

caught within said three mile line. And that for the last four or five years preceding the date hereof, the catch of mackerel within said three mile line, and off the coasts, or in the Bays along the coasts of Her Britannic Majesty's Dominion in North America has been rapidly decreasing, the catch within the three mile line as aforesaid, decreasing from twenty-eight hundred barrels in 1873 to eleven hundred barrels in 1874, to four hundred and thirty-three barrels in 1875, to three hundred and seventy-six barrels in 1876. That from his own personal knowledge, the fishing firms of said Commonwealth, during the last four or five years as aforesaid, have substantially given up as of but little or no profit what is known as the "Bay fishing," and have confined their fishing vessels substantially to the shores, bays, and coasts within the jurisdiction of the United States of America.

Witness my hand, at Boston, County of Suffolk, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of August, A. D., 1877.

WM. COGSWELL,  
*Inspector-General of Fish for Massachusetts.*

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH,

SUFFOLK, S. S.

This may certify that William Cogswell, of Salem, County of Essex and Commonwealth aforesaid, has held the office of Inspector General of fish within and for this Commonwealth since Aug. 24, A. D. 1866, and does now hold the said office, and that on this twentieth day of August, 1877, said Cogswell personally appeared before me and made oath that the foregoing statement by him subscribed was true, according to his best judgement, information and belief. Witness my hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the year and date above written.

(L. S.)

HENRY B. PEIRCE,  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*