

Marmaduke Hart, Esquire, called in; and Examined.

YOU are a merchant in the Newfoundland trade?—I have been in the Newfoundland trade forty years, first and last.

The Newfoundland trade has gradually, for the last three years, been getting into a very distressed situation?—It has.

The supply sent by the British merchants to the island, and given to the planters in exchange for their fish, has brought the whole of them considerably into debt to the English merchants?—Yes, it certainly has; the whole of them very considerably, indeed; and the planters themselves have lost a great deal of money, which they had saved in former years.

In paying those whom they employed to assist them?—In paying those whom they employed to assist them.

It is conceived no assistance you could now get in the trade would enable you so to carry on the trade, that the planters would ever pay those debts to you again?—I should think they never would be able to pay it, except under very prosperous circumstances, which I do not contemplate at present, nor think possible.

But you would be content to forego those debts, provided you could anticipate that the trade could go on without further loss?—Most assuredly, and give them a chance of paying at any time hereafter.

If no bounty, or other adequate relief is given this year, would you not rather continue your trade, only with a view to withdraw your property from it, than with any view to any increased profit that you expect from the operation of the bounty?—Most assuredly.

If a bounty is granted for this year, with an understanding that the trade will undergo a complete review by the revival of this Committee next Spring, will you not carry on your trade this year, with a view to continue in it to future years, rather than with an intention to withdraw entirely from it?—Certainly, as far as I am concerned.

Would a bounty of two shillings on all fish exported to Europe be sufficient to make it worth your while to keep the trade alive during the present year?—Yes, I think it would.

George Garland, Esquire, again called in; and Examined

IF no bounty or other adequate relief is given this year, will you continue your trade only with a view to withdraw your property from it, rather than with any view to increased profits you expect from the operation of the bounty?—Certainly; I should carry on my trade with a view only to withdraw my property from it as fast as I could.

If a bounty is given for this year, with a perfect understanding that the trade will undergo a complete revision by the revival of this Committee the next Spring, will you not carry on your trade this year, under those circumstances, with a view to continuing it in future years, rather than with an intention to withdraw entirely from it?—If a bounty of two shillings is given for this year, with an understanding that this Committee will be revived the ensuing Spring, to take the whole consideration of the trade under their revision, I will continue to go on with my trade for the present year with a view to future years, rather than withdrawing my property from it.

Marmaduke Hart
Esq.

George Garland
Esq.