

years less fish is produced, but generally in sufficient quantity ; nevertheless, such is the abundance, that these fisheries would merit equal encouragement to those of Gaspé. I think a premium or bounty upon exportation, as well as a drawback upon salt, would be proper. I think 3s. 9d. per barrel upon Herring and Mackerel, 5s. per barrel upon Salmon and Shad, and 2s. 6d. per quintal upon dry Cod fish, would be a sufficient encouragement. The fish of Lower-Canada is little esteemed in the West India market, in consequence of its being ill cured and packed, and in one word, because not inspected. I am of opinion that our fish would be worth as much in the West India market as that of other countries, were it well packed with coarse salt. I am also of opinion that no quantity of fish ought to be exported from this country without having been previously inspected at Quebec, and that there ought for that purpose to be at Quebec a Sworn Inspector, invested with that office and having a salary. I have in part discontinued fishing at those fisheries from want of liberal encouragement, through want of a Drawback, and from the disrepute in which, from the foregoing causes, the fish of this country is in the West Indies.

Mr. François Quirouet, Auctioneer and Broker at Quebec, was examined, and in all things confirmed that part of the examination of the first witness, which relates to the disrepute in which the fish of the Country is in the West India market, from the causes therein stated, the necessity for the creation of the office of Inspectors at Quebec, with a salary for inspecting fish, and also the propriety of a premium or bounty upon exportation, and of a drawback as aforesaid.

Mr. Vincent Bonenfant, merchant at Quebec, confirmed the examination of the foregoing witnesses, and adds that between River Ouelle and Rimouski, a great number of fisheries might be carried on, and that in common years those fisheries abound sufficiently in fish fit for exportation.

Mr. Charles Taché, merchant of Kamouraska, was then examined, and answered as followeth : That from the River Trois Pistoles, most of the inhabitants of the first range of concessions, bordering on the river St. Lawrence, have fisheries there. That with Messrs. Pascal Taché, father and son, J. B. Taché, François Déchéne and Charles Taché, père, he carries on ten fisheries within the Islands of Kamouraska ; That they have this year salted one thousand barrels of Herrings, and three or four hundred barrels of Sardines, besides from two hundred to two hundred and fifty boat loads of fresh fish ; That in common years there might be salted three thousand barrels of fish ; That from Kamouraska to Trois Pistoles, there might in common years be taken as many as twenty thousand barrels of fish, such as Shad, Salmon, Herring, Sardines, Eels and Cod : That in the County of Northumberland, that is to say at *La Petite Rivière* at *St. Pierre & St. Paul*, at the *Eboulemens*, at Murray Bay and at Mount Murray, there is annually taken a considerable quantity of various kinds of fish, fit for exportation ; That there ought to