

Mr. Nicholas Coady called—and on his evidence being read to him, he in like manner affirmed the evidence he had given the day previous ; and in addition states—

That in Bay de Verdes, in Conception Bay, a similar dispute between the hook-and-line and cod-seine fishermen, as that which occurred in Bay Bulls during the past year, took place ; and that the hook-and-line fishermen prevented the hauling of the cod-seines, in consequence of their being unable to catch any fish while the cod-seines were on the ground, since which the cod-seines have not been used there ; in consequence of which the hook-and-line fishermen have been making good voyages, and last year especially they were very successful ; and he is of opinion, had no objection been raised to the use of the cod-seine in Bay Bulls last season, they would in all probability have continued hauling their seines the whole season, and completely destroyed the hook-and-line fishery.

MR. JOHN FURLONG, of Bay Bulls, hook-and-line fisherman—

Heard Mr. N. Coady's evidence read, and corroborates all contained therein.

In answer to an interrogatory put by the Committee—

Thinks the mesh in the Bunt of the cod-seine at present used too small ; it should be from 4 to 4½ inches, to prevent the destruction of the small fish.

MR. SAMUEL MULLOWNEY, Bay Bulls, hook-and-line fisherman :

Mr. Nicholas Coady's statement was read to him, which he corroborates.

He thinks, with last witness, that the mesh in the bunt of the cod-seine is too small, and for the same reasons. Remembers nearly 50 years ago of a cod-seine being cut at Point Lance near Cape St. Mary's, in consequence of being too small in the mesh ; and the party owning the seine having applied for redress from the Magistrate at Trepassey, was himself fined for having a seine with too small a mesh.

MR. MICHAEL COADY, Bay Bulls,

In answer to an interrogatory put to him by the Committee—

Thinks 3½ inches in the bunt of a cod-seine a fair size, and that a mesh of a less size than that is destructive to the small fish. He states that he remembers, about 52 years ago, the bunt of his father's seine being condemned as too small, and contrary to law ; recollects hearing of an Act regulating the size of the mesh, and levying a fine of fifty pounds on parties shooting a seine with a mesh of a less size than that prescribed by said Act ; does not recollect the size of the mesh so prescribed ; knows that his father was obliged to import a new bunt for his seine from England of the proper size according to law.

MR. THOMAS DRISCOLL, Bay Bulls :

The evidence given by Mr. Martin Williams before the Committee on the 7th instant, having been read to Mr. Driscoll, he corroborates generally Mr. Williams's statement, and in addition, says—that he did not, last fishing season, shoot his seine further from the shore, nor did he interfere with the fishing boats using the hook-and-line any more than he has done within the last eight years ; that he never shoots his seine upon what is termed a fishing ledge ; always has one arm as close to the rocks as he can go ; that he has never hauled small fish for the purpose of retaining the liver and throwing the fish away ; the size of the mesh in the seine he fishes with is the same as the size generally imported ; he thinks the disputes alluded to can be easily settled on the plan suggested by Mr. Williams. On the 15th July last his seine was capsized with a great deal of fish in it ; he offered the man who capsized it the full of his boat of fish, which he refused ; and on the 18th of same month he had about 80 quintals of fish capsized out of his cod-bags. On one occasion during last fishing season he went to Fresh-water, where he saw no fishing boats with whom the shooting of his seine could interfere, and having shot his seine, several parties who were on shore curing fish came off and capsized his cod-seine ; he immediately hauled it in and returned home, as he found he could not use it outside of the harbour, where there was any fish going, in consequence of the interruption he received from the hook-and-line fishermen.

MR. JOHN WILLIAMS, Bay Bulls.

Corroborates generally Mr. M. William's evidence, and further states that he never shot his seine on a fishing ledge ; has never hauled small fish for the sake of the liver, nor has he ever known it to be done ; his cod-seine is 3½ inches in the bunt, and 4½ inches in the arms.

MR. MICHAEL BRINE, Bay Bulls.

Has always known cod-seines to be hauled on a fishing ground called Pig's Ledge. Never knew a cod-seine to be hauled on what is termed a fishing-ledge. The size of his cod-seine is 3½ inches in the bunt and 4½ inches in the arms. Does not think any law can be made to satisfy both parties—thinks the present common law sufficient. Is of opinion that if the boats fished in the same depth of water as they did formerly, the cod-seines would not interfere with them. His recollection goes as far back as 45 years, and the ground in dispute called Pig's Ledge was never until lately used but as a place of shelter. Has been master of a fishing-boat for 30 years, and never caught 20 qtls. fish on Pig's Ledge.