

been considerably more, and a bonus was divided in 1863 of £20, and 1864 of £16, so that the amount each member has received during the last twelve months has been altogether £100. The widows of members are also entitled to one-third of the pay which working members get. Between £33,000 and £34,000 has been paid over by the company to its members in the course of one year. For this pay the average work performed by the dredgermen, during the open season, when they are engaged in dredging up oysters for sale in the market, is about two hours a day; and during the close season, when they are occupied in dredging and clearing the ground and moving and separating the oysters, four hours a day. The rest of their time is generally occupied in dredging the "Flats" for brood, which they sell to the company for laying down, and in good years they often make more by work outside than they receive from the company itself in wages.

(No. 10.)

LETTER FROM MR. TOWNSEND TO HON. JOHN LOCKE ON  
THE PRACTISE OF SET-LINE OR BULTOW FISHING.

SIR,—Since I addressed you last year on the evils of set-line fishing, I have obtained some rather important information on the subject, which brings out in strong colors the evils of that method of fishing for cod.

Up to the year 1857 the set-line fishing was only practised by the French fishermen in the neighborhood of St. Pierre, on the off-shore banks, where their vessels anchored, and the lines were set, and fished from them in boats built for the purpose. In the same year a few of the large fishing firms commenced set-line fishing in shore to occupy the spare time of the shore hands. The lines were of course set close in shore, so that they could be readily watched and tended from the island. The experiment proved so successful in 1857 that the following year nearly every firm had two or three large boats engaged in the inshore set-line fishing.

At St. Pierre there are a large number of poor fishermen who earned their living by going out daily in open boats from three to five miles off the shore and fishing in the old method, by hook and line. By the latter part of 1858 the poor inshore fishermen had suffered so much in their business, from the effects of the set-lines, that they were compelled to petition the authorities against it. The Government appointed a Commission to enquire into the injuries to the petitioners, as set forth in their petition, and the result was the Commission was so well satisfied with the injurious effect of set-line fishing, that before the commencement of the Spring fishing of 1859 an ordinance was promulgated prohibiting cod fishing with set-lines within *six miles* of the island; consequently in shore set-line fishing has been wholly discontinued.

Here we have a direct proof, if proof were wanting, of the injurious effects of set-line fishing. From every fishing ground that you can get information, the same story is told of the gradual destruction of the cod-fishery by set-line fishing.