

NEWFOUND-
LAND.

The convent is particularly well kept.

The Governor has also put up public baths, which the population can use, hot or cold, at 6d. a bath.

The anchorage for large ships is bad.

TREPASSEY, June 9th.—The fishing had not commenced, the caplin only just coming in, so rendered it impossible to say what the catch would be. The population had not altered since last year; the place still thriving.

ST. MARY'S, June 13th.—Found the fishing had just commenced (though the cod had not struck into the bay), several boats going out with cod seines as we anchored. Very favourable reports were made regarding the size of the fish off Cape St. Mary's, but that is not unusual, it being a noted place for large cod.

I did not hear of any complaints, with the exception of a few patients for the doctor, one at Holyrood Pond, a young woman suffering from acute rheumatism, and living in a hovel barely ten feet square.

I called on Mr. Murphy, the magistrate, who was too unwell to see me.

The bottom of the harbour is covered in a most wonderful manner with flat fish, the water being very clear, and being able to see the bottom in 15 or 18 feet of water, these fish may be seen literally covering the ground, and from two to three deep.

The fishermen won't eat them, and characterised our men as cannibals for so doing, though the officers and myself found, that although inferior to cod, they were palatable and wholesome.

The inhabitants of St. Mary's are a very large race of men, few of them being under 5 feet 10 inches in height. The population is about 2000, Roman Catholics.

During a thick fog fifty fishing vessels arrived, leaving the next morning for the Cape.

Some fishermen do well by fishing on Holyrood Pond during the winter.

PLACENTIA, June 16th.—A very clean, tidy place, but the tide running very strong into the harbour, causes a nasty sea for boats on the bar. The fishing had been good up to date.

31 large boats, 5 men, averaging 60 quintals.

25	"	4	"	"	40	"
20 punts	"	2	"	"	22	"

Whilst here I observed a boat-load of very large cod, mother fish, landed, and on inquiry found they had been caught with the bultow. Remonstrating with the fishermen about the use of the bultow, I was told, "We know it does harm, but other people use it; we do too." Several millions of fish must have been prevented from being spawned by that one take.

BURIN, June 18th.—I found this place looking well. The population about the same as last year, 1500.

The fishing up to date had not been very good, I heard the same complaint about the bultow, and, owing to a conversation with a Mr. Berteau, and also some of the fishermen, think it would be advisable if the Newfoundland government would make fishing by bultow illegal for at least 3 years, to try if the absence of them would increase the number of fish on the coast.

I visited the Light-house, and found everything nice and clean; this light is sometimes seen from Cape St. Mary's, a distance of 35'.

GREAT ST. LAWRENCE, June 20th.—About 600 inhabitants, of whom 500 are Roman Catholics, the rest Protestants.

Father Kinsella is the priest, but there is no Protestant clergyman, the service generally being read by the schoolmaster.

Had a complaint from a Protestant fisherman named David Pike, that the Roman Catholics intended to pull down a fishing stage he had built on the land-wash, in front of the Roman Catholic chapel, a road intervening between the land-wash and the Church field. Father Kinsella also requested me to order Pike to pull his stage down, on the plea the land-wash was Church property.

I wrote to His Excellency Governor Hill (posting the letter at St. Pierre), requesting him to send down a legal opinion as to who was entitled to the land-wash or fore-shore, giving Pike, at the same time, a notice to the effect, that whoever destroyed his property would be liable to be punished according to law.

The fishing had been very poor, as the men have only small boats, which they are unable to remain out fishing in, except in fine weather, and the weather at St. Lawrence this year has been bad.

There is no firm, each man fishing for himself to sell to collecting schooners.