

"I only know of American vessels having transhipped cargoes in this bay from one American vessel to another. I think the supply of fresh herrings in summer to United States fishermen lessens the supply to our local fishermen; this is particularly the case when large quantities are 'barred' in seines, which prevents herrings playing about the adjacent coves and harbours, as they otherwise would do. I am of opinion that the presence of the large numbers of United States fishing vessels on the banks off our coasts using fresh bait has the effect of reducing the catch by our local fishermen, and is acting ruinously upon our cod fishery. I am also of opinion that the scarcity of cod fish this year along our south-west coasts has been caused by the Americans fishing on the outer banks as aforesaid.

"By a careful comparison of the yield per man previous to and since 1874, I find by reference to the books of the firm under my management that, whereas before 1874 the catch per man was equal to an average of seventy-nine quintals per man, since 1874 it has decreased to an average of thirty-four quintals per man.

"The difference is equal to 45 quintals, or 225 dollars for each fisherman in the bay, there being about 1,500 fishermen in the district of Fortune Bay.

"The estimate of fresh herrings sold to the French at St. Pierre in April each year amounts to 50,000 barrels, the price paid from 1 to 16 francs, an average of about 10 francs per barrel would be fair. In some years twice the quantity of herrings sold are destroyed, being thrown away as useless.

(Signed) "HENRY T. HOLMAN."

Sworn before me at Harbour Briton this 15th day of November, 1876.

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

Henry Camp, aged 57 years, Sub-Collector Her Majesty's Customs, residing at Push Through Hermitage Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith, that:—

"I have in various ways been connected with the fisheries of Newfoundland for forty years.

"I have observed American fishing vessels fishing off both east and west of Pass Island. I cannot name the vessels, nor state the number, nor particulars of tonnage. I know they come there to fish. I know also that the United States fishing vessels come to Great Jéovis to purchase bait. I never knew any to catch bait for themselves, because they can purchase cheaper.

"The description of fish taken by United States fishing vessels in this locality is confined to halibut and cod-fish.

"I have only seen United States fishing vessels fishing within the 'three miles' limits off Pass Island.

"Newfoundland fishermen catch fish (cod) from thirty yards to three miles from the shore. The Newfoundland fishery is, generally, an inshore fishery. Herring, caplin, are always inshore fisheries; squids, invariably inshore, but occasionally taken on St. Peter's Bank. As regards the fishery of Newfoundland, squids are always taken inshore.

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

"I have heard that the United States fishermen sold small cod-fish to the Messrs. Burke, of St. Jacques, but as to quantity, I cannot give particulars.

"From forty to sixty—averaging fifty—United States vessels frequent Fortune Bay for the purchase of frozen and salted herrings—principally frozen. They have not caught herrings, but purchase.

"United States fishermen have not within the last three years fished for halibut or other fish on this section of the coast; they having previously swept that ground. American fishermen have not fished for turbot in this neighbourhood.

"I do not know of any United States vessels here about transhipping cargo.

"I am of opinion that the system of seining herrings has the effect of making it more difficult to catch in nets.

"I am of the opinion that the constant supply of fresh bait to United States fishing vessels tends to reduce the local catch of cod-fish materially.

"I also think that the scarcity of fish this summer on our south-west coasts has been caused by the Americans fishing on the outer banks. Americans do greater harm than the French in this way; the former always using fresh bait, whereas the latter fish with salt bait. Americans, too, fish much nearer our shores than do the French.