

coast will soon be a perfect network of set-lines. I myself have now about three thousand hooks out in set-lines.

5. That the Americans interfere very seriously with the cod-fishing and with our set-lines within three miles of the shore by their seining. They throw a purse-seine of sometimes one hundred and fifty fathoms in length, and sometimes twenty in depth, and sweep the bottom, thus often causing great loss to our cod-fishing, besides disturbing our boats lying at anchor. This I look upon as a most serious trouble, and it is increasing.

6. That when mackerel strike in here and we have a biting school of them, I consider the coming of the Americans as the end of the fishing; they interfere with our boats and draw the school right off the coast, and break up the school. They do this by throwing bait and drifting away, drawing the mackerel after them. In a number of cases they drift down on the boats, and I have known a number of boats to be dismayed by them. Often the boats have to get under way to get clear of them.

7. The privilege of trans-shipment I consider is a very great one to the Americans; they are thereby enabled to come into our harbors, pack out and send home their fares by railway, without losing much time, and I believe they can refit here much cheaper than at home. This must save them at least three weeks in each trip, in the matter of going home, which would be equal to another trip in the course of the summer. They also get their fish home much quicker, and can take advantage of the fluctuations of the markets. I have known instances of Americans making as much as three and four trips a season into Charlottetown to trans-ship.

8. Since having the Island Railway, they can pack out in Alberton with greater facility than in Charlottetown, and without leaving the fishing ground.

9. The cleaning of large quantities of mackerel on our coast by the Americans, and throwing over the offal, injures our cod-fishing.

10. The American schooners often cause great injury and annoyance to our boats fishing mackerel, by drifting down upon them and taking away the mackerel, and compelling the boats to give way.

11. To my own knowledge a large fleet of American schooners fish around this Island, from New London Head to North Cape, and thence to West Point, and generally within three miles of the shore. Masters and crews of American vessels look upon it as a very great privilege to be allowed to fish near shore, and if they were not allowed to do so, I do not believe many of them would fit out for the Gulf fishing.

12. When the cutters were about the American captains used to run the risk of capture and loss of vessel and outfit in order to fish inshore, and some of them were taken. The cutters did protect our fishermen a good deal, and our boats enjoyed greater security, but our coast was not sufficiently protected, there were not enough cutters. I believe that about ten schooners, as cutters, would protect the fisheries from Scatterie, in Cape Breton, all the Island coasts, and up the New Brunswick coast to Misko, and probably up the Bay Chaleur. Schooners of fifty or sixty tons would be the best cutters. In fact that number would cover the whole mackerel fisheries for Cape Breton, Magdalen Islands and New Brunswick, and would effectually keep the Americans out of the three mile limit.

13. Large quantities of herring are now seined every year at the Magdalen Islands by American fishermen, and they ship these herring away to Sweden, Norway, and Southern markets.

14. The Americans derive great benefit from being able to go down to the coast of Newfoundland, to Bay Fortune, and up to Bay of Islands, where they catch large quantities of herring, which they freeze and send down to bait their Georgia's fishing fleet, and also to their city markets.

15. After the Magdalen Spring fishing is over the Americans often go up to Anticosti, and fish and seine herring there.

16. The Americans also, both at the Magdalens and at Cape Breton, land and seine for bait for their cod-fishing, and they even go into the rivers and catch gaspereaux for bait.

17. Taking our coast from Mimmigash, to Nail Pond, in this County, I believe that the fishing outfit has increased five or six hundred per cent. in the last ten years, that is in the number of boats and their cost. I would estimate the number of boats, between Mimmigash and North Cape, at from one hundred and fifty to two hundred; and from North Cape to Alberton I should estimate the increase during the last ten years at from three to four hundred per cent. I would reckon the number of boats in that distance at from one hundred and fifty to two hundred; there must be fully that many. I should say that the whole number of all these boats take crews of three men each on board of them, and that they furnish employment to one man for each boat on shore.

18. Our fishing at this end of the Island is only in its infancy, our men are only getting skilled and trained to it.

19. The reasons for the increase in the number of boats are that men of capital and experience, seeing the fishing to be a fruitful source of trade, have invested capital, and have encouraged men to build and go into the boat fishing.

20. I consider that after this we will have a distinct fishing class of people, that is when the lands are all taken up, which they are now. At present, and in the past, the men fished when they had time for farming. Now we have men who depend entirely on the fishing, and these secure large quantities of fish, and their number is increasing fast. I consider that we are now at the beginning of a new departure in trade in this country owing to the fishing. In my experience, I depend upon men who depend entirely on the fishing, to get fully three times as many fish as those who look partly to other means of support.

21. With regard to the value of our fisheries, I consider them very valuable. We have herring in