

the Department of Marine, was loaned to this department for the work, which she satisfactorily performed during the fall close season.

The opinion expressed in previous reports that a vigorous protection of the valuable fishing industry of these waters had become an urgent necessity, is more than justified by the excellent results which have crowned this year's operations.

To properly accomplish the end in view, it is, however, admitted that the services of a larger and more powerful vessel are requisite.

Plans and specifications for a vessel of this class have been prepared, and it is the intention of the department to proceed with its construction without delay, in order that the vessel may be available for the services during the coming season.

During the past season, but one seizure of United States vessels became necessary; that of the schooner "F. D. Hodgkins," which was seized at Fox Bay, Anticosti, by the SS. "La Canadienne," for fishing within the three-mile limit.

The vessel was taken to Gaspé, and proceedings were instituted in the Admiralty Court, but on the urgent plea of the master that he was ignorant of the law, thinking they had the same right at Anticosti as at the Magdalen Islands, and that his action was not a wilful violation of the law, the vessel was released on the payment of a fine of two thousand dollars.

The Act of 1890, providing for the issue of licenses to United States fishing vessels, having expired on the 31st December of that year, and in view of the late date of the meeting of Parliament, authority was obtained from His Excellency in Council to issue *ad interim* receipts for similar privileges on the same conditions, pending legislative action in that direction; such receipts to be replaced by formal licenses on the passage of the requisite statute.

On the 10th July, 1891, an Act was assented to providing for the issue of licenses to United States fishing vessels, permitting them during the calendar year to enter ports on the Atlantic Coast of the Dominion of Canada, for the purposes of:—

- (a.) The purchase of bait, ice, seines, lines and all other supplies and outfits;
- (b.) The transhipment of catch, and the shipping of crews.

United States fishing vessels to a large extent took advantage of the renewed privilege, as shown by the following figures:—

	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Amount Collected.
1888.....	36	2,554	\$ 3,831 00
1889.....	78	6,393	9,589 50
1890.....	119	9,641	14,461 50
1891.....	98	7,399	11,098 50

The list of fishing vessels to which licenses were issued during 1891 is printed in Part II of this report.

It is noticeable that although United States vessels were enabled to obtain licenses free of charge from Newfoundland for the purpose of procuring fresh bait, and the above figures show a decrease of 21 in the number of vessels which took such licenses in 1891 as compared with 1890, there is an actual increase of 20 vessels over 1889, when the licenses issued by Newfoundland and Canada on the same terms were jointly valid in the Dominion and Newfoundland respectively.

This is evidence of the value of the above privilege to the United States vessels. These advantages have also been frankly admitted by the owners and masters of vessels