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every man and boy employed on the French shore fishery, and 15 francs or 12 *s.* 6 *d.* for every man and boy employed in the French bank fishery, sailing annually from the French ports.

This competition has already excluded us from the French markets, where in the year 1815, we disposed of 100,000 quintals of fish; it has met us in the markets of Spain and Italy; although in a limited degree, owing to the recent re-establishment of the French fisheries; and it is evident that nothing but the support and assistance of our government in some way or other, can enable us to maintain the competition much longer with rivals who receive a bounty equal to one-third of the value of the article. I have now completed the exposition of the causes of distress.

What remedies could you offer?—The first is an adequate bounty on fish exported from Newfoundland to Europe; and I would most respectfully observe, that this is a mode of relief which was judged proper in periods of former distress, both by Mr. Pitt and Mr. Perceval; and which is even now extended constantly to our whale and pilchard fisheries. The procurance of a reduction of the foreign duties to their former standard on British caught fish, would materially serve us. A removal of the duties now paid on oil and seal-skins imported from Newfoundland to the United Kingdom; and a grant of the small bounty of 15 *s.* pr. tun on oil from Newfoundland which on a calculation will be found only to equalize our situation with that of the Greenland merchant. And having suggested those which appear to me the only modes of effectual relief, I would trouble the Committee with a few observations, in order to prove the existence of such national advantage resulting from the trade, as will justify the government in protecting and supporting it. I am quite aware, that the Newfoundland trade is not directly productive of any great accession to the revenue; but I submit that such is the natural benefit to be expected from fisheries, that the ordinary policy of all nations and particularly of Great Britain, has recognized the expediency of exempting fisheries from duties on their produce; and that of those important national advantages which may reasonably be expected to flow from fisheries, the Newfoundland trade is eminently productive; I believe it will not be disputed, that this trade is one of the greatest nurseries for seamen, and most important to the interests of our navigation. The total number of British vessels that had arrived in Newfoundland, in the year ending 10th October 1816, was - - - - - - - - - - - - 795

Their measurement tonnage - - - - - -	102,186 tons
Navigated by - - - - - - - - - -	6,018 men

Besides this number of seamen, hundreds of landsmen are in time of prosperity annually sent out to the fishery, who become seamen, and many of them are from time to time taken for the naval service.

Again I would observe, this fishery is most important both to our manufacturing interests, and to the agricultural interests of Ireland;—the population of Newfoundland, estimated at from 60 to 80,000 persons, is clothed, and provided with every article for the fishery, and every necessary of life, from the most trifling to the most important, with pork, beef, butter, oatmeal, flour and biscuit (except in times of absolute scarcity at home,) from the mother country. Further, this trade is in its nature the most advantageous to the nation of any that she can possess; its outfit is made wholly from the mother country (except a trifling amount of foreign salt,) and the returns are made to the merchants exporting the fish, wholly in bills of exchange and bullion from foreign countries, the amount of which would otherwise be included in the balance of trade against us, to be paid in specie by this country.

The amount of Newfoundland fish sold annually in Spain and Portugal only, during some years of the late war, could not be less than 2,000,000*l.* sterling, and thus this trade restored to our country a considerable part of those treasures which political circumstances required to be there expended. I would further beg to call the attention of the Committee to an important consideration;—that France (if we may judge of the object she has in view by the measures she is adopting to attain it) is straining every nerve to monopolize this trade herself; the bounties which that government is offering to those merchants who will embark their capital in it, are, as I have shown, enormous, and indicate at least the very high value which she attaches to this branch of her commerce. With reference to the suggestion I have made, of remitting the duties now paid on oil and seal skins imported from Newfoundland, I beg to remark, that if this trifling concession is refused, and we are left destitute of bounties, and loaded with duties to struggle with our favoured rivals the French merchants, our trade to Europe must dwindle