

fishing for halibut and cod-fish within two miles of Pass Island. They would cover over a mile of ground with their trawls, sometimes taking them a whole day to overhaul their trawls. These American vessels would have from 400 to 500 quintals codfish and halibut, they then catching chiefly mother fish. They have given this fish up lately, because they have exhausted the fishery, leaving us nothing worth looking for.

"I believe the supply of fresh bait to United States vessels decreases the supply of bait to Newfoundland fishermen. I know that the Americans fishing on the Banks off our coasts with fresh bait keeps the fish from striking in towards our shores, and very largely reduces the catch of our fishermen. The short fishery this year is certainly owing to this cause. After a few years, if these Americans follow the bank fishery as presently prosecuted, there will be no fish caught in this bay.

"The practice of seining herrings and cod-fish at one time frightens all herrings from our nets, so that we cannot catch bait required for the voyage. Herrings seined are taken before spawning, to the loss of our people. Formerly our catch was 80 to 100 quintals per man. This year it will not go to 40 quintals.

(Signed) "RICHARD ROSE, his ✕ mark."

Sworn before me at Great Harbour, Newfoundland, November 14, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

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