

and other bounties, is not to create a trade monopoly, but has a far reaching national object. The French Government, seeing that the advent of steamers is fast driving sailing vessels off the seas, and consequently that the number of sailors is diminishing, has instituted these bounties as an encouragement to men to take to the cod-fisheries in order that they may become hardy and expert seamen, and form an efficient reserve for the navy. The Newfoundland vessels carry crews of about 25 men, and the younger men probably spend from five to 10 years in fishing vessels, although, of course, many remain in them till they retire from old age.

Now, supposing that the men remain on these vessels, let us say, 10 years, the number employed being some 13,000, it results that, in addition to those still on the ships, there retire annually an average of 1,300 well-trained, experienced, hardened seamen to enter other branches of the mercantile marine, and who form, with the majority of the 13,000 men receiving bounties on the cod-fishery ships, a valuable reserve impossible to be obtained in any other way. Steamships will not make seamen. For this encouragement of seamanship, the French Government paid as equipment bounties in 1896 658,080 fr. (26,323*l.*).

The bounties for the encouragement of the cod-fisheries are fixed until June 30, 1901, as follows:—

Equipment
bounties.

50 fr. (2*l.*) per man of the crew for the fishery, with drying ground (*la pêche avec sècherie*) either on the coast of Newfoundland, at St. Pierre and Miquelon, or on the Great Bank of Newfoundland; 30 fr. (1*l.* 4*s.*) per man of the crew for the fishery, without drying ground (*la pêche sans sècherie*) on the Great Bank of Newfoundland; 50 fr. (2*l.*) per man of the crew for the fishery, without drying ground in the Iceland seas; 15 fr. (12*s.*) per man of the crew for the fishery on the Dogger Bank. Equipment bounties are only granted once in each fishing season (*campagne de pêche*).

Stores duty
free.

French vessels equipped for the cod-fisheries may withdraw from the bonded warehouses, that is free of duty, the provisions and other articles for their victualling. With regard to tobacco, the amount allowed free of duty is limited to 40 kilos. (88 lbs.) per vessel. The State tobacco factories, however, sell them tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes at reduced prices. The shipment of salt meats and butter as provisions gives a right to repayment of the salt tax, and refined or raw sugars put on board for the same use are rated as goods admitted temporarily. French salt used on board is exempt from consumption tax, while foreign salt is only exempted from customs duty on condition of its being used for salting at sea, cod fished off Iceland or on the Dogger Bank.

Bounties on
the produce of
the fisheries.
Exportation
bounties.

For dried cod of French fisheries, the bounty, per metric quintal (100 kilos., about 2 cwts) is:—

For codfish exported either direct from the fisheries or from the bonded warehouses in France to the colonies and French establishments in America, India, and West Africa, or in other trans-Atlantic countries, provided that there be a French Consul at the port of importation, 20 fr. (16*s.*).