

Inclosure 3 in No. 11.

Statement of John Cooper.

Northern District, Smith's Sound, Newfoundland.

THE examination of John Cooper, of Smith's Sound, planter, taken upon oath, who saith :—On Thursday, the 14th August, 1879, there were three banking schooners in the Sound, two belonging to the United States, and one to Nova Scotia ; two were in Aspey Cove (opposite to where I live, Rocky Brook, Smith's Sound), and one schooner was in Lower Lance Cove, just below my place on the opposite shore. There were also two schooners belonging to Grand Bank, Newfoundland, in the Sound, looking for bait. The crews of these different schooners were jigging squids, both in Lower Lance Cove and Aspey Cove (places which are resorted to as jigging coves), and the masters of the schooners were buying squids from the Newfoundland fishermen as well as jigging them themselves. No American banker, during their stay in the Sound, made an attempt to shoot a seine in my presence and was prevented from doing so by our fishermen.

A man who told me his name was Martin Ryan, of Torbay, was in Aspey Cove on the Thursday aforesaid. I asked him was he going to haul bait ; he said he was a Newfoundlander, a man from Torbay, and he would haul bait when and where he liked. I said to him that I did not think it was lawful for him to haul bait (meaning squids). If it was herring he might get what he wanted ; I said we had seines, and we would haul herring for him. Martin Ryan said he would haul it himself. I replied, "You had better try," adding, laughing, "We are going to have some breakfast ; come and have some with us." I never threatened to cut up his seine and break up the dory. Ryan and the master of the schooner went away at once and shot their seine in Lower Lance Cove (another jigging cove), where they got some small herring, which they threw away. No one interfered with them in any way, and if the people had intended to use violence or force they could have stopped Martin Ryan and the master of the American banker from seining. They saw him preparing to seine, and they saw him shoot his seine, and they never interrupted him or came near him, or threatened him in any way. Martin Ryan wanted squids ; he would not take herring.

On the same day that the occurrence took place in Aspey Cove, the master of the American banker and Ryan bought squids from the Newfoundland fishermen around Smith's Sound. There was not enough squid to supply the five vessels with full fares of squid, but all they could jig for themselves and get jigged for them they obtained. We have never hauled squids with a seine, we believed that it was illegal. We would have had no objection to their hauling herring, or hauling herring for them. There were no threats of violence used towards Martin or the master of the United States' banking schooner that was with him. There was no talk whatever about cutting up the American banker's seine, no threats, and no intimidation used towards him by me or by any one in my presence. All my conversation was with Martin Ryan. The master of the American banking schooner may have been in the dory with Martin Ryan and the rest of the dory's crew, but I did not know the master from any one else. I did not address any one in the dory but Martin Ryan. The talk between me and Martin Ryan lasted only a few minutes. This same American schooner remained in the Sound four days after this conversation near my house, and bought and jigged squids, and to my knowledge seined. This whole matter has been magnified, and the facts incorrectly stated by Martin Ryan and Daniel McFaden. The people of Smith's Sound are only too glad for fishermen to come from all parts and buy bait from them, or to assist foreign fishermen to get bait.

(Signed) JOHN COOPER.

Sworn before me at Smith's Sound this 26th day of August, A.D. 1879.

(Signed) D. W. PROWSE,

Justice of the Peace, Newfoundland.

Inclosure 4 in No. 11.

Statement of John Steele.

THE examination of John Steele, of Burgoyne Cove, Smith's Sound, Trinity Bay, fisherman, taken upon oath, who saith :—On Thursday, the 14th August, 1879, I was