

No. 2.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

QUEENS COUNTY, to wit :

I, Hugh John Montgomery, of New London, in Prince Edward Island, Merchant, make oath and say :

1. That I am aged thirty-six, and have resided all my life, excepting the last four or five years, on the North Shore of this Island, and have prosecuted the fishing business both in boats and schooners, and profess to have a good knowledge of the business, having been mixed up in it all my life.

That during the past 4 or 5 years I have resided at Clifton, about four miles from the sea shore, and have traded a good deal with the fishermen, and acquired, from actual experience, and from a prolonged and constant intercourse with the fishermen, a thorough knowledge of the different branches of fishing, as carried on along the shores and coasts of this Island.

That one season I commanded a schooner of my own, and fished in her along the North side of this Island, and up the Bay Chaleur. That during the last few years the increase in the boat-fishing around this Island has been enormous, between fifty and sixty boats fishing out of the New London harbour, and from one hundred and fifty to two hundred out of Rustico harbour, while other harbours with which I am not so minutely acquainted, such as Malpeque, Cascumpec, Tignish, Nail Pond, Mimenegash, Egmont Bay, Murray Harbour, Souris, Tracadie, and Saint Peters, send out, every season, very large numbers of well equipped fishing boats.

That during the past winter still larger preparations were made for the coming season, and I fully believe the number of boats fishing around the coasts of this Island will be, this year, largely in excess of previous years. That the increase in the number of fishing boats does not seem in the slightest to lessen the number of fish. On the contrary, from the increased quantity of bait used the effect is rather to keep the fish within the fishing limits where the boats fish.

That from my experience I would be prepared to swear that at least three-fourths of the total quantity of mackerel caught in the schooners are taken within the three mile limit, while of the boats I believe almost the entire catch is taken within such limit.

That for the past two years the American fishing fleet in the Gulf has been small, while for many years previously it would average six hundred sail.

That the presence of the fleet along the shores injured the boat fishing because of the mode of fishing, which was, with the wind off shore, to approach the shore as closely as possible and commence fishing, keeping constantly throwing bait and drifting to sea, taking the mackerel off the shore with them and away from the boats.

That, as a general rule, my experience has led me to conclude that the American fishing vessels usually secured two fares during the season in the Gulf, and in some cases as many as three fares would be secured.

The vessels ranged, as a rule, from sixty to seventy tons, and a single fare would be in the neighbourhood of six hundred or seven hundred barrels.

That in the spring of the year large quantities of herring are taken around our shores, which are used chiefly for mackerel bait.

That during the season I myself commanded my little schooner, whose tonnage amounted to twenty-seven tons, my catch was one hundred and ninety (190) barrels of mackerel only, but this I accounted for because I only fished two months out of the season, the vessel being engaged during the rest of the season in the carrying trade; and during the same season my catch of codfish was one hundred and seventy-five quintals of codfish, and three hundred and fifty barrels of herring.

Sworn to at Charlottetown, in Queen's County, this 18th day of Junc, A. D. 1877, before me, the crasures opposite my initials being first made.

HUGH J. MONTGOMERY.

M. McLEOD,

Commissioner for taking affidavits in the Supreme Court of P. E. Island.

No. 3.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

PRINCE COUNTY, to wit :

I, John D. White, of Alberton, in Prince County in Prince Edward Island, cooper and trader, make oath and say :

1. That I have now resided twenty-five years on Prince Edward Island, during twenty-three years of which I have been engaged in the fishing business.

2. Before coming to Prince Edward Island, namely, in the years forty-one and forty-two I fished off the American coast. The result of the first years catch was one hundred and sixty barrels, and of the