15 men, would give fifteen thousand. Some of these vessels, I heard, made three trips in Chaleur Bay, for Mackarel. Some, after having made one or two trips or fares of Codfish, proceed to the Bay de Chaleur, well fitted, taking sufficient barrels to cure their fish in. These are partly filled with Menhaden and Clams, which are considered the best bait for Mackarel; others are filled with salt and water, which make ballast; when required for use they are emptied of their contents, and filled with Mackarel; this keeps their vessels in good ballast. They generally commence their fishing about Bradelle Bank, Shippegan, and follow the fish northerly, until the season advances, when they return to the North side of Prince Edward's Island, and Cape Breton; the crews of these vessels are nearly one fourth belonging to Nova Scotia.—Some of these leave their homes in the Spring of the year, and take passage for the United States, for employment; others ship on board American vessels when they arrive in Nova Scotia. This may be a cause why American fishermen are found fishing within the limits.

The Straits of Canso being the chief passage that American vessels take, when bound to or from the Bay de Chaleur, they generally stop here, as they say, for the purpose of shelter, repairing damages, and procuring wood and water. Many of the places through this Strait are so situated, that vessels may haul into the bank and discharge without being detected. As these vessels, bound on a fishing voyage, are nearly full of barrels, it would be nearly impossible to detect them if actually engaged in illicit trade. Some of the coves where they resort have fine streams of fresh water, with some rum shops near by, which give them an opportunity of taking on shore a barrel of the American manufactured Brandy, and bringing in return the pure fresh water; and as many of the crews of these vessels were actually residents of these places, they think they have the same privilege as those who sail in British vessels; and as they have been habituated to go on shore and purchase small stores, such as butter, potatoes, sheep, and such articles from the inhabitants, I found the inhabitants of the coast more favourable towards the Americans than they were towards the Nova-Scotia men. At some places I heard that the inhabitants would go out in their boats when the Americans were taking mackarel, and make fast to them and fish while they had them baited up. All this gives the inhabitants a favourable opinion of the Americans.

As to the mode to be pursued to prevent American fishermen from illicit trade, and going within the limits to fish, it is not easy to determine.

However, as Nova-Scotia has so many harbours and places for vessels to resort to, and the Strait of Canso open for all vessels, it would be useless, in my opinion, to put on protective duties in Nova-Scotia. The chief of those who remove to the United States, who go from Nova-Scotia to sail in American vessels, are young men who would never leave Nova-Scotia could they get employment at home. There are many of opinion, that protective duties would raise Nova-Scotia to a level with other countries, but I believe this would never keep these young men in the Province.

The fact is, Nova-Scotia wants a market for its produce, and its greatest production is fish. Let us see how a protective duty would work: the fisherman in Nova-Scotia calls on a merchant for supplies, if he has a little property it is likely the answer will be, You can have such and such articles, but as there is a high Tariff this year, for the purpose of raising you to a level with other countries, you must pay an extra price for every barrel of flour, and in the same proportion for every other article you may want or require. When his bill is made out, it has a large appearance, but when he considers we have protective duties which will enable him to pay his bills, he puts it in his pocket and commences his fishing voyage.

After making his voyage, hearing that fish are worth a fair price in the United States, he collects his fish on board his craft, and generally takes them to the port whence he was supplied in the spring.

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