

is, under the circumstances stated, liable to forfeiture under the express provisions of the Colonial Statute already referred to."

Such being the unquestionable right of the Legislature, your Committee earnestly recommend the House to enact a law by which foreign fishing vessels will either be compelled to pay for the use of the Strait of Canso or to find their way into the Gulf around the Island of Cape Breton.

The Committee have attentively perused the reports of the several Officers of the Royal Navy engaged during the last year in the protection of the Fisheries, from which it appears that the fishermen of the United States are not at all scrupulous about trespassing when out of view of the British Cruizers. That great numbers of their vessels, probably about 280, were in the neighbourhood of Cape Breton in the fall, and that the number of these fishing vessels exceeded 600, and are by some stated to number as many as 2000. That great benefits have resulted from the protection afforded the Fisheries, and that considerable improvement has been observed in the build and equipment of our fishing vessels, and particularly those belonging to the port of Lunenburg. It seems to be the opinion of the Officers referred to, that small Steamers with Schooner Tenders, should be employed in protecting the Fisheries. They all complain, and with much reason, that English fishing vessels almost uniformly neglect to show their colors to the cruizers, thereby occasioning much additional trouble, and frequently leading the cruizers out of their course. The Committee are of opinion that the protection afforded to the Fisheries has already been productive of much benefit—that, in consequence, the American fishermen have been unsuccessful, while increased vigour has been infused into those of the Province, and that few of the former made a third voyage during the last season. In view of the signal benefit of protection, the Committee recommend the House to grant for that purpose the sum of £3000 in addition to any sum remaining undrawn. The Committee recommend that all vessels should be compelled to take out a fishing license at their own Ports for the season, and that every vessel should be provided with an English Merchant's Union, to be shewn to the British Cruizers when they are in sight under a certain penalty, and that the Lieutenant-Governor should request the Commanders of the cruizers to note on the registers of fishing vessels each case of disobedience of the law in this particular.

It appears that Wears in St. Mary's Bay are found to be destructive of the Fishery. The Committee therefore recommend that the use of them should be prohibited or regulated.

The Committee are of opinion that valuable Oyster Fisheries might be established by transplanting this valuable shell fish in