

four hundred American vessels around the before-mentioned coasts taking mackerel. During the past two years I have seen at one time in sight, five American vessels engaged in taking codfish on the southern coast of Nova Scotia, and a great many in sailing along; and at Sable Island this Spring I have seen from fifteen to twenty in sight at one time, engaged in taking codfish."

Benjamin Wentzler, fisherman, Lower LaHave, N. S. :—

1. "I have been engaged in the fisheries for twenty-seven years, up to eighteen hundred and seventy-five inclusive, and fished every year in the North Bay, around Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, eastern side of New Brunswick, and around the Magdalens. I have taken all the fish found in the waters on the above-mentioned coast. I am also well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in Lunenburg County. I have seen often more than a hundred American vessels fishing on the above-named coasts in one fleet together, and I have seen these vessels make off from the shore when a steamer appeared to protect the fishery, and when the smoke of the steamer could not be seen they came in again to the shore. Such large numbers of them made it dangerous for Nova Scotian fishermen, and I have lost many a night's sleep by them, in order to protect our vessels. I have seen in Port Hood harbor about three hundred sail of American vessels at one time, and it is seldom, if ever, that a third of them are in any harbor at one time, and I have been run into by an American schooner in Port Hood Harbor. From 1871 to 1875 inclusive, I have seen the Americans in large numbers around Prince Edward Island, eastern side of New Brunswick, and around Cape Breton. I have seen many American vessels on the above-mentioned coast engaged in taking codfish."

Jeffrey Cook, fisherman, Lunenburg, N. S. :—

2. "While in the Bay of Chaleur, the Summer before last, I saw many American vessels there engaged in fishing, and have also seen many of them there fishing since 1871. I have counted, the Summer before last, fifty American vessels within three-fourths of a mile from each other. The most of the American vessels which I saw, fished inshore around the above-mentioned coasts. I saw them take both codfish and mackerel inshore, within three miles of the shore. Mackerel are taken mostly all inshore, and I would not fit out a vessel to take mackerel unless she fished inshore."

James F. White, Merchant, P. E. Island :—

"13. The mackerel, in Spring, come down the Nova Scotian shore, and then strike up the Bay to the Magdalen Islands, from there some shoals move towards the bend of this Island, and others towards Bay Chaleur, Gaspé, and round there. The Americans are well acquainted with this habit of the mackerel and follow them. They have very smart schooners and follow the fish along the shore, taking their cue, to a great extent, from what they see our boats doing."

John Champion, Fishermen, P. E. Island :—

"13. On an average there are eight hundred American vessels engaged in the cod, hake and mackerel fisheries in the Bay, that is including this Island coast, the Magdalen Islands, the New Brunswick and Nova Scotian coasts. There have been as many as fifteen hundred sail in a season, according to their own accounts. I myself have seen three hundred sail of them in a day."

Wm. Champion, Fishermen, P. E. Island :—

"Was one year in an American vessel, down eastward on this Island, and about Port Hood, Antigonish, Cape George and other places in that direction, the boats and also the American schooners fish close inshore. We fished right up in the Bay Chaleur and round the other shores of the Provinces."

James B. Hadley, Port Mulgrave, Notary Public, merchant :—

"The principal places where the Americans fish for mackerel in the summer months are all over the Gulf of St. Lawrence, off Pomquet Island, Port Hood, Prince Edward Island, in the Northumberland Straits, off Point Miscou, as far up as the Magdalen River, across to the Seven Islands, off and around Magdalen Islands, and in the fall from East Point and the Magdalen Islands and Island Brion, thence to Cape St. Lawrence and Port Hood, and around the eastern shore of Cape Breton to Sydney Harbor. The trawling for codfish is done all around our shores from the first of May till the fall."

George McKenzie, Master Mariner, P. E. Island, was 40 years fishing :—

"When the mackerel strike off for this Island the American schooners never wait along the bight of this Island but press up towards the North Cape, and Miscou, and Mira, and generally along the west coast of New Brunswick and up as far as Seven Islands above Anticosti, as their experience has taught them that that is the quarter where the fish are to be found first. Later on in August and September they come back into the bight of this Island. Nearly all the fish caught during these times are caught near the shores of the British possessions, although there are some American vessels which fished entirely in deep water away from the land, but these are comparatively few."

William H. Sweet, of Fall River, in the State of Massachusetts, United States of America, but now of Port Hood, fisherman :—

"1. I have been engaged in the fishing vessels fitted out by the Americans for the past five years, and have been engaged during that time in fishing in all parts of the Gulf on the coast of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and P. E. Island, and on the shores of the Magdalen Island.

"2. A large number of American vessels have been engaged in fishing in these waters for some years past, taking chiefly mackerel and codfish."

Jas. Archibald, fisherman, of Boston :—

"1. I have been engaged in the fishing business for 20 years past, and during seven years past I have been fishing in American vessels, in American and Canadian waters. I have been engaged in various kinds of fishing on the coasts of Nova Scotia, and Cape Breton, in the Gulf and about the Magdalen Islands, and P. E. Island. I came into this port in an American fishing vessel and have been engaged in fishing here during the present season."

This last is corroborated by Richard Thomas, fisherman, of Booth Bay, Me.

Michael Crispo, Merchant, Harbor au Bouche, N. S. :—

"The mackerel are caught all around the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence."

Thomas C. Roberts, Master Mariner, Cape Canso, N. S. :—

"2. During the years that I was employed in fishing, the number of American vessels fishing for mackerel and codfish in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and on the coast of Nova Scotia, would, to the best of my knowledge, range from six hundred to seven hundred each year. The average number of men to each vessel would be about fifteen."