

NEWFOUND-
LAND.

destroyed, and the damage done was 20*l*.; knowing this to be a false statement, and also the nets being placed in the fairway, declined to pay anything.

There were only four schooners.

CHARLES HARBOUR, September 29th.—There were a few Newfoundland schooners here, and one trader from Halifax. The fishing had been bad.

ST. ANTHONY'S, October 1st.—For shelter; found all the French fishing population gone after a very bad season.

CAPE ROUGE, October 3rd.—For the purpose of obtaining a deposition from the caretaker of the French fishing stages, relative to the destruction of property, the result of which I reported to his Excellency, Colonel Stephen J. Hill, C.B., in my letter of the 23rd instant.

This was the last port I visited prior to returning to St. John's, nearly all fishing, except the late cod, having ceased.

I may mention that I was unsuccessful in visiting as many rivers in this island as I wished, to prevent illegal netting, which, in some places, is carried on to a great extent, one river, as I was informed, Great Cordroy, being netted across for nearly nine miles up; owing to no harbour at the mouth, and bad weather, I was unable to go there.

With the exception of Castor's River, I had no complaint of French fishermen in the rivers.

The usual questions as to how far the French had a right to fish on the coast, and whether they were permitted to take salmon and herring, were frequently met with, it being difficult to persuade the Newfoundlanders that the term "fish" in French means all fish, they considering "cod" only as fish.

I was unfortunate on my cruise down the N.E. shore not to find the French senior officer, owing to war having occurred between France and Prussia, so was unable to settle some matters relative to the fishing of the two nationalities in person, particularly that relating to the Isles of Groais and Belle Isle, lat. 50° 45' N., long. 55° 30' W.

These being situated ten miles from the shore, the Newfoundlanders urge they are not French coast, and the Treaty states, "that the fishery assigned to the subjects of his most Christian Majesty, beginning at Cape St. John, passing to the North, and descending by the Western Coast of the Island of Newfoundland, shall extend to the place called Cape Ray, situated in 47° 50' latitude." The French claim and use these islands for fishing on.

In conclusion, I may state that, I heard fewer grievances from the Newfoundland men on the coast than usual, as they are beginning to understand the French have the right of the coast line according to Treaty, which right has always been to them considered as unfair, and want of proper notices, and also having been misinformed to the contrary by people who have misinterpreted the Treaty.

I have endeavoured to remedy this, both last year and the present one, by advice to the Newfoundland fishermen, and, in some cases, by written notices, intrusted to the guardians of the French property, in case of encroachments, to prevent any breach of the Treaty.

RUSSELL S. PASLEY,
Commander and Senior Naval Officer on the Fisheries.
