

Gulf of St. Lawrence and return southward to the coasts of the New England States, where it seems they disappear late in the year until about March or April the next season. The mackerel fishery on the Canadian coasts thus commences about April and generally ends about the 1st November, while that off the United States' coasts commences a little earlier and ends a little later than these dates; but it is scarcely probable that during the months when the large body of mackerel appears to travel northward, the catch on the American coast can, as a rule, be equal in quantity or value to that taken in British waters north of the State of Maine.

The fish taken in the spring are poor, and for this quality, termed in the trade "No. 3," 5 dollars to 6 dollars per barrel is a fair average price. The summer mackerel improve in size and price, and these, which are called "No. 2," realize from 8 dollars to 14 dollars a barrel. The "Fall" (autumn), or "No. 1," mackerel is the best quality of the season's catch, and is taken during the months of September and October, and in some years in the latter portion of August. The average price of this class would be, taking one year with another, about 13 dollars a barrel; and within the last seven years it has reached as high as 18 dollars. The price this year in this city is exceptionally high, as much as 24 dollars per barrel being offered at the present moment.

It is estimated that of a whole season's catch one-half would be "No. 1," and the remainder "No. 2" and "No. 3" in about equal proportions.

According to the evidence adduced on the British side, it seems beyond doubt that at least three-quarters of the mackerel taken on the British North American coasts is caught within the three mile limit; while, owing probably to the existence of sandy shoals at some distance from the shore, the catch of this fish in United States' waters, north of the 39th parallel of north latitude, is principally beyond that distance.

I give this as the result of the testimony of a large number of witnesses of undoubted position and integrity, whose practical knowledge of the subject has enabled them to speak with authority; but I must add that I anticipate considerable conflict of testimony on this particular point, if I may judge from the evidence given by two witnesses called, by my permission, on behalf of the United States, during the period allotted to the reception of evidence on the British side.

The herring, invariably taken close inshore, is another very important business from which Americans derive large profits. This fishery is chiefly carried on in the Bay of Fundy, in the vicinity of Grand Manan, and at the Magdalen Islands, as well as to a certain extent along the shores of Cape Breton and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. No claim can, however, be made on account of the fishery at the Magdalen Islands, unless proved to be pursued actually from the shore, as United States' citizens previously, under the Convention of 1818, enjoyed the privilege of fishing, although not of landing, on the coasts of these islands.

The cod fishery is pursued to a limited extent only by United States' fishermen within British territorial waters, and this is probably the case with regard to hake, haddock, pollock, &c.

The halibut fishery has been, and is still, a profitable branch of United States' enterprise; but is not now so extensively pursued as formerly.

With regard to the numbers of United States' vessels engaged in these various branches of the fishing business, it is obviously difficult to arrive at a very satisfactory estimate. The weight of testimony at present adduced appears, however, to point to the following facts:—

Taking an average for the past twenty or thirty years, the number of United States' mackerelmen annually resorting to British North American waters would be about 400 to 600 sail, ranging from 50 to 120 tons each. During the Reciprocity Treaty the numbers were no doubt greater than that given above, but for the past four years they have much declined; and this is a particularly unfortunate circumstance, as these are the first four years of the period for which payment has now to be assessed. It is, however, fair to assume that, as has happened at previous periods, this fishery, like all others, is subject to fluctuations, and that advices of a good catch in British waters may, any year, attract a large number of United States' mackerelmen to these coasts.

The probable annual average catch of each vessel, taking the smaller with the larger tonnage, would be from 600 to 700 barrels.

The herring fishery at Grand Manan is pursued both by vessels and boats from the adjacent United States' coasts, and the average annual catch secured by them