

- Q. You cannot tell what was the practice previously in this respect? A. No.
- Q. You cannot tell how the clerk made up the statement for the time previous to your term of office? A. I cannot tell; of course my clerk derived his information from the books.
- Q. You cannot tell whether this was taken solely from the books,—you have not examined the books? A. No; as I said before, the clerk did this. My business is simply executive, and I do not perform clerical work myself.
- Q. Suppose that a vessel starts for the St. Lawrence and is not heard from, how is it entered? A. The owner gives the best information that he can, on the subject.
- Q. It is entered, lost at sea? A. Yes.
- Q. This statement embraces the year of the great gale? A. It includes all the years back, until 1831.
- Q. How did you arrive at these valuations? A. We got them from the office.
- Q. At the time the vessels were lost? A. As near the time as possible.
- Y. During the years in which these occurred, at any rate? A. Yes; a direct report is now required of us regarding every vessel that is lost; as soon as we know that a vessel is lost, we are obliged to make a report embracing the facts.
- Q. Did that rule extend to 1831, when this list commences? A. No; those values were taken simply from the yearly returns.
- Q. These are approximate values? A. They must be so, I think, as a general thing,—except within the last 8 years.
- Q. How did you obtain the valuation of the *Amazon*, the first vessel? A. That was probably the owner's report at the time when he made the report to the Custom House.
- Q. You have never examined the books to see? A. No, not myself personally. I made it up from my clerk's return.
- Q. I see that some vessels in the first part of the list are charged as if made to the Bay of Chaleurs;—are you aware that formerly the Bay of St. Lawrence was called the Bay of Chaleurs? A. Yes.
- Q. When it speaks of the Bay of Chaleurs, I suppose that somewhere in the Gulf is meant? A. Yes.
- Q. This list embraces Newfoundland, too? A. Yes.
- Q. And the Banks? A. If on the Banks, I suppose, offshore here. I think that all the places are designated as nearly correct as possible.
- Q. Are they all fishing, or are some trading vessels? A. I think that they are about all fishing vessels.
- Q. The lost vessels, *Alexandria* and *Queen of Clippers*, are charged for 1858 to Newfoundland;—are you aware whether any fishing vessels then went to Newfoundland? A. In 1858?
- Q. Yes. A. Oh, yes, I think they did. I think that the Newfoundland frozen herring business has been pursued for some time in American vessels.
- Q. You do not accurately remember the first year when they went there? A. No. The statement simply covers, as far as my memory is concerned, my own term of office. I was away previous to that time.
- Q. Is there an entry in your books giving, for instance, the value of this vessel, the *Alexandria*, lost in 1858 at Newfoundland? A. I presume so, from the report made by the clerk to me; that paper was prepared in the same manner as was the case with these other papers.
- Q. Do you know what the total number is when added up—is it 105? A. I think it is about 105.
- Q. Down to the end of 1875, 101 vessels were lost in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Newfoundland fisheries, according to your return? A. And on the coast of Nova Scotia, I suppose.
- Q. This return embraces all the British Provinces? A. Yes.
- Q. Of course they may have been lost on their way up from Gloucester? A. Yes, I cannot say as to that.
- Q. I find in Proctor's book concerning the fisheries of Gloucester, which has been quoted here so frequently, a table giving the losses of fishing vessels from 1830 to 1875 inclusive, the total number being 333 vessels; and the difference between your return and this return would represent vessels lost in fisheries, other than those mentioned in your return? A. Of course.
- Q. 101 during this period were lost in our fisheries, and 232 in yours? A. I would say that most of those statistics are made up from our office.
- Q. Have you made up a statement to show the percentage of loss? My attention is called to a statement written at the foot of this compilation, in which you say—"Said vessels were mostly engaged in the Bay of St. Lawrence fisheries": then evidently some of these vessels were not engaged in those fisheries? A. Most certainly.
- Q. They were traders probably? A. They were engaged in other fisheries probably; they might have been engaged in the Bank fishery and still have been lost on the coast of Nova Scotia.
- Q. There is also added—"And in the immediate neighborhood of the British Provinces"? A. You are to understand that our vessels fish off the British Provinces; and their losses are reported to us by their owners for the different points wherever the vessel may have been lost, as nearly as can be ascertained. I suppose that is the idea which they wish to convey.
- Q. When you wrote "were mostly engaged," you had in your mind the idea that some of them were engaged in other pursuits than those which are specially mentioned? A. I meant that they were engaged in fishing at other points besides the Bay of St. Lawrence, about the British Provinces; that is intended to cover the whole of the Nova Scotia and Newfoundland shores. They go in, in case of storms.
- Q. Have you never had occasion to ascertain the percentage of loss of your fishing vessels? A. Myself?
- Q. Yes? A. No, I have never made that a subject for specific statistics at any time.
- Q. Do you know whether this loss exceeds $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent? A. For the entire fleet?
- Q. Yes. A. I could not ascertain that without going into the figures.
- Q. And you never have ascertained it? A. No.
- Q. Have you ascertained in conversation with leading men, whether it has been more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent? A. Not in that form.
- Q. In what form have you done so? A. We always understand that we lose from 10 to 15 vessels and from 100 to 150 men every year in our general fisheries.
- Q. That does not show what the percentage is? A. Not by any means.
- Q. What percentage is this loss; for instance, would $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. insurance cover all such losses? A. You mean, whether $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the whole fleet is lost? I suppose that the loss would fully equal that.
- Q. And you think it would not be more? A. I know that it would not be a great deal more than that.
- Q. And the difference between that and what was charged for insurance, would represent the profits made? A. I do not know what you mean.
- Q. I want to ascertain the value of the vessels that leave Gloucester to pursue the fishing business, and whether $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of that valuation would cover the loss that is incurred here? A. Allow me one mo-