

5. I would account for the increase in the number of boats, and the increased attention given to the business, by referring to the increase of population. There are greater numbers of fishermen springing up all the time, they are more enterprising, and they find the business pays. The boat fishing also affords employment to numbers of men.

6. With some few exceptions, the boats get their fish close to the shore. The best fishing ground is looked upon as inside of three miles of the shore.

7. For the last ten years the American fleet fishing off the coast has averaged, I should say, about five hundred sail. When the cutters are not here, the Americans must catch three quarters of their fish in shore. When the cutters were here they also caught more fish within three miles of the shore than outside, but not so much as when the cutters were away. They used to dodge the cutters and get in shore. There were not enough cutters to keep them off altogether. The Americans were frightened off a good deal by the cutters. If the Americans were prevented from fishing within three miles of the shore, it would not be worth their while to fit out for the Gulf Fishery. It would not pay them.

8. When the Americans come down they do a great deal of harm to the boats, as they throw a great deal of bait and draw the fish out. They come in-shore, throw out bait and draw the mackerel out after them. This leaves our boats without fish and destroys their chance of a catch. They have better bait than we have, and are enabled to do this damage.

9. Our fishermen look upon the coming of the Americans as an injury to the boat and island fishermen; the vessels draw away the fish. The fleet, in fact, puts an end to the good fishing, and are the cause of great loss to us.

10. The Americans, when they see boats getting fish, come up and "lee-bow" them, thus depriving the boats of the fish. "Lee-bowing" is getting to windward of the tide or current and throwing out bait and drawing of the fish. The American schooners also frequently drift down upon our boats when the latter have to get out of the way. The boats are often injured by the vessels drifting down on them.

11. It would certainly be an advantage to the Americans to be able to trans-ship their fish here. They would thus be able to fit out again for fishing and go back to the grounds without losing much time; whereas, if they had to go home, with their loads, they would lose from three to four weeks right in the middle of the fishing season. It would be also a great advantage as enabling them to watch the fluctuations of the mackerel market which is very variable.

12. The mackerel season here lasts from about the end of June till the middle of October. The Americans get here about the end of June. Some of them are off here now.

13. The mackerel I believe come down from the direction of the Magdalen Islands, or from the southward and eastward and work northward and westward till some time in August and then work back, and they strike this island both ways. The Americans follow the course of the fish.

Sworn to at Tignish, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, this 28th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

S. F. ARSINEAUX.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY.

J. P. for Prince County, Prince Edward Island.

## NO. 5.

I, Alexander Francis Larkin, of Nail Pond, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, fish trader and fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing and in the fishing business practically for over twenty years, in both boats and vessels, and know the fishing grounds right round this Island, particularly the north end of this Island. I have been on board of fishing schooners four years, in one of which I owned an interest, and the last year I was master of her.

2. The first two years that I was on board a schooner was in the "Pearl," with Captain Champion one year and with Captain Fidele Gallant another year. Our catch of fish that year was small, as we were not fitted out for the business, and were only out a small part of the season. That was eighteen or nineteen years ago.

3. That I fished in the schooner "Rechabite" for about two years, but only for part of the season. I owned a third interest in her, and the second year I was master of her. She was thirty-seven tons burden. She was only out about five weeks that year, as we took freight both Spring and Fall. We caught in that time about three hundred quintals of codfish each year. All these fish were caught within three miles of the shore.

4. The American schooners often very seriously interfere with our cod-fishing schooners, as they often carry away the nets our schooners have out for catching bait. The greater part, I should say nine-tenths, of our Island-catch of codfish are caught within three miles of the shore. Another very serious trouble that the Americans cause our cod-fishing within three miles of the shore is, that when we put out our set-lines, the Americans, when springing their vessels up to anchor for the purpose of fishing mackerel, often in getting in their gear, interfere with our set-lines, and this trouble is increasing, as we are going more in for set-lines now. The set-lines are now taking the place of hand-lines, and the Island