

winter. They all arrived this year in June, and commenced fishing the 13th, and found both cod and caplin very abundant. They had never seen fish so early before, and greatly regretted not having arrived sooner. Besides the cod, they fish seal and herring; the latter they use for bait when caplin is scarce. They commonly find the caplin on the coast by the middle of June, and it generally remains until the end of July.

De Quiterville's establishment, both in Forteau and this bay, cure and export caplin; they also extract oil from the herring as well as from the cod liver. Twelve Jersey vessels and 80 boats were in use, employing altogether 300 hands. They trade to 12 different ports in the Mediterranean, and occasionally to their own island, Jersey.

The fish is sent away as fast as they can load the vessels; the first sailed this year, the 7th July; and another will sail to-day (9th August); and four will sail in September. There were 16 vessels at anchor in Blanc Sablon harbour, namely, one barque, three brigantines and 12 schooners; they were all waiting for cargoes.

Notwithstanding the abundance of fish at the commencement, they consider they have only had a fair catch, 13,000 quintals, owing to their late arrival, and the fish leaving early; they consider from 15,000 to 16,000 quintals a good season.

Last year their fishing did not terminate until the end of August; this year it closed the 25th July.

The fogs lie longer against this portion of the coast than further to the eastward, owing to its being at the entrance of the Straits, and more exposed to the southerly winds, which drive them out of the estuary of the St. Lawrence.

Blanc Sablon is sometimes enveloped for a week at a time, while a few miles beyond the sky is clear and dry. This is much against the planters' interests. Americans occasionally spread their nets and fish early in the season, on their way through the Straits towards Cape Charles; but they do not disturb the settlers.

There were about 10 this year; they used to appear in greater numbers. Four French brigs had been fishing off Green Island for three weeks or a month; they left the day before yesterday, when they heard we were on the coast. They fish along the Labrador coast throughout the season, and only retire upon the appearance of the man-of-war. All the small planters complain grievously of this intrusion, while the more wealthy encourage it, for (as I have already stated) the sake of the liver oil, which they receive for stage-room. The Americans carry the fish away green.

The people are supported, as at the other stations, by supplies from Jersey, Halifax and Quebec, and all the large establishments pay the men 2/ sterling a month, instead of giving them half the catch.

There are no resident fishermen in this particular harbour, but a few along the coast to the westward, at Grand Point, Bradore and Esquimaux harbours, but no regular rooms are maintained.

The river running into this port separates the dependency of Newfoundland from Lower Canada. The harbour is always completely blocked up by ice from November until June, occasionally to the end of the latter month.

At this station all the fishermen are Protestants, and from Jersey.

This fishing is much what it has been for the last 15 years, but people are commencing to pass up the coast, and they anticipate a gradual supply of permanent settlers from the south of Newfoundland and Canada.

When on the point of sailing, the son of Mr. Grange, of Anchor Point, Newfoundland, came on board to complain that the French had stopped his father fishing a salmon river that had been in his family for upwards of a century; that, after much opposition on his father's part, he had to yield to the French one-half, and afterwards two-thirds, of the produce of the river; this year they have taken it from him altogether.

As I could find no definite instructions relative to the assumed right of the French over the river as well as sea fishings, and as the question bears so gravely on the interests of so many settlers and dignity of Her Majesty's colony, and feeling that any inquiry on my part, after ascertaining the statement to be true, without forcibly expelling the French from property which has been in the possession of English colonists for so long a period, would be ineffectual, I advised Mr. Grange to draw up a Memorial for the consideration of the Colonial Govern-