

fishermen are inshore fisheries, and are generally followed in the coves and harbours along the coasts.

"I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel prosecuting any fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

"About forty to fifty American vessels frequent Fortune Bay in winter for frozen herrings, which they purchase from Newfoundland fishermen, taking a full cargo when they can procure them. The supply of fresh bait to United States vessels has the effect of reducing the supply of bait to local fishermen. Large seines are used to supply the Americans, inclosing from 800 to over 1,000 barrels each, and so retained from four to eight weeks until opportunity offers to sell to United States vessels. It is found more difficult to net herrings while these large quantities are retained in seines, and as this happens in the best hauling grounds in the neighbourhood, local fishermen often come short.

"The 'barring' of herrings is most injurious in many respects, and cannot be practised without destroying large quantities of herrings, and even when herrings thus inclosed are set free they are not much good afterwards, and certainly are useless for spawning that season. I have no doubt whatever but that the United States fishing vessels on the banks off our coasts, well supplied with fresh bait, acts injuriously upon the local catch of codfish, and reduces to an alarming extent the catch of Newfoundland fishermen, and to this cause we all attribute the short catch the past summer by our fishermen along our south-western coasts.

"I have not in any former year known of such a general run of small fish as marks the character of the fishery the past season.

(Signed) "JOHN HARRIS, his ✕ mark."

Sworn before me at Great Harbour, Connaigre Bay, Newfoundland, this 14th day of November, 1876.

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

Snook Cairns, aged forty years, fishermen, residing at Great Jervis, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—

"I have followed the fisheries since I was ten years of age. I have seen United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood. The past summer I saw three; the 'Etta E. Turner' was one, the 'Blue Wave,' of Marble Head, was another. The three schooners were about 50 tons. They came to purchase bait in Bay Despair. I sold bait to these three vessels; one of them thirty-four barrels; the other two between them had about ninety barrels herrings. The price paid was 1 dollar per barrel.

"Newfoundland fishermen catch cod-fish within three miles of the shore. The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery. The caplin, herrings, and squid fisheries are inshore fisheries. Never heard of a Newfoundland vessel fishing on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

"I believe there are over forty United States vessels frequent Fortune Bay for frozen herrings and salted herrings. I think the large number of American fishing-vessels fishing on the Banks is very hurtful to our local fishery. They are constantly supplied with fresh bait. The French use salt; and doubtless the fresh bait used on the ground attracts the fish more than the salt, and prevents its passing in for the shore.

"I think the American fishermen this summer on the Banks have affected our local fishery injuriously, and that the short catch this year is attributable to their operations on the Banks.

(Signed) "SNOOK CAIRNS, his ✕ mark."

Sworn before me, at Great Jervis, Newfoundland, 11th of November, 1876.

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

Richard Rose, aged seventy years, residing at Great Harbour, Connaigre Bay, in Fortune Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—

"I have followed the fishery in Newfoundland since I was ten or twelve years of age, and know every turn of it.

"I have observed many American fishing vessels in this neighbourhood. Until the last year and a half I have seen large numbers of United States fishing vessels