

A. One hundred and thirty-three families.

Q. Of what Country?

A. All Canadians and Acadians.

Q. How do these people earn their living?

A. By the Cod Fishery and pursuit of the Sea Cow? but the latter ceased about seventeen years ago, and no longer exists.

Q. How did Sir Isaac Coffin gain possession of those Islands?

A. I have heard that those Islands were given to Sir Isaac Coffin for his meritorious services as a British Admiral.

Q. Did Sir Isaac know or was he ignorant that those Islands were settled?

A. He knew it.

Q. Do you know whether Sir Isaac has caused to be paid or has enacted Rents from Persons who were so in possession of lands in the said Islands?

A. He caused each person, or every person in possession of a fishing ground, to pay six dollars a year for the ground from the moment of his taking possession. He then leased the Islands to one Mr. Irvine of Halifax for the term of five years; at the expiration of which Sir Isaac after a Law Suit with Mr. Irvine, demanded of the inhabitants the rent for five years, but most of the inhabitants constantly refused to pay the rent exacted, and the matter is in litigation at the present moment.

Q. Are the inhabitants of those Islands satisfied with the conduct of Sir Isaac Coffin?

A. They complain of it. They have often demanded of him, and once more especially in my presence, that they would put them in possession of their Fishing grounds, but he has constantly refused to grant those lands to them, saying they belonged to him, and that he demanded the above mentioned rent of six dollars. The inhabitants very often suffer great inconvenience from the Shipwrecks which frequently happen on those Islands, being each family sometimes obliged to support three or four persons who would perish without such succour. Whereby those poor inhabitants are very often exposed to want provisions for themselves by reason of their remoteness from the Island of Saint John, or other places whence provisions can be had, besides that for six or seven months in the winter the communication with every other part of the world is entirely cut off.

Q. Is the Fishery considerable at present?

A. The Fishery has greatly diminished for fifteen or sixteen years, and is at present less than it was formerly by one third.

Captain Fougère wishes to add that the inhabitants, instead of being discouraged by annual rents, ought rather to receive encouragement to remain there, and that stores ought to be established there because of the Shipwrecks which annually take place there