

This present season we went from York, Maine, to Gulf of St. Lawrence, codfishing, in schooner *Anna P. Mason*, 30 tons, carries 9 men. Commenced to fit the 1st of July; took no bait from home; bought ice in the Gut of Canso; paid \$3 per ton for it; went up off Point Miscou; caught our bait on the grounds,—i. e., that is, 15 miles off the shore,—in nets; the bait was herring, and commenced fishing with trawls; was there a fortnight; took 25,000 lbs. split fish; threw most of the offal overboard. There were 10 other American vessels fishing at the same place; saw 20 Nova Scotia vessels up and down P. E. Island, fishing for codfish using hand lines. They throw over the offal as we do. Never knew of over 30 sail of American vessels in the Gulf codfishing. I should say there were 100 sail of American vessels mackereling. I know that while I have been in the Gulf of St. Lawrence that not one-tenth part of the whole American catch of mackerel is taken within three miles of the shore. We have always thrown overboard the fish gurry, and I never have noticed any diminution of fish on that account. The American fleet fish in 20 fathoms of water, and they throw over their gurry in this deep water. We bought some supplies on our way home. I know of no inshore fishery for codfish now pursued by American vessels in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The vessels in Maine can obtain any quantity of porgie slivers and clams for bait at home, but it is cheaper to catch the bait on the Banks. Bait was scarce on this trip on the fishing grounds. We could have obtained bait from the British shore fishermen at about the same price as it would cost to take it from home; but we prefer to take the chance of getting it on the fishing ground. There used to be quite a number of vessels from Maine pursue the codfishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, but of late years this has fallen off greatly.

The fishermen have put their vessels into the American shore mackerel fishery, which has been very much more profitable of late years. This present trip my crew shared \$30 each; time employed, six weeks. I have been master of the schooners *Joe Hooker*, *Metacom*, *Iris*, *A. H. Mason*.

JOHN GLENN,

*Master of Schooner A. H. Mason, York, Me.*

GLOUCESTER, Aug. 25, 1877.

Personally appeared the above named John Glenn, and swore that the above statement by him subscribed, is true, before me.

ADDISON CARTER,

*Justice of the Peace*

## No. 266.

GLOUCESTER, August 31, 1877.

I, John P. Hutchinson, master of the schr. *Robert T. Clark*, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, do, on oath, depose and say, that I was born in New York, am 54 years of age, and have just returned from a voyage to Gottenburg, Sweden. I started from Gloucester, the 21st of April, 1877, and went to the Magdalen Islands for herring. I carried no nets from Gloucester, but in the Straits of Canso. I hired one seine and two boats, and 4 men, all British subjects. At the Island, the seine, manned by the owners, and some 6 others that I hired there, took about 400 barrels of herring. All the labor of taking, packing, etc., was done by British subjects, and their service paid for in cash. I also bought 200 barrels of herring from other British fishermen, paying about 25 cents per barrel, landed on board my vessel. Not being able to get as many herring as I wanted at the Magdalens, I started on the 20th of May for Fortune Bay. There were 30 American vessels at the Magdalen Islands after herring, buying and hiring the herring caught, the same as I was. Arrived at Fortune Bay on the 25th of May, and bought 1,300 barrels of herring from the people on shore, paid 80 cents per barrel in gold.

Left Fortune Bay the 18th of June, and arrived at Gottenburg on the 5th of July, herring in good order, and sold slow, and at prices that will not more than pay the expenses of the voyage. I found the people at Fortune Bay very desirous to sell.

My voyage was as much a commercial voyage, as if I were buying potatoes or any other product of the Dominion; and all of the herring taken by other vessels, so far as I could observe, were bought and paid for in the same manner as I bought. I carried 2,000 bbls from Eastport which were never landed at Fortune Bay, but I was obliged to pay duties on them. I also paid light dues, \$45.

I have never been in the fishing business, and as far as my observation goes, the trade with the American vessels at Newfoundland and the Magdalens is a source of profit, and large gains to the people there.

The *Joseph Wilder*, an American vessel, was at Gottenburg when I was, and her cargo of herring was half rotten. Taking the whole of the European trade in herring, sent from this side, I should say, on the whole, that there has been no money made in it by Americans. This trade is experimental, and the full results are, so far, not very satisfactory.

JOHN P. HUTCHINSON.