

FRIDAY, 21st February 1823.

Mr. TASCHEREAU in the Chair.

Mr. Pierre Doucet appeared.

Q. Do you know the Magdalen Islands?

A. Yes.

Q. What kinds of fisheries are carried on there?

A. The Herring, Seal and Cod Fisheries; formerly the Sea-Cow fishery was carried on there, but it is entirely destroyed.

Q. Whither are the several kinds of fish exported?

A. Great part of the Cod to Halifax and New-Brunswick, and one third to Quebec; the Herring to the West Indies and New Brunswick, and the Seal Oil is brought to Quebec.

Q. Do the Inhabitants complain of any abuses and of a want of Regulations for the Fisheries?

A. Yes: they complain that the Americans and the French come too close to fish, too near the land, and that those Fishermen, the French especially, throw the offal of the Cod-fish on the Fishery Grounds instead of throwing it into deep water, which destroys the Fish.

Q. What Regulations do you suggest?

A. It would be necessary there should be an armed Schooner for the protection of our Fisheries, and to enforce the Regulations which might be made.

Q. What would be the expense of such a Schooner, and what would be the annual expense of supporting it?

A. About eighteen hundred pounds for a Schooner; and to equip the vessel, there would be required at least twenty-four men besides officers, which, for seven months, would cost about a thousand pounds, victualling included.

MONDAY, 24th February 1823.

PRESENT—Messrs. *Taschereau, Quirouet, Taché, M'Callum, E. C. Lagueux* and *Davidson*.

Mr. TASCHEREAU in the Chair.

Your Committee are of opinion that, from the foregoing evidence, the state of the fisheries, and of the trade in fish from this Province, may be sufficiently understood to enable the House to form a just idea of the importance of the subject entrusted to your Committee, and of the urgency of Legislative interference to rescue from impending ruin a neglected though most profitable branch of the Provincial Trade, with Europe, the West Indies and South America.

It appears to your Committee that the principal fisheries in this Province are the Whale, the Porpoise, the Seal, the Cod, the Salmon and the Herring fisheries; Mackerel and Shad have hitherto been taken in such small quantities as to be of little account.