

American vessels in the Gulf of St. Lawrence the past 20 years is not over 250 vessels, taking one year with another. Out of the fleet this year there is not over a dozen that have taken as many mackerel as I have, and a large proportion of the fleet are leaving the Bay entirely discouraged. The *Wm. S. Baker* has arrived in Gloucester, within two hours, from the Bay of St. Lawrence with only five barrels of mackerel.

I have been master of the schooners *Susan E. Brown*, *Hattie Lewis*, *Ida May*, *Two-Forty*, *Theron F. Dale*, *Alice M. Lewis*.

JESSE LEWIS.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

COUNTY OF ESSEX, SS.

GLOUCESTER, Aug. 27, 1877.

Then personally appeared the above named Jesse Lewis, and made oath, that all the above statements by him subscribed, are true to the best of his knowledge and belief, before me,

DAVID W. LOW.  
Notary Public.

(L. S.)

No. 271.

GLOUCESTER, Sept. 3, 1877.

I, Samuel M. Farmer, master of the schooner *Maud Muller*, of Gloucester, on oath do depose and say, that I was born in Booth Bay, Me. I have just returned from a trip to the coast of Maine. I have been absent five weeks. I brought home 230 barrels of mackerel, making 40 barrels No. 1's and 190 barrels No. 2's. The No. 1's are worth \$24 per barrel, the No. 2's are worth \$15 per barrel. My whole trip is worth \$3,810.

The charter of my vessel is worth \$100 per month.....	\$125 00
Thirteen men.....	390 00
Bait.....	30 00
Outfits.....	150 00
Insurance.....	50 00
Packing and Inspection.....	172 00
Use of Seine and Boat.....	75 00
Cost of trip.....	\$992 00
Receipts 230 barrels mackerel.....	3,810 00
Profit.....	\$2,818 00

My vessel is only 45 tons. She took these mackerel 8 miles from Mount Desert Rock. The mackerel are schooling in every direction there. I am going back immediately. I think the prospect is good for a large Fall catch on our shores. I have been in the Bay of St. Lawrence three seasons for mackerel, in 1868, 1869, 1870—three years. 1870 I made \$66 for the season, the two years previous we shared \$270, each man for 5 months fishing. These were extra good years in the Bay.

Of all the mackerel we took during the three years amounting to nearly 1,800 barrels, only 90 wash barrels were taken on Sudick shoals within three miles of the shore.

I have on the American shore made \$500 to a share in a season, the least I ever made on this shore mackereling was \$400, a season of five months. The Bay mackerel fishery for this and the two last years has been an entire failure. I have been to Grand Manan one Winter for herring. I bought my herring of the people on shore, paying cash for them. I paid from 60 to 90 cents per hundred. There is no market, and no use to which these herring can be put that will begin to pay the people the amount of profit that this sale to American vessels produces. I have also been to the Western Banks fishing for cod. We took one baiting at New Brunswick and one at Cape Breton, paying 50 cents per hundred at New Brunswick, and \$1 per barrel at Cape Breton in cash. At Cape Breton the herring remaining on hand were thrown overboard after we were baited, as there was no vessels there to take them, they were worthless for any purpose for which the people could use them.

SAMUEL M. FARMER.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

GLOUCESTER, Sept. 3d, 1877.

COUNTY OF ESSEX, SS.

Then personally appeared the above-named Samuel M. Farmer, and made oath that all the above statements by him subscribed, are true to the best of his knowledge and belief, before me,

DAVID W. LOW, Notary Public.