

herrings here by right of Treaty. The agricultural capabilities of St. George's Bay are not better than any other part of the island, or the climate more clear from fogs. Having questioned several of the inhabitants, I found that with the help of manure, from five to six barrels of potatoes are procured from one of seed, but at the Barachois, the land there produces from nine to ten. Wheat and barley have been tried, but the return was too small to be repeated. There are about 200 head of cattle in the bay, 330 sheep, 40 pigs, and 15 horses. The bay is frozen over from December until March, and much drift ice comes up the bay, which is sometimes not entirely clear until the first week in May, when the herring-fishery commences, and continues for about six weeks. The herrings are so abundant, that one man may catch in the season 100 barrels, each barrel weighing 200 pounds of fish, which fetch two dollars in the Halifax Market; those who do not own a schooner, are charged freight 2s. per barrel. Cod fish is not attended to in the bay, and salmon-fishing is only carried on by the descendants of the old settlers, who claim the right of all the coves which the salmon frequent; there are about 280 barrels of salmon cured during the season, which are sent to Halifax; there is a great quantity of eels and lobsters caught here, and in the winter the Jack-o'-tars chiefly subsist on the eels; they are lazy, indolent people, and I am told addicted to thieving; in the winter and spring they are frequently in very destitute circumstances; they are looked upon by the English and French as a degraded race, thence styled Jack-o'-tars or runaways; they live entirely separate from the English, who are the most respectable portion of the inhabitants, and are in my opinion very stupid and ignorant, somewhat obstinate in their adherence to old customs, but not a desperate or lawless people. There are three French families who reside among the English community, on equal terms, but they keep aloof from the Jack-o'-tars. There are a few Indians at present living on the opposite shore, one family of five I met at Burgeo last June, they have coasted round here in an open boat, and walked; there are two families lately come from Twillingate, who intend to return in a few weeks; they had no other reason for coming here, than that they always came across in the summer; they mix with neither party. From the reports I heard of the fertility of St. George's Bay, and which were current at St. John's, I expected to have seen large timber, as well as oak, beech, and elm-trees of a large size, but I found timber of only one description, and in no respect superior to that found in all other parts of the island; the oaks, beech, and elms grow only in the imagination of those who circulated such statements. There is one Episcopal place of worship, which was erected seven years ago, and a school supported by the Newfoundland School Society; there is a Roman priest here, styled Vicar-General of Canada, and has resided for twelve months at the settlement; it is to be hoped that his residence among the Jack-o'-tars will prove beneficial to their morals.

Previous to June 1850, the inhabitants in the Bay were subject to no duties, customs, or any other tax. No Government authority was stationed in the Bay, and the people managed their own little affairs, and when any case of importance in their mind occurred, they usually referred it to the captain of the English man-of-war which visited the Bay annually. But in June 1850, the Government sent a stipendiary magistrate to the Bay (Mr. J. Tobin), who was also collector of customs, and the people were called upon suddenly to pay duties, taxes, &c.; consequently, arrests, fines, costs, and imprisonments, took place on the one hand, whilst refusals to pay, public meetings, and petitions to Government, ensued on the other, until the whole settlement was in a flame. The people of St. George's Bay are not represented in the Legislature, and therefore it seems unjust that they should be taxed by the Legislature of Newfoundland, and by such a tax as a boat and a net tax, when the French are permitted by treaty to fish alongside of them, and they are not called upon to pay any tax, but receive a bounty from the French Government for their fish. I think a magistrate stationed here, with a salary of 250*l.* per annum, and a Protestant, with plain good sense, a patient temper, and in tolerable acquaintance with the law, would be of great service in regulating and improving the community; and it would be advisable for him to unite his efforts with those of the clergyman and priest of the district for this purpose, as I am quite of opinion that the people are not violent or unmanageable, and by patient and judicious management, they might be governed without much difficulty and taught to be more active and industrious in their habits.

I now conceive it my duty to lay before you what, in my opinion, I consider is chiefly required for the protection of the fisheries and suppression of smuggling on the principal part of the south coast of Newfoundland.

The coast from Cape La Hune to Chapeau Rouge, with its numerous coves, affords every facility for illicit traffic to be carried on with the French islands to a great extent; the English and French schooners being exactly similar, and of the same size and rig, and during the spring and summer fishings, the fogs are so dense and frequent, that the fishermen have not the slightest cause to fear detection; it would be useless for a ship to attempt to chase one of these schooners near the line of limit, as the constant fogs in which the southern part of the coast is so suddenly enveloped, renders the navigation here, exceeding dangerous owing to the numerous ledges and rocks-lying several miles from the coast with deep water close to them. A small schooner should be employed to the westward of the Burgeo Islands, so early as 1st April, and to continue until after the middle of May, to prevent the French from approaching the coast, and for checking the illicit traffic which is carried on by our fishermen and the French. The next part of the coast to require attention is from Cape La Hune to Chapeau Rouge, which I do not think can be properly protected by less than four small schooners, and they should be similar to