

second seventy-three barrels. Both catches were all made nearly thirty miles from land. No mackerel were then taken by the American fleet off the coast of the United States excepting a long distance from land, none were taken within three miles of the coast.

3. In the year 1852 I came to Prince Edward Island, and in the year 1854 settled at Tignish and engaged in the business of coopering and fishing. I kept a fishing stage and employed a number of boats and men, and have continued steadily in the business ever since.

4. In 1860 I removed my business to Alberton, and I am now largely engaged in the business, employing one schooner, ten boats, and fifty-six men.

5. The increase in the boat fishing has been large of late years. The numbers and the catch of the boats have more than trebled since 1854.

6. From Hardy's Channel to Kildare Cape, a distance of about thirty miles, there are seven fishing stages, and in the harbour of Cascumpec alone there are thirty-nine large fishing boats, the average cost of which is about three hundred dollars.

7. All the mackerel taken in and around this part of the coast, for many miles, are taken at a distance between one quarter of a mile and two miles from the shore. A few may be taken outside of two miles from the shore, but none are taken outside of three miles.

8. The average catch of the boats for a period of twenty years has been from seventy to eighty barrels of mackerel each every season.

9. The American fleet have largely frequented this coast. I would say that from 1854 to 1874 the average number of the mackerel fleet of American vessels frequenting the Gulf of St. Lawrence ranged between four hundred and four hundred and fifty per season.

10. A large portion of this fleet frequent the shores around Cascumpec and take their catches there. They catch their fish close to the shore, about the same distance as the boats, that is between one quarter and two miles from the shore. A very small proportion of the catch of the American fleet is taken outside of the three miles. The practice of the fleet is to run in close to the shore, throw out bait and drift off, sometimes taking the schools of fish with them.

11. The boats fishermen dislike the presence of the American fleet very much. It interferes sadly with the catch of the boats. The Americans dress their fish on the deck and throw the offal overboard, and this offal destroys the fishing grounds.

12. In my opinion, nine-tenths of the fish taken by the American fishermen are taken within the three miles from shore, and I am quite sure if they were excluded from these limits they would have to abandon the fisheries in the Gulf altogether. It would be useless and senseless for them to prosecute the business.

13. If American fishermen were excluded from our waters I would not care for the duty of two dollars per barrel levied in the United States. The demand for mackerel is well known, the quantity required is known, and we would have the business to a large extent in our own hands if the Americans were excluded from our shores. If they increased the duty, the consumers would still, in my opinion, have to pay the increase.

14. The privilege of landing to get supplies and trans-ship is a very valuable one. The mackerel season is very short, and this privilege is equal to an extra trip and is so looked upon by the Americans.

15. The new mode of fishing with purse seines has a very bad effect on the fishery. It not only entirely disturbs and scares away the fish, but a very large number of small mackerel and other kinds of fish are taken and destroyed, thrown away dead, and the waters thus polluted.

Sworn to this third day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOHN D. WHITE.

STANISLAUS F. PERY,

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

No. 4.

I, Sylvan F. Arsineaux, of Tignish, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, Inspector of fish, make oath and say:

1. I have had charge of a fishing stage for the last twenty years, on this shore. I used, during that time, to be myself actually engaged in fishing, always in boats. I am now Fish Inspector for this County.

2. There are over two hundred and thirty boats engaged in the fisheries between Mimmigash and Kildare. I know this from my own actual experience. The average catch of mackerel would be about forty-five barrels for each boat; of codfish and hake the average for all the boats would be about forty quintals each. The average catch of herring for all boats would be about twenty barrels; the fishermen only try to get enough herring for mackerel bait and for home use.

3. The boats have trebled in number in the last ten years, and they are three times better boats; they are larger, better sailers, better rigged and fitted out. There is a large amount more money invested in the boat business than there was ten years ago. The business has enormously increased.

4. The boats carry, on an average, crews of four men each.