

## No. 272.

I, Alexander McDonald, of Provincetown, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being duly sworn, do depose and say that I am thirty years of age and am the captain of the schooner *Willie A. Jowell*, engaged in fishing for cod upon the Grand Banks and I have returned with one thousand quintals of fish—all taken on trawls. I have been trawling for cod for nine years and until this year have always used salt clams for bait which I carried from home. This year I went to Newfoundland to purchase fresh bait for the first time. I arrived at the Bay of Bulls about the eighteenth day of July to get fresh bait, with seven hundred quintals on board, taken previously with salt clams and squid caught on the Banks. I found no bait at Bay of Bulls and left for Cape Royal finding no bait there either. Then went to Portugal Cove, Conception Bay, where I had to wait five days before I could purchase any bait at all. I then returned to the Banks with twenty barrels of squid for which I paid about thirty cents per hundred, having been absent from the fishing grounds about two weeks. I caught one hundred quintals with the squid I had purchased at Newfoundland, the remainder of the trip I caught with salt bait and what squid I could find on the Banks. I consider it of no advantage to be permitted to purchase bait at Newfoundland, and if I had not wasted so much time in going to Newfoundland after fresh bait I should have caught more fish on the Banks and have come home earlier. I have never fished for bait at Newfoundland but have always purchased it and if excluded from purchasing I certainly should not go to Newfoundland to catch it myself. I consider the trade in bait to be of great advantage to the inhabitants of Newfoundland. While at Portugal Cove I paid William Talk, the collector, sixteen 80-100 dollars (\$16.80) for light dues, being at the rate of twenty four cents per ton, and this due is collected from all American fishing vessels visiting Newfoundland.

ALEX. McDONALD.

Sworn before me at Halifax, this 29th day of September, A. D. 1877.

N. H. MEAGHER,

*Notary Public for the Province of Nova Scotia.*

## No. 273.

I, Alonzo Covey, of Swampscott, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being duly sworn, do depose and say that I am fifty-three years old, and am the captain of the *A. C. Newhall*, a fishing vessel of twenty-nine (29) tons, at present in Halifax, Nova Scotia. I have been engaged in the fishing business, both as captain and hand, for twenty-five years. I have just returned from a trip to the Bay of St. Lawrence, mackerel fishing. I left Swampscott the 28th day of last July, and arrived in the Bay the 7th of August. I first fished near Port Hood, and took four barrels of mackerel six miles from the shore. I then took twenty-five barrels twelve miles broad off Mimmigash. Then fished off Skinneack from 5 to 15 miles from the land, and took the balance of my trip there, with the exception of 14 barrels, which were taken between East Cape and Port Hood. I took one hundred and twenty-five barrels in the Bay, all of which were taken more than three miles from land, except five barrels at North Cape taken inshore. This trip has not been successful. The share of the vessel will not more than pay the cost of the outfit. Before this season I have been engaged in fishing on the United States coast, and my trips there have been much more remunerative than my present trip to the Bay. I do not consider the privilege of fishing within three miles of the Canadian coast of any value to American fishermen, and I should much prefer to be entirely excluded therefrom, and the former duty of two dollars per barrel to be imposed on the Canadian fish.

ALONZO COVEY.

Sworn before me in the City of Halifax, in the County of Halifax, this 29th day of September, A. D., 1877.

ROBT. SEDGEWICK, *Notary Public.*

## No. 274.

I, Edward N. Wilkins, of Swampscott, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being duly sworn, do depose and say that I am forty-two years old. I have been a fisherman for twenty-five years, and am now one of the crew of the schooner *A. C. Newhall*, Captain Covey, and have just returned from the Bay of St. Lawrence. We caught 125 barrels of mackerel, all of which were taken more than three miles from the shore with the exception of five barrels taken inshore between North Cape and Mimmigash, Prince Edward Island. Previous to this year I have been in the Bay mackerel fishing twelve seasons, the last trip was in 1873 in the schooner *Knight Templar*, of Gloucester, we took 450 barrels of mackerel, all of which were taken more than 3 miles from the shore except about 50 barrels taken inshore near Rustico. In all my trips to the Bay I do not think that one-fifth of all the mackerel taken were caught within three miles of the shore.

EDWARD N. WILKINS.

Sworn before me, at the City of Halifax, in the County of Halifax, this 29th day of September, A. D. 1877.

ROBT. SEDGEWICK, *Notary Public.*