

to increase their immediate profits, is now being felt, not only by themselves but by others, and is fast sapping the source from which the supply has been drawn, and I am of opinion that they are ready to grasp at any excuse to escape from the consequences of their cupidity and folly. It is my opinion that if the French do not alter their system of fishing, or get new ground to fish on, a very few years will witness a material falling off in their fishing interest at St. Pierre and Newfoundland.

As no arrangement can be come to with the French, the true policy will be to confine them strictly to the grounds they already possess, and on no account extend their fishing privileges. The British and United States authorities can then save, protect, and foster all the fishing grounds which the French are debarred from using.

April 5th, 1862.

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(No. 11.)

TRAWL-NETS.

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Two kinds of net properly bearing this name are in use among professional fishermen, viz., the beam-trawl and the pole-trawl. Another net, designated a "trawl," was formerly employed for catching herrings by the fishermen of Loch Fyne, and of some other parts of the west coast of Scotland, but as it was used as a sweep or circle-net it may be more suitably described under the head of seines; its use in the districts mentioned is at present prohibited by Act of Parliament.

The *Beam-trawl*. In describing this particular form of net we may take as a fair example such a trawl as is employed by the large deep-sea trawlers of Torbay and the North Sea.

It consists of a triangular purse-shaped net about 70 feet long, usually having a breadth of 40 feet at the mouth, and gradually diminishing to four or five feet at the commencement of the "cod," as the smaller end of the net is called. This part of the trawl, about 10 feet long, continues of a nearly uniform breadth to the extremity, which is closed by a draw-rope when the net is used. The upper part of the mouth, the "square of the net," is secured to a wooden beam about 40 feet long which keeps the net open; this beam is supported on two upright iron frames, three feet high, known as the "trawl-heads, or irons," each having a socket above to receive the end of the beam, and a thick flattened shoe below to bear on the ground. The under side of the net corresponds to the back, except at the mouth, where, instead of being square with the beam, it is made with a deeply-curved margin which is bordered by the ground-rope — a stout piece of old rope covered over or "rounded" with smaller rope to protect it from chafing when the trawl is being worked over the bottom; the ground-rope thus having the front edge of the under part of the net attached to it, extends with a long sweep from one trawl-head to the other, each end of the rope being made fast at the back of the shoe; its whole length therefore nests on the ground. The cod or small end of the trawl is usually strength-