

The fishing has been very good; and the fishermen, owing to the presence of a man-of-war, have not been in any way molested.

The difficulty of finding any competent authority at the stations to communicate with, renders it impossible to collect any statement of the number of vessels and people employed in the fisheries.

I could not find that any increase had taken place this season; it appeared to me, that the energy necessary to prosecute the fisheries, so as to render them a source of increasing wealth, was wanting.

I did not detect a single instance of encroachment on the part of the American fishermen: the reports from the boats of Her Majesty's sloop on so many points at the same time, satisfied me that our fishing grounds were free from all encroachments. With the in-shore fisheries in Passamaquoddy Bay, it was different; the Pollock comes in at very uncertain periods, but always on our side; from Head Harbour to Indian Islands, the shoals are very large, and remain stationary; every man, on both shores, who has a boat, immediately begins to fish; the boats are very small, and may amount to 300 or 400.

The Americans are supposed to out-number ours; and the shoals that would employ our people ten days, with their aid, disappear in two or three; complaints are made that they land on our islands in the night, drain the wells, cut and carry away wood belonging to the inhabitants; but, on inquiry, I did not find any well-authenticated case.

In the present state of affairs a man-of-war can be of very little service to this branch of our fisheries.

Independent of having to watch over a tract so extreme as the Bay of Fundy, if she even happened to be on the spot at the time of this encroachment, it would be impossible to distinguish an American from an English boat. The Americans, on being questioned, declare themselves British subjects, residing within certain places in the British dominions; and the appearance, language, manners, and habits of our people render it very difficult to distinguish between them. I think that the local authorities have a remedy in part for this in their own hands, by causing every British fisherman to provide himself with a written pass or license, under their hands, to be renewed yearly; the boats of men-of-war could then act with certain effect. I believe that collusion exists between the fishermen of both countries, to a great extent, and that Americans are fishing in English bottoms, and American vessels employ English fishing boats to fill them with fish, the American Government having, till lately, given a premium.

The trade of the Bay of Fundy is considerable—one branch (plaster of Paris) employs a great many vessels, chiefly from Windsor to Eastport and Subic and the United States. The timber trade was not so active, from the fluctuating state of the markets, and many failures to a great amount have taken place at St. Johns.

With regard to the state of the lights, the only change that has taken place in them this summer is the one at Head Harbour, Campo Bello, which has within the last month been fitted with a new set lamps and reflectors; it remains, as formerly, a single fixed light, though much improved in power.

The lights seen by us during our sojourn in the Bay of Fundy are—

*Cape Sable, Seal Islands.*—Very fair.

*Bryer Islands.*—Indifferent; it ought to be a very good one, as so many vessels take that passage in running for St. John's.

*Annapolis.*—Indifferent, but sufficient for its purpose.

*Quaco.*—Very fair.

*Partridge Island Beacon Light, St. John's.*—Very good.

*Point Lepreau.*—Very good.

*Head Harbour.*—Lately good.

*St. Andrew's Harbour Light.*—Sufficient for its purpose.

The lights on the New Brunswick Shore are much more brilliant than those of Nova Scotia.

I am of opinion that a revolving light placed on the Southern Wolf would be of great advantage for the security of vessels proceeding up the Bay, and is much required.

From the foggy and misty state of the weather during the time we were making passages, I am prevented from stating with accuracy the number of miles the before-mentioned lights can be seen off.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLM. CHAMBERS.