

No. 268.

GLOUCESTER, Aug. 28, 1877.

I, John S. Jameson, master of the schr. *Henry Wilson*, of Gloucester, on oath, do depose and say : That I was born in Guysboro, Nova Scotia, am 46 years of age, have been engaged in the fisheries for 30 years.

I have just arrived from a trip to Greenland for halibut. I brought home 120,000 lbs. of halibut and 30,000 lbs. of codfish. We caught our fish 25 miles from land. I have been 10 years in the Western and Grand Bank fisheries. We usually take 15 bbls. of porgie slivers for a trip from Gloucester, and either go to Nova Scotia or Newfoundland for fresh bait. We always buy this fresh bait and pay cash for it. We pay on an average about $1\frac{1}{2}$ dollars per barrel for this bait, taking 45 bbls. to a trip, usually two trips a year. Sometimes we go in for bait 4 times to a trip, taking 45 bbls. each time. The bait costs us about 200 dollars for the full trip. If there was no demand for these herring the people would not catch them at all. The American fisheries on the Banks has absolutely created a new business for these people. I have caught a number of trips of fish without getting any fresh bait from the shore, using my slivers and refuse fish. The Grand Bank fisheries has been pursued for centuries, the first beginning of this shore fresh bait business is within 10 years. It is entirely to the advantage of the shore people of Newfoundland and other places to sell this bait, as they realize large sums from what would otherwise be of no value whatever to them.

There is nearly a half million dollars paid to the English people for herring by Americans, including the winter fresh herring trade. This would be entirely worthless to them except for the American trade. The American cod and halibut fishery is entirely a deep sea fishery. With centuries of fishing on the sea Banks and for centuries throwing over offal there is no real diminution of fish there. The use of fresh bait has made the fish dainty and on the whole it has been an injury to our fishing there using this bait. If all the Bank fishermen would use salt bait it would be better for the whole.

I have been in the Gulf of St. Lawrence for mackerel 10 years or seasons. Not more than one-fourth of the mackerel are taken within three miles of the shore by the Americans. American vessels in the Bay will not average more than three hundred barrels of mackerel each for a seasons mackereling there, this is a fair average for 10 years.

JOHN S. JAMESON.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

COUNTY OF ESSEX, S. S.

GLOUCESTER, Aug. 28, 1877.

Then personally appeared the above named James S. Jameson and made oath that all the statements by him subscribed are true before me.

(L. S.)

DAVID W. LOW,
Notary Public.

No. 269.

GLOUCESTER, September 3, 1877.

I, James L. Anderson, Master of the American schr. *Seth Stockbridge*, of Gloucester, Mass., do, on oath, depose and say, that I was born in Middle Millford, Straits of Canso, am 37 years of age. I have been engaged in the Gulf of St. Lawrence mackerel fishery for 24 seasons.

I have just returned from a trip to the Gulf of St. Lawrence for mackerel.

I began to fit my vessel for this trip on the 11th of July, 1877, sailed from Gloucester on the 14th; went down to the coast of Maine, and seined porgies for bait; took 30 bbls of slivers; I arrived in the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the 28th of July; caught our first mackerel off East Point, 4 miles from shore; took 15 barrels; then went up the east side of Prince Edward Island, as far as New London, tried all the way up, and got no mackerel. We then ran down the Island to Second Chapel, and took 10 barrels of mackerel there, inside of three miles. Then run down to the Magdalen Islands, and took 45 barrels in four days on the hook, off Brine Island, over three miles from shore. I then went back to P. E. Island, fished there for a week, and did not get 10 barrels of mackerel. We then went to the whole northern side of Cape Breton, tried all the way for mackerel, and got nothing. Again went to the Magdalen Islands, tried there 4 days, and got 5 barrels of mackerel; went back to P. E. Island again, tried all round the north, east, and south sides, and found nothing. I then fished off Port Hood, and Cape George, took 10 barrels of mackerel, and being completely discouraged, I left the Bay on the 24th of August. We could find no mackerel, neither had any vessels we saw, seen any mackerel to speak of for