

For the past 20 years the average number of vessels may have been 200 a year ; this year it has not exceeded 50 sail.

We find the fish better and plentier on the American coast for some years past, hence the vessels remain here, I would say that between 500 and 800 is the number of vessels employed, in both American and Canadian waters ; the average tonnage would be about 80 tons, and the average draught would be about 10 feet.

JOHN PEW, Gloucester :—I am engaged in the fishing business ; have the largest business in this line in the United States ; I have examined the route of the proposed canal, and I think if it was constructed it would be of no practical value to American fishermen, and would not be used by them ; they would go by the usual routes. The average tonnage of our vessels is 80 tons, and draft of water 10 feet. The number of vessels large and small engaged in fishing is about 1100. I do not think, that more than 50 out of 500 American vessels have gone to fish in Canadian waters of late years, the great bulk of our fleet fish in our own waters. I own twenty-five vessels, and but two out of that number went out fishing in Canadian waters this year.

B. H. CORLISS, Ship Chandler :—Have been engaged in Commercial business ; our vessels have a dread of going in the Bay of Fundy, and would have more still of going to the head of it, on account of currents, shallow water, fogs, etc. For my part, I would rather go round through the Gut of Canso than use the proposed canal ; if built, I do not think it would be generally used by our fishing vessels.

SYLVANUS SMITH :—Have been 28 years engaged in the fishing business, and know every nook of the coast of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. In reference to the proposed canal, all I can say is that if built, it might be used to some extent ; all would depend on the nature of the wind, &c.

I have never been up at the head of the Bay of Fundy, therefore cannot give any opinion in regard to the navigation there.

There are not more than 70 American vessels in Canadian waters engaged in mackerel fishing this year, and a portion have gone in