

stream of immigration flowed with anything like vigor. In that year fourteen settlers were added to the census roll, making the total number of inhabitants one hundred and sixteen. The number of shallops owned by these was twelve, and of fishing schooners three. The product of the fishing was 3,564 quintals. Nearly all the inhabitants were fishermen—very few followed farming exclusively. There were two merchants, and two harbor masters, a cooper, a doctor and blacksmith among the settlers. The number of dwelling houses was twenty-three. But beyond this there would necessarily be many buildings such as are needed by fishermen for storing their fishing gear, and preparing their fish for market. As the number of dwelling houses does not represent the number of buildings in a settlement, so neither does the number of inhabitants as set down in the census give the exact population for the time. In every settlement there must have been more or less of a floating population of labourers, fishermen and sailors, seeking employment where they could find it, increasing and falling away in numbers according to the vicissitudes of trade. To account in some degree for this variable element in the census, we are directed by a note to the first returns, to reckon four men for each fishing schooner given in the returns, and five for each shallop. This in the case of St. Peter's harbor, would raise the actual population at the time the census was taken to one hundred and eighty-six souls.

The fishing season, in those days, was not supposed to begin before the first of June, and it closed with the last of September. The grounds extended from the harbor's mouth three leagues into the gulf. Codfish was the staple article of trade, which found a market, not in Europe, but in the West Indian Islands. The fishermen of St. Peter's, and indeed of every settlement on the Island, where fishing was carried on, laboured under a severe disadvantage in the prosecution of their calling. Once or twice only we have had to record the arrival in Island ports, of ships direct from France freighted with such supplies as fishermen need. The immediate consequence of this was, that the Island