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APPENDIX G.

No. 1.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

QUEENS COUNTY, to wit :

I, Alexander M. MacNeill, of Cavendish, in Prince Edward Island, farmer and fisherman, a Justice of the Peace for Queens County, Prince Edward Island, make oath and say

1. That I have been actively engaged in the fisheries off my farm at Cavendish, since the year 1851, and have personally carried on the fishing.

2. I have had three boats engaged fishing every season, employing seven hands besides myself, and at the same time cultivating my farm.

3. The first few years my catch was not very good owing greatly to the presence in such great numbers of the American fleet.

4. The numbers of this fleet throughout the Gulf—I don't know but I have often counted from my own shore over one hundred sail of American fishing vessels, and that within three miles of the shore.

5. I attribute the poor boat fishing of years gone by, during the Reciprocity Treaty, to the presence of the American fishing fleet.

6. Their custom was to the number of from sixty to one hundred sail, to harbour in Malpeque and then start out in the morning for the fishing grounds. If they saw a small boat taking mackerel they would steer straight for them, going to windward and drift down, throwing bait and either take the fish away or injure the boats. This was common for years and very largely and materially prejudiced the boat fishing.

7. During the past four or five years we have not been much annoyed with them. The British and Canadian cruisers had something to do with keeping them in order, and during the last two years only a small fleet has frequented the gulf.

8. The consequence has been that the catch by the boats has very largely increased, and also the number of fishing boats which has more than doubled during the past four years. Many new boats are being built, and my opinion is that their number will increase every year.

9. During the past nine years my catch would average about one hundred barrels each season, but I do not make a business of fishing. In fact I only prosecute it about two months in the season, combining fishing and farming.

10. I would think the number of fishing boats at Rustico harbours would number about one hundred and fifty.

11. My twenty years experience has proved to me that the best mackerel fishing around our coasts is about a mile from the shore in from seven to ten fathoms of water.

12. All the fish caught by the boats are taken within a mile of the coast, many of them within half a mile during the months of July and August, but during the months of September and October the boats take their catch further out, say two miles or two and a half. It is a very rare occasion that they go out three miles or beyond it.

13. Of the total catch in the boats, over nine tenths is caught well within the three-mile limit.

14. The American fishing fleet have always fished on the same ground as the boats, they go in as close and closer to our coast than half a mile, commence throwing over bait and drift off, taking fish with them off the shore, and when they lose the fish tack for the land again and renew operations. I can't say the proportion of their catch taken within the limit because they sometimes make a good catch outside in deep sea waters. The fleet have always fished within the three miles before the abolition of the Reciprocity Treaty and afterwards. They never gave up. The cruisers frightened them a little, but as soon as they were past the fishing vessels went right to work again and fished as before.

15. I prosecute the herring fishing in the Spring for bait, and get enough for that purpose, and to a small extent the codfishing, but my previous statements have entire reference to the mackerel fishery. The herring are all taken close to the shore.

Sworn to at Charlottetown, in Queens County, Prince Edward Island, this 18th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me,

ALEX. M. McNEILL.

E. JAMES SALMER,

Commissioner for taking Affidavits in the Supreme Court, and
Notary Public for Prince Edward Island.

No. 2.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

QUEENS COUNTY, to wit :

I, Hugh John Montgomery, of New London, in Prince Edward Island, Merchant, make oath and say :

1. That I am aged thirty-six, and have resided all my life, excepting the last four or five years, on the North Shore of this Island, and have prosecuted the fishing business both in boats and schooners, and profess to have a good knowledge of the business, having been mixed up in it all my life.

That during the past 4 or 5 years I have resided at Clifton, about four miles from the sea shore, and have traded a good deal with the fishermen, and acquired, from actual experience, and from a prolonged and constant intercourse with the fishermen, a thorough knowledge of the different branches of fishing, as carried on along the shores and coasts of this Island.

That one season I commanded a schooner of my own, and fished in her along the North side of this Island, and up the Bay Chaleur. That during the last few years the increase in the boat-fishing around this Island has been enormous, between fifty and sixty boats fishing out of the New London harbour, and from one hundred and fifty to two hundred out of Rustico harbour, while other harbours with which I am not so minutely acquainted, such as Malpeque, Cascumpec, Tignish, Nail Pond, Mimenegash, Egmont Bay, Murray Harbour, Souris, Tracadie, and Saint Peters, send out, every season, very large numbers of well equipped fishing boats.

That during the past winter still larger preparations were made for the coming season, and I fully believe the number of boats fishing around the coasts of this Island will be, this year, largely in excess of previous years. That the increase in the number of fishing boats does not seem in the slightest to lessen the number of fish. On the contrary, from the increased quantity of bait used the effect is rather to keep the fish within the fishing limits where the boats fish.

That from my experience I would be prepared to swear that at least three-fourths of the total quantity of mackerel caught in the schooners are taken within the three mile limit, while of the boats I believe almost the entire catch is taken within such limit.

That for the past two years the American fishing fleet in the Gulf has been small, while for many years previously it would average six hundred sail.

That the presence of the fleet along the shores injured the boat fishing because of the mode of fishing, which was, with the wind off shore, to approach the shore as closely as possible and commence fishing, keeping constantly throwing bait and drifting to sea, taking the mackerel off the shore with them and away from the boats.

That, as a general rule, my experience has led me to conclude that the American fishing vessels usually secured two fares during the season in the Gulf, and in some cases as many as three fares would be secured.

The vessels ranged, as a rule, from sixty to seventy tons, and a single fare would be in the neighbourhood of six hundred or seven hundred barrels.

That in the spring of the year large quantities of herring are taken around our shores, which are used chiefly for mackerel bait.

That during the season I myself commanded my little schooner, whose tonnage amounted to twenty-seven tons, my catch was one hundred and ninety (190) barrels of mackerel only, but this I accounted for because I only fished two months out of the season, the vessel being engaged during the rest of the season in the carrying trade; and during the same season my catch of codfish was one hundred and seventy-five quintals of codfish, and three hundred and fifty barrels of herring.

Sworn to at Charlottetown, in Queen's County, this 18th day of Junc, A. D. 1877, before me, the crasures opposite my initials being first made.

HUGH J. MONTGOMERY.

M. McLEOD,

Commissioner for taking affidavits in the Supreme Court of P. E. Island.

No. 3.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

PRINCE COUNTY, to wit :

I, John D. White, of Alberton, in Prince County in Prince Edward Island, cooper and trader, make oath and say :

1. That I have now resided twenty-five years on Prince Edward Island, during twenty-three years of which I have been engaged in the fishing business.

2. Before coming to Prince Edward Island, namely, in the years forty-one and forty-two I fished off the American coast. The result of the first years catch was one hundred and sixty barrels, and of the

second seventy-three barrels. Both catches were all made nearly thirty miles from land. No mackerel were then taken by the American fleet off the coast of the United States excepting a long distance from land, none were taken within three miles of the coast.

3. In the year 1852 I came to Prince Edward Island, and in the year 1854 settled at Tignish and engaged in the business of coopering and fishing. I kept a fishing stage and employed a number of boats and men, and have continued steadily in the business ever since.

4. In 1860 I removed my business to Alberton, and I am now largely engaged in the business, employing one schooner, ten boats, and fifty-six men.

5. The increase in the boat fishing has been large of late years. The numbers and the catch of the boats have more than trebled since 1854.

6. From Hardy's Channel to Kildare Cape, a distance of about thirty miles, there are seven fishing stages, and in the harbour of Cascumpec alone there are thirty-nine large fishing boats, the average cost of which is about three hundred dollars.

7. All the mackerel taken in and around this part of the coast, for many miles, are taken at a distance between one quarter of a mile and two miles from the shore. A few may be taken outside of two miles from the shore, but none are taken outside of three miles.

8. The average catch of the boats for a period of twenty years has been from seventy to eighty barrels of mackerel each every season.

9. The American fleet have largely frequented this coast. I would say that from 1854 to 1874 the average number of the mackerel fleet of American vessels frequenting the Gulf of St. Lawrence ranged between four hundred and four hundred and fifty per season.

10. A large portion of this fleet frequent the shores around Cascumpec and take their catches there. They catch their fish close to the shore, about the same distance as the boats, that is between one quarter and two miles from the shore. A very small proportion of the catch of the American fleet is taken outside of the three miles. The practice of the fleet is to run in close to the shore, throw out bait and drift off, sometimes taking the schools of fish with them.

11. The boats fishermen dislike the presence of the American fleet very much. It interferes sadly with the catch of the boats. The Americans dress their fish on the deck and throw the offal overboard, and this offal destroys the fishing grounds.

12. In my opinion, nine-tenths of the fish taken by the American fishermen are taken within the three miles from shore, and I am quite sure if they were excluded from these limits they would have to abandon the fisheries in the Gulf altogether. It would be useless and senseless for them to prosecute the business.

13. If American fishermen were excluded from our waters I would not care for the duty of two dollars per barrel levied in the United States. The demand for mackerel is well known, the quantity required is known, and we would have the business to a large extent in our own hands if the Americans were excluded from our shores. If they increased the duty, the consumers would still, in my opinion, have to pay the increase.

14. The privilege of landing to get supplies and trans-ship is a very valuable one. The mackerel season is very short, and this privilege is equal to an extra trip and is so looked upon by the Americans.

15. The new mode of fishing with purse seines has a very bad effect on the fishery. It not only entirely disturbs and scares away the fish, but a very large number of small mackerel and other kinds of fish are taken and destroyed, thrown away dead, and the waters thus polluted.

Sworn to this third day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOHN D. WHITE.

STANISLAUS F. PERY;

J. P. for Prince County, Prince Edward Island.

No. 4.

I, Sylvan F. Arsineaux, of Tignish, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, Inspector of fish, make oath and say:

1. I have had charge of a fishing stage for the last twenty years, on this shore. I used, during that time, to be myself actually engaged in fishing, always in boats. I am now Fish Inspector for this County.

2. There are over two hundred and thirty boats engaged in the fisheries between Mimmigash and Kildare. I know this from my own actual experience. The average catch of mackerel would be about forty-five barrels for each boat; of codfish and hake the average for all the boats would be about forty quintals each. The average catch of herring for all boats would be about twenty barrels; the fishermen only try to get enough herring for mackerel bait and for home use.

3. The boats have trebled in number in the last ten years, and they are three times better boats; they are larger, better sailers, better rigged and fitted out. There is a large amount more money invested in the boat business than there was ten years ago. The business has enormously increased.

4. The boats carry, on an average, crews of four men each.

5. I would account for the increase in the number of boats, and the increased attention given to the business, by referring to the increase of population. There are greater numbers of fishermen springing up all the time, they are more enterprising, and they find the business pays. The boat fishing also affords employment to numbers of men.

6. With some few exceptions, the boats get their fish close to the shore. The best fishing ground is looked upon as inside of three miles of the shore.

7. For the last ten years the American fleet fishing off the coast has averaged, I should say, about five hundred sail. When the cutters are not here, the Americans must catch three quarters of their fish in shore. When the cutters were here they also caught more fish within three miles of the shore than outside, but not so much as when the cutters were away. They used to dodge the cutters and get in shore. There were not enough cutters to keep them off altogether. The Americans were frightened off a good deal by the cutters. If the Americans were prevented from fishing within three miles of the shore, it would not be worth their while to fit out for the Gulf Fishery. It would not pay them.

8. When the Americans come down they do a great deal of harm to the boats, as they throw a great deal of bait and draw the fish out. They come in-shore, throw out bait and draw the mackerel out after them. This leaves our boats without fish and destroys their chance of a catch. They have better bait than we have, and are enabled to do this damage.

9. Our fishermen look upon the coming of the Americans as an injury to the boat and island fishermen; the vessels draw away the fish. The fleet, in fact, puts an end to the good fishing, and are the cause of great loss to us.

10. The Americans, when they see boats getting fish, come up and "lee-bow" them, thus depriving the boats of the fish. "Lee-bowing" is getting to windward of the tide or current and throwing out bait and drawing of the fish. The American schooners also frequently drift down upon our boats when the latter have to get out of the way. The boats are often injured by the vessels drifting down on them.

11. It would certainly be an advantage to the Americans to be able to trans-ship their fish here. They would thus be able to fit out again for fishing and go back to the grounds without losing much time; whereas, if they had to go home, with their loads, they would lose from three to four weeks right in the middle of the fishing season. It would be also a great advantage as enabling them to watch the fluctuations of the mackerel market which is very variable.

12. The mackerel season here lasts from about the end of June till the middle of October. The Americans get here about the end of June. Some of them are off here now.

13. The mackerel I believe come down from the direction of the Magdalen Islands, or from the southward and eastward and work northward and westward till some time in August and then work back, and they strike this island both ways. The Americans follow the course of the fish.

Sworn to at Tignish, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, this 28th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

S. F. ARSINEAUX.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY.

J. P. for Prince County, Prince Edward Island.

NO. 5.

I, Alexander Francis Larkin, of Nail Pond, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, fish trader and fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing and in the fishing business practically for over twenty years, in both boats and vessels, and know the fishing grounds right round this Island, particularly the north end of this Island. I have been on board of fishing schooners four years, in one of which I owned an interest, and the last year I was master of her.

2. The first two years that I was on board a schooner was in the "Pearl," with Captain Champion one year and with Captain Fidele Gallant another year. Our catch of fish that year was small, as we were not fitted out for the business, and were only out a small part of the season. That was eighteen or nineteen years ago.

3. That I fished in the schooner "Rechabite" for about two years, but only for part of the season. I owned a third interest in her, and the second year I was master of her. She was thirty-seven tons burden. She was only out about five weeks that year, as we took freight both Spring and Fall. We caught in that time about three hundred quintals of codfish each year. All these fish were caught within three miles of the shore.

4. The American schooners often very seriously interfere with our cod-fishing schooners, as they often carry away the nets our schooners have out for catching bait. The greater part, I should say nine-tenths, of our Island-catch of codfish are caught within three miles of the shore. Another very serious trouble that the Americans cause our cod-fishing within three miles of the shore is, that when we put out our set-lines, the Americans, when springing their vessels up to anchor for the purpose of fishing mackerel, often in getting in their gear, interfere with our set-lines, and this trouble is increasing, as we are going more in for set-lines now. The set-lines are now taking the place of hand-lines, and the Island

coast will soon be a perfect network of set-lines. I myself have now about three thousand hooks out in set-lines.

5. That the Americans interfere very seriously with the cod-fishing and with our set-lines within three miles of the shore by their seining. They throw a purse-seine of sometimes one hundred and fifty fathoms in length, and sometimes twenty in depth, and sweep the bottom, thus often causing great loss to our cod-fishing, besides disturbing our boats lying at anchor. This I look upon as a most serious trouble, and it is increasing.

6. That when mackerel strike in here and we have a biting school of them, I consider the coming of the Americans as the end of the fishing; they interfere with our boats and draw the school right off the coast, and break up the school. They do this by throwing bait and drifting away, drawing the mackerel after them. In a number of cases they drift down on the boats, and I have known a number of boats to be dismayed by them. Often the boats have to get under way to get clear of them.

7. The privilege of trans-shipment I consider is a very great one to the Americans; they are thereby enabled to come into our harbors, pack out and send home their fares by railway, without losing much time, and I believe they can refit here much cheaper than at home. This must save them at least three weeks in each trip, in the matter of going home, which would be equal to another trip in the course of the summer. They also get their fish home much quicker, and can take advantage of the fluctuations of the markets. I have known instances of Americans making as much as three and four trips a season into Charlottetown to trans-ship.

8. Since having the Island Railway, they can pack out in Alberton with greater facility than in Charlottetown, and without leaving the fishing ground.

9. The cleaning of large quantities of mackerel on our coast by the Americans, and throwing over the offal, injures our cod-fishing.

10. The American schooners often cause great injury and annoyance to our boats fishing mackerel, by drifting down upon them and taking away the mackerel, and compelling the boats to give way.

11. To my own knowledge a large fleet of American schooners fish around this Island, from New London Head to North Cape, and thence to West Point, and generally within three miles of the shore. Masters and crews of American vessels look upon it as a very great privilege to be allowed to fish near shore, and if they were not allowed to do so, I do not believe many of them would fit out for the Gulf fishing.

12. When the cutters were about the American captains used to run the risk of capture and loss of vessel and outfit in order to fish inshore, and some of them were taken. The cutters did protect our fishermen a good deal, and our boats enjoyed greater security, but our coast was not sufficiently protected, there were not enough cutters. I believe that about ten schooners, as cutters, would protect the fisheries from Scatterie, in Cape Breton, all the Island coasts, and up the New Brunswick coast to Misko, and probably up the Bay Chaleur. Schooners of fifty or sixty tons would be the best cutters. In fact that number would cover the whole mackerel fisheries for Cape Breton, Magdalen Islands and New Brunswick, and would effectually keep the Americans out of the three mile limit.

13. Large quantities of herring are now seined every year at the Magdalen Islands by American fishermen, and they ship these herring away to Sweden, Norway, and Southern markets.

14. The Americans derive great benefit from being able to go down to the coast of Newfoundland, to Bay Fortune, and up to Bay of Islands, where they catch large quantities of herring, which they freeze and send down to bait their Georgia's fishing fleet, and also to their city markets.

15. After the Magdalen Spring fishing is over the Americans often go up to Anticosti, and fish and seine herring there.

16. The Americans also, both at the Magdalens and at Cape Breton, land and seine for bait for their cod-fishing, and they even go into the rivers and catch gaspereaux for bait.

17. Taking our coast from Mimmigash, to Nail Pond, in this County, I believe that the fishing outfit has increased five or six hundred per cent. in the last ten years, that is in the number of boats and their cost. I would estimate the number of boats, between Mimmigash and North Cape, at from one hundred and fifty to two hundred; and from North Cape to Alberton I should estimate the increase during the last ten years at from three to four hundred per cent. I would reckon the number of boats in that distance at from one hundred and fifty to two hundred; there must be fully that many. I should say that the whole number of all these boats take crews of three men each on board of them, and that they furnish employment to one man for each boat on shore.

18. Our fishing at this end of the Island is only in its infancy, our men are only getting skilled and trained to it.

19. The reasons for the increase in the number of boats are that men of capital and experience, seeing the fishing to be a fruitful source of trade, have invested capital, and have encouraged men to build and go into the boat fishing.

20. I consider that after this we will have a distinct fishing class of people, that is when the lands are all taken up, which they are now. At present, and in the past, the men fished when they had time for farming. Now we have men who depend entirely on the fishing, and these secure large quantities of fish, and their number is increasing fast. I consider that we are now at the beginning of a new departure in trade in this country owing to the fishing. In my experience, I depend upon men who depend entirely on the fishing, to get fully three times as many fish as those who look partly to other means of support.

21. With regard to the value of our fisheries, I consider them very valuable. We have herring in

early spring; immediately after, and during the herring fishing, we have codfish. The herring fishing lasts from about the first of May to the fifth of June. At times there are large quantities of herring on our coast, and they are about the same quality of fish as the Magdalen Island herring. They never yet have been fished as an article of export, but only as mackerel bait and for home consumption. Very much larger quantities can be generally procured than are required for those purposes.

22. After the cod fishing we have fish consisting of mackerel and ling, or hake, right through till late in the fall, till about the beginning of November. So far as I know, from actual experience, this part of this Island is one of the choice spots for fishing in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Large numbers of the Nova Scotian shore fishermen come right round here to fish. We never have had a complete failure of fish, although in blustery years we catch less than in other years. The regular fishermen, even in the worst years, have always made fair wages.

23. I should put the average catch of mackerel per boat, for all boats engaged in fishing, at about fifty barrels, and for those engaged in cod fishing, taking one year with another, for ten years past, about fifty quintals of codfish and hake. Until late years our boats and outfits have been of a very rude kind, not to be compared to that of the Nova Scotians or Americans, and that is one reason, I think, our fishery is only in its infancy.

24. I look upon our lobster fishing here as of very great, in fact of inestimable value. We have an inexhaustible supply of them. This branch of the fishing might be pursued here with very great advantage. A great advantage in this fishery would be the abundance of fish offal, which we have for bait, and which is now going to waste.

25. Hake sounds here are a very valuable article in our fishing. They are procured from the hake or ling; each quintal of two hundred and eighty pounds of ling will give on an average of about three pounds and a half of sounds. Within the last ten years the price of these has ranged all the way from twenty-five cents to one dollar and fifty cents a pound, making an average value of seventy-five cents, in gold, a pound. The value of the sounds is on an average worth from seventy-five to one hundred per cent. more than the fish from which they are taken, and the sounds are therefore a very important consideration in fishing.

26. With improved winter communication, large quantities of trout, smelt, and some bass might be exported. The value of these fisheries, if the means of trade were opened up, would be greatly enhanced, and would be well worth going into.

27. We have had one or two instances, in this part of the Island, of men attempting the salmon, and they have proved that it may be made a success in fishing. They are all caught inshore on the sea-coast, and they come under the sea fishing. Our people do not yet know the value of this fishery, which I believe will become very valuable.

28. Our men are now becoming more and more acquainted with the habits of the fish and with the general laws by which their movements are governed, and with their improved knowledge of the habits of the fish and increased facilities for taking them, they are now much more able to get catches.

Sworn to at Frog or Skinner's Pond, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, this 28th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY,
J. P. for Prince County.

A. F. LARKIN.

No. 6.

I, James Conroy of Kildare, Lot or Township Number Three, in Prince Edward Island, farmer and fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. I have been engaged in fishing and farming for over twelve years. I have fished all the time, except one summer, in boats.

2. The number of boats fishing off this part of the shore is increasing. The number has more than trebled in the last ten years. The boats are a great deal better now than they were formerly, they are in better shape every way, more suited to the purpose. There are ten dollars spent in the business along this shore now to the one dollar spent ten years ago.

3. The boats around about here are small, as the people do not make a speciality of the business, but farm as well. The boats carry about three hands each.

4. All the mackerel caught along here are caught within three miles of the shore, the greater part are caught within a mile and a half and one mile of the shore. Near the shore is by far the best fishing ground. In the Spring and Fall the cod fish are caught close to the shore; in the summer they are further off. The mackerel is the principal and most valuable part of the fishery.

5. When an American fleet comes in they certainly do injury to the boat fishing. The more vessels that come down, the more damage is done to the fishing. I have seen a fleet of some hundred Americans fishing off this shore within a couple of miles.

6. The year the cutters were about, the Americans were pretty well kept off. It is a great inconvenience to them to be kept out of the shore fishing. With an off-shore wind they often throw over bait and draw the mackerel off. Certainly the shores around here are a benefit to the Americans.

7. The mackerel fishing begins about the first of July and last till the end of September any way.
8. As a general thing people here with nets can get as many herring as they want, they are used for bait. Every boat uses on an average seven or eight barrels for the season, that is the small boats along here. The large ones use much more.

Sworn to at Kildare, in Prince County, in Prince Edward Island, this 27th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

JAMES CONROY.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY,

J. P. for Prince County, Prince Edward Island.

No. 7.

I, James F. White, of Alberton, in Prince County, in Prince Edward Island, merchant, make oath and say:

1. That I have been engaged in the fishing business for the last fifteen years as the owner of boats and vessels. I know the fishing grounds well and I know where both boats and schooners fish, and the best fishing grounds. At the present time I have one schooner and ten boats, carrying about fifty men, engaged in fishing.

2. That about forty boats are fishing out of Cascumpec harbour during the present year. These forty boats are manned by about one hundred and fifty men. The average yearly catch of each boat is about seventy-five barrels of mackerel, fifty quintals of codfish and fifty quintals of hake. Herring are caught along the shore and are used for bait. Each fishing stage, in an average year, uses about three hundred barrels of herring for bait.

3. The American fleet generally enters the Bay during the month of June or the beginning of July. The mackerel are then generally on shore. The Americans are often afraid to follow the mackerel as close to the shore as the fish come, owing to the water being too shoal, close to the shore, for their vessels, and then they launch their boats and follow the mackerel in shore in them.

4. The mackerel generally move off shore about the first of October. The off-shore catch is very uncertain owing to the weather in the Fall being often bad.

5. During the Summer months the Americans invariably fish within three miles of the shore, and do very much damage to our boat fishing. They come in among our boats and draw off the mackerel. For the past ten years, I think the average number of American vessels would be two hundred and fifty, and they average five hundred barrels each year. The year before last (1875) some vessels took eleven hundred barrels out of the Bay in three trips. Last year the mackerel were scarce, and the highest catch about three hundred and fifty barrels. I never knew the mackerel so scarce in the Bay as they were last year. This year (1877) the prospects are good, the mackerel plenty, the bay appears to be full of them.

6. When the cutters were about, watching the fishing grounds, the American fleet would go out the harbour, send one of their number to keep watch off Kildare Cape, while the balance of the fleet would fish in shore, and the watching-vessel would signal if there was any sign of the cutters. Whenever such signal was given, they would stop fishing and stand out to sea. When the cutter was gone, they would come in again. I have seen this done myself.

7. Fully three-quarters of the schooners catch is taken within three miles of the shore, and I may say the whole of the boat's catch.

8. The number of boats fishing here has trebled in the last three years. The reason of this increase is that other business is depressed, and fishermen from the United States, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia are coming here to settle, attracted by the good fishing, so that we are now able to get crews to man our boats, which formerly we were unable to do. Another reason is that the year 1875 was a very good year, and owing to the successful prosecution of the fishing that year, people's attention was turned to the business, and they were incited to go into it.

9. The boat fishers all look upon the arrival of the American fleet, as the end of the good fishing. Too much bait is thrown from the vessels, and the boats have to give way to the vessels. The shore fishermen always look upon the arrival of the fleet to fish among them as a great loss and injury to them.

10. Generally there are more than enough herring caught along the shore for bait, this year, however, the herring fishery was a failure.

11. The Americans land here a good deal and trans-ship their fish. That is a very great advantage for them. The advantage is that, when a vessel starts for a trip she can only fit out for a short time, some five or six weeks, and having the right to trans-ship, they are able to refit. They, in this way, save about a fortnight each trip, which amounts to an additional trip for the summer. They can also generally buy their barrels and salt here cheaper than at home. They often come here and buy all their barrels, bringing none from home. I have supplied them myself. The right of trans-shipment saves them time.

12. The mackerel season is short, lasting, at the outside, from about the middle of June till the middle of October.

13. The mackerel, in Spring, come down the Nova Scotian shore, and then strike up the Bay to the Magdalen Islands, from there some shoals move towards the bend of this Island, and others towards

Bay Chaleur, Gaspé, and round there. The Americans are well acquainted with this habit of the mackerel and follow them. They have very smart schooners and follow the fish along the shore, taking their cue, to a great extent, from what they see our boats doing.

14. In average years, the shores of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence are lined with mackerel. It is their home. American skippers of long experience say that they never want to go further than three miles away from Cascumpec Harbour to catch mackerel.

15. It is a very great advantage for the American codfishermen to be allowed to come in shore to get bait, ice, and other requirements.

16. The mackerel are the principal part of our fishery, and when our men go out the mackerel are the principal object they have in view.

Sworn to at Cascumpec in Prince County, in Prince Edward Island, this 26th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

JAS. F. WHITE.

JOSEPH MCGILVRAY,
J. P. for Prince County.

No. 8.

I, Meddie Gallant, of Big Mimmigash, in Prince County, in Prince Edward Island, fisherman and fish dealer, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing for the last twelve years. I have fished myself entirely from boats. I also owned a vessel called the "Break-of-day," for two years engaged in fishing. I am acquainted with the fishing grounds from this part of the Island round Tignish, New London, Rustico, and nearly round to the east point of this Island. I have also been in the herring fishing at the Magdalen Islands.

2. That there are about two hundred and forty boats now engaged in fishing between Campbellton, on this shore, and the north cape of this Island—a distance of about twenty-two miles. From the North Cape to Cape Kildare there are at least one hundred and sixty boats engaged in fishing. From Kildare Cape to Cascumpec Harbor there are at least eighty boats engaged in fishing.

3. In the last five years the number of boats engaged in fishing in the above distances has at least doubled. At this Run alone there has been a very great increase. Eight years ago there were only eight boats belonging to this Run, now there are forty-five. The boats are twice as good in material, fishing outfit, in sailing, in equipment, in rigging, and in every way, as they were five years ago. There is a great deal more money invested in fishing now than there was. Nearly every one is now going into the business about here. The boats, large and small together, take crews of about three men each. That is besides the men employed at the stages about the fish, who are a considerable number.

4. The reasons for the increase in the number of boats and in the capital invested in the business are, that people find it pays. It has always, even in the worst years, paid us here. Another reason is, that people are getting so numerous that they have to go into fishing as a means of support. They cannot get employment in other ways, and there is not enough land for them, and they are always able to make good wages. I never yet knew a year when a man would not make good wages, if he stuck to the fishing. When I was fishing myself in a small boat I used to make from fifty to sixty dollars a month off my own line.

5. That there is a class of men springing up who are entirely devoted to fishing, and make their living by it and by nothing else. This class has only begun to come on within the last few years.

6. That in the summer of 1874, which was a good fishing year, my own boats, four in number, caught eleven hundred barrels of mackerel, or two hundred and seventy-five barrels each boat. One man in one of these boats caught twenty-six thousand three hundred mackerel on his own line, and the lowest number caught by any fisherman on board my boats was about seventeen thousand mackerel. Three of those boats carried three hands each, and the fourth boat carried four hands. In the year 1875 my boats, six in number, averaged eighty barrels each; they also got some ling and codfish. Last year, which was the worst year we ever had, we caught in my boats, seven in number, an average of seventy barrels of mackerel each boat. We do not do much in cod and hake fishing here. This year gives good signs of good mackerel fishing, as the mackerel are now much thicker than usual in the Bay, and we have already caught some. Taking one year with another, for the last five years, the average catch of mackerel for each of my boats has been one hundred and twenty barrels. My average catch is, I believe, the largest on this shore; the other boats would average about one hundred barrels each. This is on the south side of the North Cape.

7. The best mackerel fishing we ever have here is about two miles off the shore. Three-quarters, and in fact nearly the whole, of the mackerel are caught within three miles of the shore.

8. The American fishing schooners generally come down here fishing about the first of July, and stop till October. I have seen three and four hundred sail of them out here fishing. Last year there were not quite so many. They fish right in among the boats. When the Americans see the boats getting fish they come right in among them, and the boats have to move away and give them room. They take the school of mackerel from the boats, and the boats have to move away somewhere else to try to

raise the fish. I have often seen this done by the American schooners. I have seen boats come ashore with their spars knocked out by the Yankee schooners. The way they take the mackerel off is that they come in among the boats and throw their bait, which is generally better than ours, and then, instead of lying to anchor, they drift off, carrying the mackerel with them. They thus cause great loss and injury to our boat fishing.

9. Before the American schooners come round we generally have good fishing, but when they come we find our fishing begin to slack off, it is not so good. They throw so much bait that small schools of mackerel are sunk and feed on the bottom, and we sometimes have bad fishing for a fortnight after that. The Americans clean their fish on board of their vessels and throw the offal overboard, and that destroys the fishing. When we used to gib the mackerel on the fishing ground and throw the gibbs and refuse over, we always found that the fish left the place, so that we had to give up cleaning out on the fishing ground, and now we bury the offal on shore, so that it will not get into the Run and be carried out to the fishing grounds. I therefore believe that the American practice of throwing the offal overboard does great injury to the mackerel and other fisheries. It surfeits the fish and frightens them off.

10. When the cutters were about here they used to frighten the American schooners off a good deal, but the cutters that were here were too big for the purpose. Their smoke could be seen ten and fifteen miles off, and that gave the schooners plenty of time generally to escape. I have often seen the American schooners clearing out to sea on an alarm of the cutter's approach. I believe a few schooners of sixty or seventy tons each, well fitted out and well manned, would, as cutters, be quite sufficient to protect all the inshore fisheries. Ten would certainly be enough. The reason the schooners would make the best cutters is that they could not be readily distinguished from the American schooners, and some of them could always be on the ground.

11. The right of trans-shipment is of very great value to the Americans. It saves them at least three weeks each trip, and that right in the very best of the fishing season. That, in the season would be fully equal to a trip saved to the schooners. They can come in to our ports and discharge their catches, and take out another outfit, and lose little or no time, not more than two or three days. They can always get refitted here. They can get their fish into the market much quicker, owing to this right, they are enabled to catch good markets. The mackerel market is a very uncertain one, and it is a great advantage to be able to send the fish in to it on short notice, and owing to the right of trans-shipment, mackerel can now be sent to Boston in four or five days instead of taking three or four weeks. The fish are also better by being sent in quick. I have found, by actual experience, that the longer mackerel are kept on board of the vessels, the worse they get, and a week or ten days less on board makes a big difference. When left on board long the mackerel get knocked about and get to look bad, they also get warm and the pickle often sours on them.

12. The herring fishery around this island is very valuable, as to it the island fishermen owe their supply of bait, and they also use the herring for home consumption.

13. At the Magdalen I have seen the Americans seining herring and loading large vessels with them. They seine the herring close in to the shore, and get large quantities of them. In the Spring of 1876, when I was down herring fishing at the Magdalen Islands, there were over two hundred sail of American vessels fishing for herring, and they were all fishing right in shore. The Americans not only take the herring home from the Magdalen Islands, but also ship them away to the West Indies and to other markets. That herring fishery is a very valuable one.

14. The mackerel generally strike the Magdalen Islands first and then come down here. Experienced fishermen know how the mackerel come and take advantage of that knowledge. The Americans know all about the habits of the mackerel and follow them. As soon as the mackerel get scarce at the Magdalen Islands, the Americans come right down to this island after them.

Sworn to at Big Mimmigash, in Prince County, in Prince Edward Island, this 30th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

MEDDIE GALLANT.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY.

J. P. for Prince County, Prince Edward Island.

No. 9.

I, James Skerry, of Cascumpec, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been in the fishing business, one way or another for over ten years, most of the time in boats and three years in American schooners.

2. That the number of boats along this shore has increased in the past few years and the boats are a great deal better. The boats, taking one with another, average about four hands each.

3. That I sailed in the fishing schooner "Lady Franklin," of the State of Massachusetts, on a fishing trip in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, about eight years ago, and two years later in the American schooner "Gamecock" of Boston.

4. That we came into the Bay in the "Lady Franklin" about the twentieth of July and fished until sometime in November. She was about sixty-four tons burden, and carried sixteen hands. We caught about two hundred and seventy-five barrels of mackerel in her, that was a poor season.

5. That I went into the Bay in the "Gamecock" about the 1st of August, and stopped in the Bay till some time in November. She was about ninety tons burden, and carried eighteen or nineteen hands. We landed one load of fish in Charlottetown out of her and then went into the Bay again. The trip we landed in Charlottetown we had about four hundred barrels of mackerel. The second trip we did very badly, only taking about fifty barrels.

6. There is certainly a great advantage to be able to trans-ship. Another trip could very nearly be made while going home with a load of fish and refitting. By being able to trans-ship here that time is saved, and when the markets are up it is a great advantage to be able to trans-ship and catch the market. The schooners can refit here just as cheaply as at home, and without losing much time.

7. The fishing grounds are best near the shore. The best catches the Americans ever make is in near the shore. The best fishing grounds are at the Magdalén Islands, up the Bay Chaleur, and at the north side of Prince Edward Island. In all these places they fish in near the shore. I should say that fully three quarters of the mackerel caught on board the vessels in which I fished were caught close in shore. The way the Americans do is to come in shore, throw bait and drift off, carrying the fish off with them. The Americans could never make good catches when kept from fishing within three miles of the shore. It would not be much worth their while to come into the Bay at all, if they could not fish within three miles.

8. When the cutters were about they did a great deal of harm to the American fishing. When the cutters hove in sight, the vessels, even if they were getting the mackerel, had to leave and make off the land. Half a dozen schooners, as cutters, would keep the American fishermen clear of the fishing places off this island.

9. The American schooners do a great deal of harm to the island fishermen. They come in and heave quantities of bait and drift off the shore, drawing the mackerel after them. They are also a great nuisance as they come in and lee-bow the boats, that is they run up to leeward of the boats, and throw bait and sail up under the lee-bow of the boats drawing the fish clear away from the boats.

10. This year promises to be a good year for mackerel. I have seen more schools of mackerel this year already than I have seen any year during the last six years.

Sworn to at Cascumpec, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, this 30th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

JAMES SKERRY.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY.

J. P. for Prince County, Prince Edward Island.

No. 10.

I, John Champion, of Cascumpec, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing for ten years, and have a practical acquaintance with all its details. Part of my experience has been in boats, and four years in Island schooners, of which I was master, and one summer in an American fishing schooner.

1. That there are fully fifty boats sailing out of Cascumpec Harbor engaged in fishing. During the last five years the number of boats along this shore, engaged in fishing have fully doubled. The boats are very much better than they were then, they are now a splendid class of boats. I do not think they can be much better. They are better in sailing, better sea boats, and better equipped in every way for fishing.

2. That the reason I would assign for the increase in the number of boats, is that people find that the fishing business is a paying one.

3. The average crew of the boats all through, large and small, would be four men each, clear of the men employed about the fish ashore; there are a considerable number of men employed on shore in connection with the boats.

4. That the average catch of codfish, per boat, out of this harbor, would be about one hundred quintals. They would average at least twenty-five barrels of herring a boat, but all the boats do not go in for herring fishing, or the average for each boat would be much larger; if all fished the average would be one hundred barrels, worth three dollars a barrel. The average catch of mackerel per boat would be about eighty barrels, some catch more and some less, worth eight dollars a barrel.

5. The mackerel are nearly all caught inside of three miles of the shore, that is the best fishing for both codfish and mackerel. The half of the codfish are caught within three miles of the shore.

6. The sounds of the hake are an important item in fishing, there are about three pounds of sounds to the quintal of hake. Each boat lands on an average about one hundred and fifty pounds of sounds in a year. The sounds are worth from eighty cents up to a dollar and a quarter per pound. There is also about a gallon of oil, worth about sixty cents, to the quintal of hake, so that the sounds and oil are worth considerably more than the fish from which they are taken.

7. That the sea lobster fishery is very valuable in this part, and is now being pretty extensively prosecuted. The best and nearly all the lobsters are caught out to sea, from half a mile to one mile from the shore. The lobster fishery is increasing. There are now about five thousand lobsters a day caught here.

8. That I commanded the Island schooner "Alberton" for three years, commencing in the year 1868. She fished each year, but only for about two months each season. She was twenty-eight tons burden, and carried a crew of ten hands. The first year she took about two hundred barrels of mackerel. The second year she did about the same, in fact she averaged two hundred barrels of mackerel each year. She did not fish the whole season any year.

9. That I commanded the Island schooner "Bay State," in the year 1873. She was also of twenty-eight tons burden, and carried ten hands. She did not fish quite two months. She took one hundred and seventy-five barrel of mackerel.

10. That is the year 1872 I fished for two months in the Bay, on board the American Schooner "Flying Fish" of seventy-five tons burden, carrying eighteen hands. She landed five hundred barrels of mackerel, only making the one trip.

11. The principal part of the schooner fishing is done within three miles of the shore. Some of the American vessels do all their fishing in shore. About three-quarters of the fishing done by the "Flying Fish" was done inshore.

12. That I do not think that it would be any advantage whatever for the Canadians or Islanders to have the right to fish on the American Coasts, we would not bother with it, as our own fisheries are so much better. There is an occasional good year for fishing on their shores, but not very often, last year was a good year on their coasts.

13. On an average there are eight hundred American vessels engaged in the cod, hake, and mackerel fisheries in the Bay, that is including this island coast, the Magdalen Islands, the New Brunswick and Nova Scotian coasts. There have been as many as fifteen hundred sail in a season, according to their own accounts. I myself have seen three hundred sail of them in a day.

14. That the American Schooners do a great deal of harm to the boat fishing. They have run into boats. They come in and lee-bow the boats regularly; they also come in and throw large quantities of bait, and drift off drawing the mackerel after them. They sometimes spoil a boat's summer's work.

15. Their cod fishermen do harm to the fishing by throwing overboard the offal to the cod-fish. We know well enough when we see the American fleet coming, that there is an end to our good fishing. The fishermen here look upon the arrival of the Americans as a serious injury and damage to the Island fishing.

16. That there is on an average, three hundred sail of American vessels every year, engaged in herring fishing at the Magdalen Islands, they seine the fish and take, on an average, about one thousand barrels each vessel. The herring fishing there is right in shore. I was herring fishing at the Magdalen Islands three years and each year there were about three hundred sail of Americans there fishing. They send some home and more they ship away to foreign markets. That herring fishery is a very important trade to them.

17. That the right of trans-shipment is a very great advantage to the Americans in two ways, they can ship their fish in time to catch good markets, which is very important to them as the mackerel market is a very fluctuating one. They also save ten days clear fishing, right in the heart of the fishing season, that is clear of the three days they would take to unload and refit here. In good years, that would amount to another trip in the course of the summer. The fish are also better and command higher prices by being sent up quickly, if kept in the vessels till they get to market, they are not nearly so good nor worth so much.

Sworn to at Alberton, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, this 30th day of June, A. D., 1877, before me

JOHN CHAMPION.

JOSEPH MCGILVRAY,

J. P. for Prince County.

NO. 11.

I, Sebastian Davidson, of Tignish, in Prince County, in Prince Edward Island, accountant, make oath and say:—

1. I have been connected with the fishing business as accountant and bookkeeper in different establishments, for over twenty years in this part of the country. The business, so far as I have been engaged in it, has always been with boats.

2. There are a hundred boats fishing from Kildaro to the North Cape of this island. The number of boats, I should say, has doubled in the last ten years. The quality of the boats has very much improved, they are fitted out better, have every requisite for fishing, and are better sailers than formerly; they can now stay out, instead of being obliged to return to shore every evening.

3. The American fleet is not now so numerous as it was a few years ago. A few years ago, before the Reciprocity Treaty was done away with, I should say it numbered from three to four hundred sail. I have seen them as thick as bees all along the shore. They used to fish all along this shore, up Bay Chaleur, at the Magdalen Islands, at Port Hood and other places, within three miles of the shore along here.

4. The herring fishery is important for bait about here, it was a failure here this year except in traps

5 The right of trans-shipment is a great advantage to the Americans, inasmuch as they can land their first, refit, and be on the grounds again without much loss of time. They are also enabled, by virtue of this right, to take advantage of the fluctuations of the markets, and can even sell their fish "to arrive." Under ordinary circumstances I should say that the right of landing their fish, instead of taking them to the States in their own vessels, would be a saving of a fortnight each trip. They used to make two trips a summer.

Sworn to at Tignish, in Prince County, in Prince Edward Island, this 27th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

SEBN. DAVIDSON.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY,

J. P. for Prince County, Prince Edward Island.

No. 12.

I, William Champion, of Cascumpec, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, fisherman and fish dealer, make oath and say:—

1. I have been engaged in fishing for over ten years, in both boats and schooners, one summer of which time I fished on board the American schooner "Banner," of Belfast, Maine.

2. There are fifty boats, I should say fishing out of this harbour (Cascumpec) at the present time. The number has trebled in the last ten years. But Kildare, Tignish, Mimmigash, Nail Pond, and that way generally, the number has increased at a greater rate than here. The boats themselves are also very much better than they were some years ago. The number is still increasing, has increased ten boats this spring in this harbour alone.

3. The average catch of mackerel for each boat is about seventy-five barrels, and about fifty quintals of codfish and the same of hake.

4. Each boat carries on an average, a crew of four men.

5. The boats fish along the shores, mainly within three miles of the shore. There are about nine-tenths of the mackerel caught by the boats, caught within three miles of the shore. The best ground is within that distance. About two-thirds of the codfish and half the hake caught in boats, are caught within three miles of the shore, in fact the best ground for the two last mentioned fish is about three miles out or thereabouts. Down eastward on this island, and about Port Hood, Antigonish, Cape George and other places in that direction, the boats and also the American schooners fish close in shore.

6. I fished two summers in an island schooner, and one in the American "Banner." The "Banner" was about eighty tons burden. I was fishing in her the year the cutters were around for four months. We had a license to fish, so the cutters did not disturb us. She carried a crew of sixteen hands. We caught four hundred barrels of mackerel, of which we trans-shipped three hundred at Charlottetown. We were only three days out of the Bay landing and trans-shipping the fish and saved more than a fortnight in time.

7. The year I was in the "Banner" she and other American vessels used often to drift down on the boats, and used often to "lee-bow" them, throwing out bait and taking the fish away. There were about four hundred Americans fishing that year. We fished right up in the Bay Chaleur and round the other shores of the Provinces. There were also a great many seiners out that year.

8. The average number of the American fleet each year is between four and five hundred. They catch on an average between five and six hundred barrels of mackerel each. The Americans fish as a rule near the shores. I do not think it would be worth their while to come down to fish unless allowed to fish within three miles of the shore. The fishermen and captains say they would not come down if kept away from the shore fishing. Our captain insisted on getting a license before he would fish, and he and the crew paid for it. If there were enough cutters about, the Americans would be kept away; ten or twenty small vessels fitted out as cutters would keep them off. Schooners would be best for cutters.

9. By fishing near the shore, the Americans do a great deal of harm to the mackerel. They chuck out so much bait. They have the very best of bait, and can carry the mackerel off shore with them, as the mackerel follow the bait. They "lee-bow" the boats and prevent their catching fish. The Americans often get right in among the boats fishing and spoil their chances of a catch.

10. Fishermen in boats look upon the arrival of the American fleet as the ruin of the good fishing and I know it to be the fact. Their coming is thus a very great loss and injury to boat fishermen. The boats lie at anchor and the schooners drift down upon them, when the former have to get out of the way.

11. The mackerel fishing begins as a rule about the twenty-fifth of June and lasts till about the end of October.

12. The right of trans-shipment is a very great advantage to the Americans. They are thus enabled to take advantages of the markets. When we trans-shipped the three hundred barrels at Charlottetown, we got twenty-four dollars and fifty cents American currency a barrel for them, had we been obliged to take them down ourselves we would have got to the market more than a week later with the fish, than they arrived by trans-shipment, and then the price would have been seventeen dollars American money

a barrel, so that by the trans-shipment of those three hundred barrels, we saved exactly two thousand two hundred and fifty dollars American money, or seven dollars and a half a barrel, besides being able to remain on the fishing grounds. There were a number of other Americans, at the same time, who trans-shipped at the the same time and gained in the same way. The right of trans-shipment also enables them to refit and save a great deal of time during the fishing season.

13. The mackerel came in here, in the beginning of the season from the southward and eastward and work northwardly and westwardly till about the middle of August and then work back, striking this island both ways. The Americans know all about this and follow the fish. They know the course of the fish so well, that they occasionally lay in wait to meet the schools of mackerel. I have known them go into Georgetown and wait in this way.

14. The Americans seine the fish and do a great deal of harm. I have known them off the Nail Pond shore, while seining for mackerel, strike upon a school of herring and take about five hundred barrels, which they threw away and the herring were destroyed.

Sworn to at Alberton, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, this 26th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

WILLIAM CHAMPION.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY,

J. P. for Prince County, Prince Edward Island.

No. 13.

DOMINION OF CANADA,

PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

KINGS COUNTY, to wit :

I, James McDonald, of East Point, in Kings County, in Prince Edward Island, mariner and fisherman, make oath and say :

1. That I have been personally engaged in the mackerel and cod fishing since the year 1848, and since the year 1854 I have been master of a fishing vessel. From the year 1848 to 1853 I was fishing in American vessels. I commenced the mackerel fishing in 1850. At that time the number of American vessels engaged in the mackerel fishery would be about 500 sail, and that year their average catch would be six hundred barrels per vessel, of which fully nine-tenths would be caught inshore, within the three-mile limit.

2. From the year 1853 to 1860 I was fishing in British vessels. During that time there would be an average of four hundred and fifty American vessels in the Gulf engaged in the mackerel fishery.

3. That since the year 1860 I have still been engaged in the mackerel fishing. That the average number of American vessels during the fourteen or fifteen years next succeeding the year 1860, in the Gulf engaged in the mackerel fishery, has been four hundred. The average catch of these vessels during that time would be about five hundred barrels per vessel. And I have no hesitation in saying that nine-tenths of all the mackerel caught within the last fifteen or seventeen years has been caught within the three-mile limits.

4. That when the mackerel arrive at the Gulf they first strike the Magdalenes, but there are none caught till they reach the Bay Chaleur and Seven Islands, where the first fare of the season is generally obtained. They then cross over to North Cape and along the north side of the Island, keeping in shore.

5. That in the latter part of the season, from the middle of September to the first part of November, the weather will not permit of fishing any distance from the shore, being too rough; and during that part of the season not one barrel in five thousand is caught outside the limits.

6. That during the last two or three years the number of American vessels fishing in the Gulf has fallen away considerably, owing partly to the mackerel not frequenting our coasts during these years in such large quantities as in former years, but this year the prospects are good.

7. That the right to trans-ship is of great advantage to the Americans, as they thereby save time, and gives them an extra trip which they would not otherwise have.

8. That the large amount of offal thrown overboard by the Americans poisons the mackerel, and is an injury to the fishing ground.

9. That when we saw boats fishing near the shore we made a practice of sailing down on them, and with our good bait took all the mackerel, and the boats would have to give up till the mackerel came back again. The vessels coming in among the boats are also likely to scatter the mackerel, and the boats not being able to follow them any distance, lose them altogether.

10. That the Canadian and British cutters and men-of-war did not prevent the Americans from fishing within the limits, for when they saw one of them coming they stood out to sea till she passed, and then resumed their fishing operations within the limits again.

11. From an experience of nearly thirty years spent in mackerel fishing, I would say that the best mackerel fishing ground is close inshore, say from one-half a mile to two and one-half miles from the shore, off the north side of the Island, and that if the Americans could be prevented from fishing within the three-mile limit, they would not frequent our shores at all for the purpose of fishing. During the

last six or seven years the mackerel have kept more in shore than in former years. In fact, during the last few years, scarcely a mackerel would be caught outside the three-mile limit.

12. There is also a large fleet of American vessels engaged in the herring fishery off the Magdalenes, Labrador, and Newfoundland. I should say about two hundred and fifty sail. These vessels are generally of a larger class than those engaged in the mackerel fishery, some of them carrying as many as three thousand barrels. From my experience and personal knowledge I would estimate that the Americans catch and take from these shores 150,000 barrels of herring annually, all of which are caught close up to the shore and well within the three-mile limit. They also buy large quantities of herring from the shore fishermen in Newfoundland, but these are not included in the above estimate.

JAMES McDONALD.

Sworn to at Souris, in Kings County, in Prince Edward Island, this twenty-sixth day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

JAMES R. MACLEAN.

J. P. for Kings County.

No. 14.

I, James H. Davidson of Tignish in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, fish dealer, make oath and say:—

1. I have been for the last seven years running a fishing stage at the North Cape, and have been engaged in fishing all my life, as a practical fisherman, in boats all the time except one year when I was on board the schooner "Frank" of this Island.

2. That I believe there are fully two hundred boats fishing between Cascumpec harbor and North Cape. During the last seven years the number of boats engaged in fishing has certainly trebled. The boats are better models, better rigged, better equipped, are better sailers, and are superior in every respect to what they used to be. During the last ten years the capital invested in the boat fishing business along this coast has multiplied ten fold, and that is a moderate statement.

3. The boats will average three men to a boat all round for crew, and one man on shore, so that the two hundred boats would give, during the summer, constant employment to eight hundred men, and the number of boats is constantly increasing. I believe that the fishing in this part of the Island is still in its infancy.

4. I should put the average catch of mackerel per boat, taking one year with another for the last ten years, at seventy-five barrels, and the average catch of codfish and hake at fifty quintals. The boats nearly always catch as many herring as they require. They get abundance for mackerel bait, for home use, and some to export. The boats would require on an average fifteen barrels of herring for bait, each boat during the mackerel season.

5. Seven-eighths of the boat fishing is done within three miles of the shore. All the mackerel and herring are caught within that limit, the codfish sometimes further out.

6. The reasons for the increase of the number of boats is that people find it a profitable business, and the young men are going into it more and more. There is a special class growing up now, who are entirely devoted to and altogether dependent on fishing. Those men who devote themselves entirely to it and study the habits of the fish, are by far the best and most successful fishermen. The business of fishing is now becoming respectable, whereas formerly it was not considered so. The fishery affords employment to an increasing population, which has not land of its own to farm. People gather from the inland parts to the fishing parts, in order to get employment in fishing. People come from other Provinces here attracted by the fishing. It is particularly the mackerel fishing that is increasing.

7. The year I was out fishing in the "Frank" we made a poor year's fishing. We made two trips in the bay and caught only three hundred barrels of mackerel. The "Frank" was about sixty-three tons and carried seventeen hands.

8. The year I was in the "Frank" was the year the cutters were around, and there were a good many Americans kept away and some taken. We were all in and about the American fleet that year and they would number three hundred sail. They know the inshore fishing is the best and they will run risks rather than not have it. I do not think it would be worth their while to come down here to fish in the Gulf if they could not fish within three miles of the shore; and it certainly would not be worth their while if they could not fish within the three mile limit. I should certainly say that seven-eighths of the catch of the American catch is caught within three miles of the shore.

9. They lie among the boats. When they see the boats getting mackerel they come up and lee-bow the boats, throwing bait and drawing off the fish, when the boats have to leave. They certainly do harm to the fishing by throwing the offal overboard. By it the fish are glutted and poisoned. They also interfere with the bait nets, and get foul of the set-lines and trawls. The set-lines are now being used very much along here, and are increasing very fast, and as they increase, the damage done by the Americans is becoming greater.

10. The right of trans-shipment is of very great consequence to the Americans, as they save the time they would otherwise consume in going home with their fish, and that right in the middle of the fishing season. The time saved in this way would certainly be equal to another trip for the vessel during

the season. By having this right they are also enabled to take advantage of the markets, so that if the price of mackerel is up they can at once send their fish up to take advantage of the high price. They can do this even if they have only a few fish. The mackerel market is one of the most fluctuating in the world so that it is a very great advantage to get them into market quickly. The mackerel also get worse looking the longer they are kept and command a smaller price, if they are kept in the hold of the vessel they are getting poorer all the time, by being transhipped this deterioration is avoided.

11. There are plenty of salmon off this shore, and since attention has been directed to them, the salmon fishery is found to pay, and when properly attended to it will become very profitable. They are caught off this coast in nets and traps. It is only recently that they were known to be here. There are also plenty of shad and some bass off this coast, which can be caught in traps.

12. The sounds taken from hake are now very valuable. For three years here the price of sounds averaged a dollar a pound, and the lowest price they have sold for was thirty-five cents. They would average seventy-five cents a pound one year with another. I would say that about four pounds of sounds are got to a quintal of green hake weighing two hundred and eighty pounds. The value of the sounds is greater than the hake from which they are taken.

13. Codfish tongues and sounds are also put up and sold to some extent out of this island and are valuable.

14. The oil taken from the codfish and hake is of considerable importance, and there would be, on an average, about half a gallon worth twenty-five cents taken from every quintal of hake and codfish.

Sworn to at North Cape, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, this 28th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me,

JAMES H. DAVIDSON.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY,

J. P. for Prince County, Prince Edward Island.

No. 15.

DOMINION OF CANADA,

PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

KINGS COUNTY, to wit:

I, Joseph Campbell, of Souris, in King's County, in Prince Edward Island, master mariner, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been personally engaged in the fisheries since the year 1855. From 1855 to 1858 I was fishing in boats off the north side of the Island. We caught all our fish at that time within three miles from the shore.

2. That from the year 1858 to 1867 I was constantly and actively engaged in fishing aboard American vessels, and during that time I fished on all the fishing grounds.

3. We got our first fare generally in the Bay Chaleur. Fully nine-tenths of this fare would be caught close in shore, within the three-mile limits.

4. The mackerel, after leaving the Bay Chaleur, strike across to the North Cape of Prince Edward Island, and some of them return to the Magdalenes. We generally got our second fare from the north cape of the Island to East Point and at the Magdalenes, generally catching the fish within the limits. I would say that fully seven-eighths of this fare is caught within the three-mile limits.

5. From the year 1863 to 1867 the average number of American vessels fishing mackerel in the Gulf would, in my opinion, be about five hundred sail, and during those years the catch was good, averaging about six hundred barrels per vessel per season.

6. From my personal knowledge and actual observation I would say that fully seven-eighths of that quantity of mackerel were caught inshore, that is, within three miles from the shore.

7. Our usual mode was to go in close to the shore; if in bold water, close up to the rocks, throw our bait and drift off, the mackerel following after the bait. When we lost the mackerel we again tacked for the shore.

8. That the American fleets of fishing vessels very materially injure the boat-fishing off shore. The Americans have always made a practice of sailing down among the boats, and by throwing bait and drifting off draw the mackerel away with them. This is a very common occurrence, and must have been a great injury to the boat-fishing.

9. I think that the large amount of offal thrown overboard by the fishing fleets has a tendency to injure the fishing. The fish eat up this dirty and poisonous food and they will not then follow or take the bait. In this way this practice must be very hurtful to the fishing grounds.

10. That the American vessels fished within the limits almost as much after the expiration of the Reciprocity Treaty as before. The Treaty did not seem to make any material difference. The cutters did not to any extent prevent the Americans from fishing within the limits as we could always see them coming, and had time to get outside the limits. Sometimes we merely pulled up our lines and fishing gear and as soon as the cutter would pass we would resume our fishing.

11. From the year 1867 to 1872 I was master of a British fishing schooner. During these years there would be about four hundred and fifty American vessels in the Bay, and their average catch per vessel would be about four hundred and fifty barrels per season. Fully seven-eighths in my opinion of all the mackerel caught in the Bay by Americans during the years between 1867 to 1872 would be taken within the three mile limit.

12. The American vessels in large numbers would often sail down on the few British vessels fishing in the Bay and lee-bow them and by their larger numbers generally succeeded in drawing away the fish from the British vessels.

13. The right of trans-shipping is a great benefit to the Americans. They thereby save time enough to make an extra trip which they could not otherwise make without this right.

14. That I have also been engaged for several years in the herring fishery off Labrador in American vessels. There are about two hundred and fifty to three hundred American vessels engaged on the coasts of Labrador, Newfoundland and the Magdalenes in this fishery. These vessels are of a larger build than those engaged in the mackerel fishery. The average quantity taken from these coasts by these vessels would be about one thousand barrels per vessel per season, making a total of from 250,000 to 300,000 barrels per year. A proportion of this quantity is bought from the fishermen along the coasts of Newfoundland, I would say about one half are bought. All the herring are caught close inshore from one quarter to one half mile from the shore.

Sworn to at Souris, in Kings County, in Prince Edward Island, this twenty-seventh day of June, A. D. 1877, before me,

JAMES R. MACLEAN,
J. P. for Kings County.

JOSEPH CAMPBELL.

No. 16.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

KINGS COUNTY, to wit :

I, Alexander Chiverie of Souris, in Kings County in Prince Edward Island, formerly fisherman now merchant, make oath and say :—

1. That I commenced mackerel fishing in the year 1847 in an American schooner named the "Triton." In those years there would be from 500 to 600 sail in the Bay. The schooner I was in was generally in company with 100 to 200 sail. At that time I did not hear anything of the 3 mile limits. It was not till the year 1852 that I first heard any talk regarding the limits.

2. The first year I was fishing, we left the American ground in the Fall in September, and came to the Bay. We fished off the north part of Cape Breton and caught the whole of our fare within three miles from the shore.

3. The custom generally adopted by the fishermen is to go within a mile of the shore, heave our bait and then drift off, taking the fish with us.

4. The cutters did not to any extent prevent the Americans fishing within the limits. They would simply sail off till the cutters had gone by and commence fishing again within the limits.

5. I remained fishing in American vessels till the year 1867. I would say that the average number of American vessels fishing mackerel in the Bay, between the years 1847 and 1867, was from four hundred to five hundred sail each year, and that the average catch per vessel during those years was 400 barrels each season.

6. That without a doubt two-thirds of the above quantity was caught within three miles from the shore.

7. That in the year 1867 I was master of a British fishing schooner. The first trip of that season we fished between the Miramichi and Bay Chaleur. During that trip the fish played chiefly inshore, about a mile from the shore. At times during that trip I would be getting a good catch, when the American vessels, to the number of fifty or sixty, would come along, and by drawing off the fish spoil my fishing. During that trip, the Americans, I would say, caught fully three-fourths of their fare within the three mile limit. During the second trip of that season I was fishing on the north side of the Island and caught all that fare within three miles from the shore. On several occasions during that trip, a fleet of American vessels would come up alongside and spoil my fishing.

8. That since that year I have not been personally engaged in fishing, but I have owned fishing stages, and have had boats engaged in shore fishing.

9. That I have noticed the American vessels come in among the boats fishing from one to two miles from the shore, heave their bait and draw off all the mackerel. The boats would then be obliged to give up fishing for that day. This is a very common practice among the American vessels, and I have noticed it on several occasions during the last few years.

10. That the numbers of Boats engaged in prosecuting the mackerel fisheries have largely increased during the past few years.

11. That fully three-fourths of all the mackerel caught in the boats is caught inshore well within the three mile limits.

12. Without a doubt the Americans would not come to the bay at all for fishing purposes if they could be kept outside of the 3 mile limit altogether.

Sworn to at Souris, in Kings County, in Prince Edward Island, this twenty-seventh day of June, A. D., 1877, before me

ALEXANDER CHIVERIE.

JAMES R. MACLEAN,
J. P. for Kings County.

No. 17.

I, James J. Morrisay, of Tiguish, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, fish-stage proprietor, make oath and say:—

1. I have fished for four years and have been proprietor of a fishing-stage at Frog Pond the whole time. The first year I had one boat, and caught about forty-five barrels of mackerel in her; that year I also got about one hundred and twenty barrels of herring, worth about three dollars a barrel; I caught about ten quintals of codfish in that boat the same year; she was a small boat.

2. The second year I had five boats, and caught about four hundred barrels of mackerel. I also caught about eighty quintals of ling the same year, in those boats, and about sixty of codfish, and about two hundred and fifty pounds of sounds, then worth sixty cents a pound.

3. The third year I had six boats, and caught about one hundred and sixty barrels of mackerel, and about forty quintals of codfish and hake, and about fifty-five barrels of herring. That was a really poor year.

4. This year (1877) I have nine boats, and have caught about fifteen barrels of herring. I have also more codfish already caught than I had the whole of last year. This promises to be a good year, so far as I can judge.

5. At Nail Pond I should say the number of boats has increased about one-fifth during the last three years. I think the boats are now much better built, rigged, and fitted out than they were.

6. The average crew of the small boats is about three men, of the large boats the crew would be four men. There are twenty dollars now invested in the business to the one there was ten years ago.

7. The boats get near about the whole of the mackerel caught by them within a mile and a half to two miles of the shore, the boats very seldom go beyond two miles out. The hake are generally caught within three miles of the shore, and the codfish generally further out.

8. About three years ago I have seen as many as three hundred American schooners anchored off this shore, within a mile. I have seen some of them fishing so close in shore that they got aground. The principal part of the fishing that I have seen the Americans do has been within three miles of the shore. Taking one year with another, I do not think it would be worth their while to fit out for the Gulf fishing if they could not fish within three miles of the shore. I have heard the American captains say so.

9. I have seen the Americans drift down on the boats, not minding the latter, on several occasions, and on several occasions the boats, lying at anchor, had to cut their cables to save themselves from being sunk.

10. The Americans spoil the fishing in this way: they see the boats fishing and drift down on them when the boats have to get out of the way and thus lose the mackerel. They have also better bait than we have and by its means draw off the fish, and they throw out a great deal of bait.

11. Very few Americans fished within three miles of the shore the year the cutters were here. I saw them within three miles of the shore, when they saw the cutter's smoke, clear out.

12. Whenever the Americans heave in, the fishermen from boats grumble and complain that the good fishing is at an end, and that the Americans sink the mackerel with bait. The boat fishermen look upon the arrival of the Americans as a serious loss and injury to themselves.

13. The mackerel season here lasts from about the twentieth of June till about the middle of October.

14. I would look upon the right of trans-shipment as a very great privilege to the Americans, as they could ship away their mackerel without losing much time going with them, and by this right, they would be enabled to catch the markets, two or three days often making a very great difference in the mackerel market. They are also enabled through having this right, to refit here instead of losing time going home for that purpose.

15. About three years ago the Americans did some seining here, but I have not seen them doing any since.

16. I would give as a reason for the increase of the number of boats, that the young men think

they can do better in it; and also because the population is increasing and also the spirit of enterprise among the people.

Sworn to at Tignish, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, this 27th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

JAMES MORRISAY.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY,

J. P. for Prince County, Prince Edward Island.

No. 18.

I, Edward Hackett, of Tignish, in Prince Edward Island, merchant and member of the Local Parliament for the first district of Prince County, make oath and say:

1. That previously to the last two years I was personally engaged in the fishing business for about fifteen years. Part of this time I carried on a fishing business and part of the time I was engaged as a practical fisherman.

2. There are now about one hundred boats fishing out of Tignish Harbour alone. The number has increased very much within the last few years. There are larger and better boats now than there were ten years ago; they are better built, rigged and equipped now than they were then. There is also more capital, by a large amount, invested in the business than there was ten years ago, and the crews are more experienced in fishing than the crews were then.

3. The boats would average about four men to each boat, some having more and some less. The boats, taking one year with another, would have an average catch of fifty barrels of mackerel to each boat, and they would also average about fifty quintals of codfish and hake to the boat, this is taking the average for both big and small boats.

4. The reason of the increase in the number of boats is, that more people embark in the business and invest capital in it, because they found the fishing to be a remunerative business, and also from the increase of population and of enterprise.

5. The herring fishery, as a general thing is a very reliable fishery, the fishermen generally catch enough for bait and for home consumption. About ten barrels to a boat, of herring, are required for bait during the mackerel season. This year the net fishing of herring was a failure.

6. The boats invariably fish for mackerel and almost invariably within three miles of the shore. The best mackerel fishing ground is from one mile to two miles and a half from the shore.

7. The American vessels generally come off here in June, and are reported to make generally two trips in the summer. They generally also fish within three miles of the shore. They take a very large quantity of mackerel in amongst the boats and are a great annoyance to the boats. They come in among the boats and throw bait and drift off carrying the fish with them. They come in among the boats and often run them down, they are careless of the injury they may do to the boats. When they see a boat getting mackerel they make straight for it and draw off the mackerel by every means they can employ, throwing out bait in large quantities.

8. I have often counted a hundred American vessels fishing between North Cape and Cape Kildare, a distance of not more than ten miles; and that would be only a small portion of the whole fleet.

9. The right of trans-shipment is a very great benefit to the American fishermen. When they land their catch of fish they can at once fit-out again and be on the grounds again without the loss of time they would incur by being compelled to go home with their loads. They thus save from two to three weeks in the trip, and that in the very best of the fishing. That would amount to a trip saved in the course of the Summer. They are thus enabled also to watch the fluctuations of the markets, the mackerel market being a very variable one, and a few days often making a very great difference in that market.

10. The boat fishermen always rave when they see the Americans come here in numbers, and look upon their arrival as a great loss to themselves.

EDWARD HACKETT.

Sworn to at Tignish, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, this 27th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY,

J. P. for Prince County.

No. 19.

I, Maurice O'Connor, of Kildare Cape, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in the fishery as a business for the last eight years, before that I had been fishing for about two years. I have fished in boats out of Kildare, Nail Pond, and Rustico in this island.

2. There are about forty boats fishing off this shore, this side of any harbour. These are mostly smaller boats than those that fish out of the harbours. They are made small so that they can be easily beached in case of a storm or any other necessity, there being no place of refuge for them on the shore. They are mostly owned by farmers who want to haul them up often. The number has trebled within the last ten years, and the boats themselves are far better. There is more than twelve times the capital invested in the business, on the shore now, than there was ten years ago. These boats carry on an average a crew of about three men each.

3. The Americans used to fish off this shore in large numbers. I have seen hundreds of them fishing right in shore amongst the boats. They stretched right up the shore from this Cape as far as one could see.

4. The Americans sometimes run in among the boats and hurt them. If they see the boats getting fish they run in and "lee-bow" them first thing, throwing bait and taking the fish away. Unless there is a very large body of mackerel where they are fishing, the boats have no chance.

5. The Americans prefer the shore fishing. They fish close in when the wind is off shore, drifting off and taking the fish with them. They throw very much pogie and clam bait, which enabled them to take off the mackerel. I do not think they would come down here to fish if not allowed within three miles of the shore. The boat fishermen always look upon the arrival of the American fishermen as a great injury to the boat fishing. The Americans throw so much bait that the mackerel get gorged and will not bite, but go off, the Americans following them.

7. The cutters kept the Americans off the shore a good deal, but they used always try to steal in again. They used to come in then and drift off. When a cutter was anywhere near, the Americans kept off; that was a great advantage to the boatmen, as they then had all the shore fishing to themselves.

8. The best fishing ground for mackerel is near shore, within three miles of it.

9. One reason for the increase of the number of boats is that the population is increasing and there are plenty of young men about who want employment, and they find the fishing pays them fully as well as farming.

10. There are large quantities of herring caught along here as a general thing. Probably ten barrels of herring to a boat are used for bait in the mackerel fishing.

11. Off Nail Pond the Americans often seine for mackerel, and I have seen them off here looking for the mackerel in order to seine.

12. This year I am engaged in the salmon fisheries off this coast. The salmon are caught in nets and traps. The salmon here are very fine. The average weight of those caught by me this year has been twelve pounds each. They have been caught on this shore weighing thirty-six pounds. The salmon fishing has only lately been started here. It will pay I believe, and the trade in salmon is springing up. When properly looked after this branch of the fishery will become very valuable. The salmon are all caught off the shore and not in the rivers.

Sworn to at Kildare Cape, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, this 27th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

MAURICE O'CONNOR.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY;

J. P. for Prince County, Prince Edward Island.

No., 20.

I, Alexander Larkin, of Alberton, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, merchant, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing for twenty-five years, principally in the boat fishing, I have had vessels in the business. I have been carrying on the business at stages.

2. There are about two hundred boats engaged in fishing from Cascumpec to the North Cape. The number has greatly increased during the last few years. The boats are a very much better class of boats now than a few years ago; they are larger and better fitted out. There is also much more capital invested in the business now than formerly. The average crew of each boat, taking large and small together, would be at least three. There are also a number of shore men employed in connection with the boats. The greatest quantity of the fish, I should say over three-quarters of the whole catch, is caught within three miles of the shore.

3. I account for the increase of the boat-fishing, because people found it profitable to go into fishing.

4. I have several times known over three hundred sail of American fishing schooners to be in this harbor at a time, and it was never considered that more than half their fleet were in. They used very often to fish inshore, and often to the injury of our boat fishermen; they come among the boats, which are getting fish, and bait the school of mackerel, and carry it off.

5. The Americans, when the cutters were about, always evaded them if possible, even at a risk to themselves. The cutters kept them off to some extent, and made several seizures.

6. The right of trans-shipment here must be an advantage to the Americans, but I cannot state to what extent.

Sworn to at Alberton, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, this 29th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me,

ALEXANDER LARKIN.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY,
J. P. for Prince County.

No. 21.

I, Gilbert Perry, of Frog Pond, in Prince County, in Prince Edward Island, owner of fishing stages and fish dealer, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in the fishing business about eighteen years, fifteen years of that time I have been actually engaged in fishing, and am well acquainted with the fishing ground around here. My experience has been in boats.

2. There are at least one hundred and fifty boats engaged in the fishing between Frog Pond, Skinner's Pond, and Nail Pond. There are sixty-three boats engaged in the fishing at Frog Pond alone. Each boat would average a crew of three men each; no boat less than three, some more.

3. The number of boats at Frog Pond alone has increased twenty boats within the last year, and I would say there are ten times as many boats engaged in the fishing as there was ten years ago, and the number of stages are greatly increased. The boats themselves are getting better every year, being better sailers, better equipped, and better rigged than they were.

4. Taking one year with another, the boats (large and small) average about fifty barrels of mackerel in the season, and on this shore they average about thirty quintals each, cod and hake. As a general thing, sufficient quantities of herring are taken for bait and for home use. Each boat on this shore requires about twenty barrels of herring for mackerel bait during the season.

5. The reasons I would give for the increase for the number of boats is, the increase in population and trade, the trade becoming more and more opened up, and the business affords employment to a large number of men who could not otherwise get employment. The great reason is, that the fishing business is so very remunerative.

6. I should say that the average number of American vessels fishing in the Bay during the last ten years would be over four hundred. They generally come down here about the first of July and fish all summer; they fish all across, between here and the New Brunswick shore, this side of the Island being opposite the New Brunswick shore.

7. When the cutters were about here they frightened the Americans off a good deal. Very few of the Americans fished inside that year. That, of course, would greatly injure their fishing; the best of their catching is within three miles of the shore. I don't think it would pay them to fit out for fishing unless allowed to fish within three miles of the shore. That year, when they used to come in here to water, they used to complain that the cutters caused them great loss.

8. When the American fishermen see our boats getting mackerel they come in among them, throw large quantities of bait and draw off the fish; they sometimes drift down on our boats, and I have sometimes seen them upset and sink our boats.

9. I consider that the right of trans-shipment would be a very great advantage to the Americans, particularly in a good fishing season, as by means of it they are enabled to land their fish, refit for a new voyage, and be on the fishing grounds in a very short time. I consider they save at least two weeks each trip, which would be equal to another trip for the season.

10. The Americans used to do a good deal of harm here seining the mackerel. Two or three years ago, in particular, they used to catch large quantities of fish, not one-half being mackerel, the rest being herring and other fish, which were destroyed and thrown overboard.

GILBERT ^{His} X PERRY.
mark.

Sworn to at Frog Pond, in Prince County, in Prince Edward Island, this 28th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me, the same having been first read and fully explained to the said Gilbert Perry, who signed by his mark.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY,
J. P. for Prince County

No. 22.

I, Agno J. Gaudet, of Nail Pond, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, fisherman and fish trader, make oath and say:

1. I have been engaged in the fishing business for about fourteen or fifteen years, part of the time in boats and three years in the schooner "Frank," the years of 1866 and 1867 and 1868. In the

schooner we fished all round the Island, from West Capè to East Point, Magdalen Islands, Bay De Chaleur to Point Le Pau, and along the Cape Breton shore. She was over sixty tons burthen, and had a crew of from fifteen to eighteen hands. The first season we got shipwrecked and did not do much, the second year we went seining and got over two hundred barrels of mackerel and some thirty or forty barrels of herring.

2. I consider that within the last thirteen years the boats have increased seven fold, they carry an average crew of three men each, besides giving employment to a great number of shore men—taking one year with another, they average about fifty barrels of mackerel each. As a general thing we catch as many herring as we want round this coast, for mackerel bait and for home use. The best mackerel fishing is done from the shore to two miles and a half out.

3. Along this coast the Americans very often fish mackerel within three miles from the shore, and I believe it is a great advantage for them to have the privilege of fishing within three miles of the shore.

4. I consider the right of trans-shipment a great advantage to the American fishermen; by doing so they can trans-ship their mackerel here, refit and return to the fishing grounds without loosing much time, and thus save a fortnight each trip, which in a good fishing season would be equal to another trip.

Sworn to at Nail Pond, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, this 28th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY,
J. P. for Prince County.

AGNO J. GAUDET.

No. 23.

1. William S. Larkin, of Nail Pond, Tignish, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, fish dealer and fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. I have been engaged in fishing for thirteen years, principally in boats; but one summer in a schooner, the "Rehabite," and am well acquainted with the fishing grounds.

2. I made a trip of three days in June 1874, on board of the American schooner "Cynosure" of Booth Bay, Maine, in which time we fished close to this shore and took two hundred barrels of mackerel. She took six hundred and seventy barrels of mackerel in eight days that trip. She was about one hundred tons burden and carried fifteen or sixteen hands. Her catch was all caught within three miles of the shore.

3. There must be fully two hundred boats fishing between Mimmigash and Nail Pond and I should say more. The last three years the number of boats has doubled and more. The boats themselves are of a better quality than they were three years ago. The capital invested in boat fishing has also doubled or trebled during the same time.

4. The reason there has been such an increase is because people found the fishing to pay.

5. Each boat, on an average, carries a crew of about three men, a number of shoremen are also employed in connection with the boats.

6. As a general thing the boats get their codfish from three miles out to a half mile from shore; the spring codfish are right in handy the shore; the mackerel range from half a mile to three miles off; the greater part of the mackerel are caught about a mile and a half from the shore; in the fall of the year they move off to about three miles; I should say two-thirds of the fish here are caught within three miles of the shore; the ling are caught about two and a half to three miles from the shore.

7. Some years some of the boats catch over two hundred barrels of mackerel each; taking one year with another for the past ten years, I would put the average catch of mackerel at fifty barrels per boat. I would put the average catch per boat, taking all sizes, of codfish and ling at about fifty quintal.

8. When the Americans come here they fish in about from one to three miles from shore; I have seen them so close that they have run aground.

9. When there is a fleet of Americans here they hurt the boat fishing and draw off the fish; their bait is better than ours, and they throw it and draw away the fish from our boats; while they are here the boats do not do much as a general thing; the fishermen look upon the arrival of the Americans as the break-up of the boat fishing.

10. The right of trans-shipment is a great advantage to the Americans, because they can unship their fish here and send them home while they themselves can go on with their fishing; they would thus save from three to four weeks a trip; that would be equal to a trip saved during the summer. Another advantage is that they can send on their fish, even half loads, in time to catch the good markets, which they could not do if obliged to go home with their cargoes, and as the mackerel is a very variable market, this is a very great advantage.

11. The mackerel season lasts on the shore from the first of July on till towards the end of September. The Americans get here about the beginning of July. The Americans seine for mackerel along here.

Sworn to at Nail Pond, Tignish, Prince County, in Prince Edward Island, this 28th day of June, A. D., 1877, before me,

JOSEPH MACGILVRAY,
J. P. for Prince County.

WM. S. LARKIN.

No. 24.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
 PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,
 PRINCE COUNTY.

I, Michael Foley, of Alberton, in Prince County, in the said Island and Dominion, merchant, make oath and say:—

1. That I am at present and have been for the past three years, doing business in Alberton aforesaid, and that an important part of my business consists in prosecuting the fisheries on the north and west coasts of this Island.

2. That I furnish supplies to about eighty fishing boats, which supplies consist of bait, hooks and lines, provisions and necessary clothing for the men on board said boats; and that the men required to complete the crews of said boats, and to cure and land the fish taken by the boats, would amount in the aggregate to four hundred men—a few more or less.

3. That I am in frequent communication with the fishermen in my own employ, and with others who prosecute the fisheries on their account, (and whose catch of fish I purchase) and consider myself capable of furnishing correct information as to the manner in which the shore fisheries of this Province are carried on.

4. From my own personal observation, and from information obtained in the manner set forth in the preceding section, that nearly if not all the mackerel taken by the boats, are caught within three marine miles from the shore, though a large boat may, late in the season, fish further off the land.

5. In a good season a boat's crew will catch between fifty and eighty barrels of mackerel, besides a quantity of herring, codfish and hake, and the greater part of the codfish and hake are caught more than three miles from the coast line, but within the three mile limit, and the herring are caught within three miles of the shore.

6. The boats are sometimes interfered with while fishing, by American fishing schooners coming near them, throwing a large quantity of bait, and by that means taking away the fish that may be around the boat; the schooners frequently drift and come in contact with the boats when the latter are at anchor, fishing, thus causing serious damage to the boats and their outfit.

7. In the Summer of the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, I was in charge of my own vessel, the "Lily Ada," of the burthen of fifty-five tons, and was master of said vessel and continued to use the said vessel during the fishing season of that year for fishing only, and myself and crew of said vessel caught two hundred and fifty barrels of mackerel, three fourths of which catch were taken within three miles of the coast, and the remainder was taken within the three mile limit, and during that summer my vessel was in company with the fleet of American fishing schooners on the coast of this Island fishing, and the fish so taken by the different vessels of the American fishing fleet were caught at or near the same fishing grounds and in the same manner as those fish taken by my vessel.

8. For the past three years I have furnished supplies to fishing stages built for the purpose of packing and curing fish at Mimnigash, Hayward's Cove, Frog Pond, Black Pond, Nail Pond, Kildare and Cascumpec Harbor, and these stages are visited by me almost daily during the fishing season and from my observations made at the different stages, which are all in prominent places on the beach, I should say that fully one half of the fish caught by the American schooners (fishing at or near that part of the coast) are caught within three miles from the shore, and the greater part of the remainder of their catch are taken within the three mile limit.

9. A great advantage accrues to the American fishermen fishing on the coasts of this Island, from the fact, from their right of trans-shipment, as when a large catch of fish is made, they can with very little delay, trans-ship their cargo, and immediately resume the fishing; they are also enabled to take speedy advantage of a profitable market.

10. The harbor of Cascumpec is at present frequented by the vessels of the American fishing fleet, and is near the fishing grounds and easy of access, and if the same is improved, it would to a very great extent add to the safety of the vessels fishing on the coasts of this Island, and materially assist and make secure the American fishing schooners while engaged in the fisheries on the coasts of this Island.

11. That great facilities are engaged by the American fishermen on the coasts of this Island, by being unable to secure clam and other bait and by replenishing their supply of wood and water from the shores of this province.

12. That fishing in boats has increased to a very great extent during the last few years and the boats now employed are larger and in all respects better found than those formerly used.

13. I have been for twelve years master mariner and ship owner, and have been during that time sailing principally in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and am well acquainted with the coasts of this island.

Sworn to at Summerside, in Prince County, in Prince Edward Island, the 26th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me,

M. FOLEY.

JAMES W. HOWE,
 Commissioner for taking affidavits in the Supreme Court,
 and Notary Public for Prince Edward Island.

No. 25.

DOMINION OF CANADA,

PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

KING'S COUNTY, to wit :

I, Marshal Paquet, of Souris, in Kings County, in Prince Edward Island, farmer and fisherman, make oath and say :

1. That I have been personally and actively engaged in the mackerel fishing in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence from the year 1860 to 1869. In 1860 I commenced fishing in an American vessel, "The Morning Star." We made two trips to the Gulf during that Summer and caught 450 barrels. During that season there were about 500 American vessels in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence prosecuting the mackerel fishery. Their average catch during that year was small, not more than 300 barrels per vessel. During six weeks of that Summer we were on Bank Bradley and did not get any fish. We then came down to Bay des Chaleurs where we got a few. We left the Bay and crossed over to the Island where we caught most of our fare, about two-thirds, within three miles off the shore.

2. That in the year 1862 I fished mackerel in the American vessel "Mary W. Dodge." During that year there were at least five hundred American vessels fishing mackerel in the Gulf. The average catch of that season was small, not over three hundred and fifty barrels per vessel, —two-thirds of which would be caught within the three-mile limits.

3. That in the year 1864, I was again engaged in mackerel fishing aboard the American vessel "S. A. Parkhurst," of sixty tons burthen. During that year we made three trips to the Gulf, making a total catch of nine hundred and fifty barrels, fully three-fourths of which we caught from one to three miles from the shore. There was a large number of American vessels in the Gulf that season, over five hundred. The catch was very good, some of the vessels taking as many as 1300 barrels. I should say the average catch that season would be over six hundred barrels per vessel. Averaging the ten years between 1860 and 1870 that I was engaged in the fishing, I would say that the American fleet would number four hundred sail each year—their average catch would be four hundred and fifty barrels per vessel each season, and of this number, without a doubt, two-thirds were caught inshore within the three-mile limits.

4. Our usual custom in fishing was to sail in close to the shore, from one half to one mile of the shore, heave our bait and drift off taking the mackerel with us. Time and again when I was fishing in American vessels, we have gone in among the boats fishing near the shore and heaving our bait, which was generally superior to that used in the boats, take all the mackerel with us, and the boats would have to wait for another school to come along.

5. During the year 1868 I was boat fishing out of Souris harbor. The Americans, when they saw us catching in the boats, made a practice of coming in among us and attracting away the mackerel, which they always succeeded in doing. They would thus draw all the fish away from the boats and the shore, and in some cases it would be a week or more before we would get a catch worth speaking of. This practice is very injurious to the boat fishing. Since the year 1870, I have noticed, while engaged in trading in fish, that the American vessels have continued this practice.

6. There were as many mackerel caught inside the limits since the Reciprocity Treaty has expired, as before. In fact the expiration of the treaty did not seem to make any difference with regard to the limits. The cutters did not prevent, to any extent, the Americans from fishing within the limits, as they would generally keep a good look out for the cutters, and when they saw a cutter in the distance would stand off till she had passed and then commence fishing within the limits again.

7. From my experience and personal knowledge, I would say that the Americans would not come to the Gulf at all if they could be wholly prevented from fishing within the limits, as fully two-thirds of all the mackerel taken are caught within from one to three miles off shore.

Sworn to at Souris, in Kings County, in Prince Edward Island, this 27th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

JAMES R. MACLEAN,
J. P. for Kings County.

MARSHAL PAQUET:

No. 26.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

KINGS COUNTY, to wit :

I, Peter Deagle, of Rollo Bay, in Kings County, in Prince Edward Island, make oath and say :—

1. That I was personally engaged in the mackerel fishery from the year 1864 to 1870 in American vessels.

2. That I commenced fishing in the American schooner "Northern Chief" in 1864, and during that year we took nine hundred and forty barrels. In 1865 I fished in the "Safronia" from Gloucester, and that season we caught seven hundred barrels. The next year I was in the "S. A. Packurst," and we caught six hundred barrels. In 1867 I fished in the "Northwester" also from Gloucester. This year was not as good as former ones. Our catch was five hundred and eighty-five barrels. In 1868, I made one trip late in the fall of the year. Our catch for that trip was ninety barrels. In 1869 I fished in the "Pescodore" and that year we made two trips, catching during the first two hundred and twenty barrels, and during the last one hundred and seventy barrels, making 390 barrels for that season.

3. That during the six years from 1864 to 1870, my opinion from actual observation is that there were about four hundred American vessels of an average in the Gulf each year, and that the average catch per vessel would be about four hundred barrels each season.

4. That I have no hesitation in saying from my personal experience during that time that at least three-fourths of all the mackerel caught in the Gulf by American vessels have been taken within the three mile limits.

5. The cutters did not trouble us anything to speak of, and I do not think they interfered with vessels fishing within the limits to any extent.

6. At that time there were large numbers of boats fishing off Rustico and Tignish. The catches of these boats would no doubt have been much larger, if the Americans did not visit our coasts and fish inshore.

7. Judging from the large proportion of the fish caught by the Americans within the three mile limits, I am of opinion that they would not come here at all for fishing purposes if they could be wholly prevented from fishing within the three mile limits.

Sworn to at Souris, in Kings County, in Prince Edward Island, this twenty-seventh day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

PETER DEAGLE.

JAMES R. MACLEAN,

J. P. for Kings County, Prince Edward Island.

No. 27.

I, Samuel Prowse, of Murray Harbor, in Kings County, Prince Edward Island, Member of the local Government, make oath and say :

1. That I have been engaged in the fishing business in Murray Harbor for eleven years.

2. That there are about forty boats or more engaged in fishing out of Murray Harbor, the values of which would run from one hundred and fifty to five hundred dollars each; there are also six or seven schooners. These boats take crews of about four men each, besides the men employed on shore, who number about thirty men.

3. That there are a large quantity of fish taken by small boats along the shore, of which we have not the means of forming a correct estimate. The boats above mentioned, together with what fish are taken in the immediate vicinity by the small boats along the shore, take over three thousand quintals of codfish and over four thousand of hake. There cannot be less than seven thousand pounds of sounds taken from these hake, worth, at a low estimate, fifty cents a pound. The codfish are worth about three dollars, and the hake two dollars the quintal. There are about four thousand gallons of oil taken from these fish, worth from forty to forty-five cents a gallon. The fishing-stages here pay little attention to mackerel fishing, as the cod-fishing off here is the more profitable, and fishermen get the mackerel chiefly for bait, and they are dependent on the mackerel for their codfish bait. The Americans, by destroying the mackerel fishing on the shore, injure our cod-fishing.

4. That the principal part of the codfish brought into this harbor are caught along the shore, between Wood Island and Souris.

5. That it is not an unusual thing to see from eighty to a hundred sail of American fishing vessels hove to, fishing mackerel, between this and Georgetown, many of whom fish on Sunday as much as on any other day. The number above mentioned are the vessels seen at one time, and by no means include the whole number of their vessels in the Straits. I could not make an estimate of the amount of fish taken by them, but judge it must pay them well to come here to fish, otherwise they would not continue to come.

6. That the Americans interfere with our boat-hake-fishing, as the boats are dependent on the shore mackerel-fishing for bait, and the Americans come in, throw large quantities of bait and glut the fish, so that they will not bite and the boats cannot get them. Complaints are also being continually made by the fishermen that the garbage and offal from the fish thrown out by the Americans injure the fishing. Now, also, by the use of set-lines for codfish and seines for mackerel, much larger quantities of fish are taken by the Americans than formerly.

7. That by having the right to land their fish here and trans-ship them, and refitting, I believe the Americans are enabled to make an additional trip in the season, which they would be unable to do were they obliged to take the fish home in their own vessels. They can also watch and take advantage of the fluctuations in the mackerel markets, which are very variable.

Sworn to at Murray Harbor, in Kings County, Prince Edward Island, this 30th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

MALCOM MACFADYEN,
J. P. for Kings County.

SAMUEL PROWSE.

No. 28.

DOMINION OF CANADA,

PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

KINGS COUNTY, to wit :

I, Daniel McPhee, of Big Pond, in Lot Forty-five, in Kings County, in Prince Edward Island, fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have personally been engaged in the mackerel and codfishing in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence since the year 1863.

2. That in the year 1863 I commenced mackerel-fishing in the American vessel "Messina," and that during that year we fished in the Bay Chaleur, and took home with us six hundred barrels of mackerel during the fishing season of that year, one-third of which quantity, I would say, was caught within three miles of the shore.

3. That during that season, and up till about the year 1870, there were about 500 American vessels in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence engaged in the mackerel fishery.

4. That during the years intervening between the years 1863 and 1870, my opinion is, that the average catch of mackerel per season would be 500 barrels per vessel.

5. That from my experience and from my personal observation, I would say that one-half of the total quantity of mackerel caught by the American fishing fleet has been caught within three miles of the shore.

6. That during the years 1867 and 1868, I would say that 100 of the American vessels fishing in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence took out a license, paying fifty cents per ton for the privilege of fishing within the three-mile limits:

7. That those vessels that did not take a license, and which were by far the greater number, if they were fishing within the limits, would hoist sail when they saw a Canadian cutter coming, and go outside, wait till the cutter had passed and then go back within the limits and resume the fishing again. That the cutters did not to any appreciable extent, prevent the fishing within the limits.

8. Our usual custom was to go in close to the shore in fleets of 50 to 60, heave our bait and then drift off taking the fish with us. If we saw a boat from the shore catching mackerel, we would lee-bow them, that is, we would go close on to her, heave our bait and draw off the mackerel; the boat would then have to wait for another school of mackerel. This would often occur and in every case would spoil the catch of the boat.

9. That during the last two or three years the number of American vessels engaged in the mackerel fishery in the Gulf has not been so numerous as in previous years, owing, no doubt, to the fact that the mackerel have not during those last two or three years frequented our coasts in such numbers as in previous years. This year, however, the prospects are good for mackerel fishing.

10. That about 200 of the American vessels get their bait on the Nova Scotian coast, and in my opinion, without the bait obtained there they could not carry on the fishing.

11. That the Americans also take large quantities of herring from our coasts, about 10,000 barrels from the Magdalene Islands a year, all of which would be caught close up to the shore. There are 40 American vessels engaged at Fortune Bay, in Newfoundland, in prosecuting the herring fishery, averaging about 500 barrels per season per vessel, all of which are caught close to the shore. There is also a

fleet of 20 American vessels that fish at Bay of Islands in the Fall of the year, averaging 700 barrels per vessel per season, which are all caught well within the three-mile limit. Then there is also a fleet of 40 American vessels which fish off Grand Manan. They average 350 barrels of herring per vessel, which are all caught close to the shore.

12. That the mackerel on their arrival in the Gulf first strike the Magdalene Islands, then cross over to the Lower Canadian shore, Seven Islands and Bay Chaleurs, and then come down along the west shore, keeping close inshore. They then strike across to North Cape, in Prince Edward Island, and thence hugging the shore closely move along towards East Point.

13. That, in my opinion, if the Americans were prevented altogether from fishing within the three-mile limit, they would not frequent the Gulf at all on account of the great risk they would run in getting a fare at all outside that limit.

Sworn to at Souris, in Kings County, in Prince Edward Island, this twenty-sixth day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

DANIEL MCPHEE.

JAMES R. McLEAN,
J. P. for Kings County.

No. 29

I, Malcom McFadyen, of Murray Harbor, South, in Kings County, Prince Edward Island, merchant and fish dealer, make oath and say:—

1. That for the last ten years I have been actively connected with the fishing business, and I have had some experience in it for a long time. One year I was myself fishing on the Labrador coast, and I have been nine years buying, curing, and trading in fish at Murray Harbor.

2. That out of this harbor there are about forty boats and six or seven schooners engaged in fishing. The number of boats has increased very much. The boats are now larger than they used to be, and are decked boats. The cause of the increase is that fishermen have prospered here during the last ten years. There is a class of people who go in for fishing and nothing else. They live better than those who go in for both farming and fishing, but fishing is a help to them all round.

3. That these boats carry on an average about four men each as crew; that would be clear of the men employed on shore, who here are about thirty in number.

4. That these forty boats catch, in the aggregate, about three thousand quintals of codfish and four thousand quintals of hake, in the season, on an average. Codfish are worth about three dollars and hake two dollars a quintal. There are about seven thousand pounds of sounds in these, the price of which varies from thirty-five cents to one dollar a pound. The oil amounts to about three thousand five hundred gallons, worth, all round, forty cents a gallon. The catch of mackerel here varies from three to six hundred barrels in the season. The fishermen do not go into mackerel fishing so much as into cod fishing. There are also a few herring taken on this shore for bait.

5. That the codfish are caught along the shore and on the Banks, principally on Fisherman's Bank. They are all caught in the Straits. The mackerel are caught along shore.

6. That of late years I should estimate the number of American vessels fishing in the Straits at about two hundred sail. They fish their mackerel principally along the shore, and the codfish on the Banks. There are not many of them cod-fishing here, they are mostly mackerel fishermen. Some of them make two trips to the Straits, trans-shipping the first trip at the Gut of Canso. I should average their mackerel catch in the Straits at about three hundred barrels to a vessel.

7. That the American fishermen do a very great injury to our boat-fishing. They come up among our boats, when the latter are getting mackerel, and throw large quantities of bait and glut the mackerel, so that the fish stop biting and the boats can get no more of them. This is what is called leebowing. The Americans also clean their fish on the grounds, and this practice does great harm. In cod-cleaning the offal is thrown overboard, and I believe the fish eat the offal and bones, and the water is poisoned around. At any rate, the fish are driven away from the ground when the offal is thrown overboard. I should say the mackerel offal has the same effect, but there is not so much of it.

8. That fishermen are all opposed to the coming of the Americans, on account of the harm the latter do to the fishing. The coming of the Americans is looked upon as the end of the good boat-fishing for the season. They also injure the morals of the fishermen, as they have no regard for Sunday or any other day. They also sometimes come on shore and break and destroy many things about our villages and shores.

9. That the lobster fishery is now a large business here. There are a number of lobster-preserving factories on this Island now. They are caught along the shore in three or four fathoms of water, or about half a mile from the shore. I do not know that there are any Americans, except one in Souris, engaged in this business here at the present time, but there are a good many of them along the Nova Scotia shore. This fishery everywhere is all carried on and the lobsters caught close to the shore.

10. That a good many of the American cod-fishermen get bait at the Magdalen Islands, and ice at Canso. They have not bait on their own shores for this fishery, and are obliged to depend on our shores for their codfish bait, so that their cod-fishery is dependent on our herring fisheries for its existence.

They go very extensively into the cod-fishery. They also get our herring, not only for bait but also to ship to Sweden and other parts of Europe. There were a lot of them at the Magdalens this Spring getting herring for that purpose. They take the herring in seines and nets. The herring are caught right on the shore.

11. The seining at the Magdalens does a lot of harm, as there are such numbers of herring killed. The seines sometimes take up thousands of barrels, and only part of these can be cured. They are killed or smothered in the seines, and the seines are finally tripped and the dead fish thrown away.

12. That at the Labrador I have seen the Americans seining for codfish. They also trawl for them very extensively. This is a very destructive way of fishing. In the Spring of the year the trawls catch up the mother fish before they spawn, and millions of fish are lost in this way. The young cod taken on the trawls are also thrown away, as being too small for keeping. Numbers of the fish also get killed on the trawls and get knocked about. These also are thrown away. We receive little or no benefit from these vessels in return for the injury they do us, as they do not trade here except for such things as they cannot get at home. We don't collect even anchorage dues from these vessels, although they get the benefit of our harbors and lights. They also get their wood and water on our coasts, without which they could not fish.

13. The value of the right of trans-shipment is a great deal to the Americans. It saves them a trip home, which would save them a month in the best of the fishing. That would represent a save in money of from five to eight hundred dollars a vessel. They can also refit here just as cheap as at home. It would generally be an advantage, as enabling them to get their fish into market early, and thus catch the good early markets. They trans-ship to a large extent at Canso. Only for this right to trans-ship the last trip to the Gulf would be lost, as they would not be able to go home and return soon enough to make it.

14. That at this factory or stage we put up from one hundred and fifty to two hundred thousand cans of lobsters in the season, the net value of which is about twelve dollars and one-half a hundred. At retail they are sold for much more than that.

Sworn to at Murray Harbor, in Kings County, Prince Edward Island, this 30th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me, the erasures and interlineations opposite my initials having been first made.

MALCOLM MACFADYEN.

SAMUEL PROWSE,

A Justice of the Peace for Prince Edward Island.

No. 30.

I, Charles W. Dunn, of Murray Harbour, in Kings County, Prince Edward Island, fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing for about twenty-eight years, winter and summer, in both boats and vessels, having fished in the cod fishing on the Banks for about seven winters. I have also fished mackerel in this Gulf with the Americans from the summer of 1868 till 1871, and also in the halibut fishery on these coasts.

2. That there are all of forty sail of boats engaged in fishing off this harbour, and there have been a number added to them in the last two years, since I have been here. These boats are decked boats and carry crews of four and five men each.

3. That these boats are all engaged in cod and hake fishing, and do not go in for mackerel fishing except for bait. These fish are all caught along the coasts, some on this shore and some on the Nova Scotia shore.

4. That I was down here in the Gulf mackerel fishing in the schooner "William T. Merchant," of Gloucester, United States, for one whole season—five months and four days. That was in 1868. We took nine hundred barrels of mackerel in her. She was sixty-seven tons burden and carried fifteen hands.

5. That in 1869 I was in the "Ada L. Harris" of the same port, fishing for two months, or about half the mackerel season, in the Gulf. We took out five hundred barrels of mackerel. She was registered at forty-eight tons and carried twelve hands.

6. That in 1870, I was about two months and a half fishing in the Gulf, in the "Reunion," during which time we got four hundred and thirty barrels of mackerel. She was seventy-four tons and carried fifteen hands.

7. That in 1871 I was in the "Rambler" for eight weeks fishing in the Gulf. We took out two hundred and eighty barrels of mackerel. We came into the Gulf late that season. She was sixty-three tons and that time carried thirteen hands.

8. That fully three-quarters of the fish taken in these schooners were taken close to the shore, or within three miles along this island, Miscou, Bay Chaleur, the Magdalens and other places on the British coasts. Taking the season through, the inshore fishing is the best. I believe that it would not be at all worth while to fit out for this Gulf, if the vessels were not allowed to fish inshore.

9. That I was two seasons or parts of seasons seining on the American shore for mackerel. One of these seasons I was there for seven weeks, and we only got one hundred and twenty barrels. We

then came down into this Bay, at the end of the season, and caught two hundred and eighty barrels. The second year I was out there, we did not do much. The American shore is not such good fishing ground as the Gulf. On their shore the hookers have little or no chance as the seiners have broken up the fishing.

10. That I have been cod fishing for seven or eight winters on Georgias and the Grand Banks in American vessels. We used to trawl, and have taken two hundred and twenty thousand pounds of salt fish in three months. The bait we used to use were all herring brought from the Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and other British shores. These fish are taken fresh and frozen and kept in ice. There is no bait to be had on the American shores, except a few herring near Eastport, and some pogies, but these last are no good except a few for the Georgias fishing. All this fishing for cod fish is entirely dependent on the Dominion and Newfoundland herring fisheries, and without these herring the cod fishery could not be carried on and would have to be given up. The ice is got on the American shore first and then is got on the Nova Scotia shore. There is a large fleet of American vessels engaged in the cod fishing.

11. That there is also a fleet of some eighty or ninety sail of Americans trawling for halibut on these coasts. There are quantities of halibut caught at Boone Bay, right round Anticosti; up the Quebec River, near and above Seven Islands, up as far as Trinity Bay. These are all caught close to shore in three or four fathoms of water. At Anticosti we could often see the halibut on the bottom when we were trawling. This would be about two or three hundred yards from shore. I have seen ten thousand halibut a day caught at Anticosti, in water where we could see bottom. This halibut fishery is the best paying fishery that I have ever been in. I have made ninety dollars in twelve days as one of the hands at this fishery.

12. That the seining breaks up and destroys the fishing as it breaks up the schools of mackerel and scares the fish. The seiners also take both big and small fish, and all sorts of fish, and they only save the good mackerel. The herring, small mackerel, and other fish are all killed in the seines and these are thrown away. These fish all sink to the bottom and putrify and hurt the bottom, the feeding ground of the other fish, and I think it poisons the other fish to eat this rotten stuff. The seining has broken up and destroyed the fishing on the American shore, and that is the effect it always has. They break up and destroy the hooking with the seines. This has happened on the Georgias grounds.

13. That the years the cutters were round they interfered with the American fishing, and spoilt catches. I was out then myself and we used to have to keep a man always on the look out, and then when we saw the cutter's smoke we had to clear out. Some of their vessels were taken by the cutters.

14. That the right to land here, trans-ship their mackerel, and refit is a very great advantage to the Americans, as they save on an average three weeks each trip by not having to take their fish home in their own vessels. This would be equal to an additional trip for the season. Then they can buy provisions and refit cheaper here than they can at home. They can also watch and take advantage of the changes in the mackerel market. If a skipper has any fish he can telegraph on to his owner and can have the fish sold in the early market and at the early prices. The mackerel are also liable to get rusted and injured by being kept long in the holds of the vessels. This injury is avoided by landing the fish and sending them on in steamers without loss of time.

Sworn to at Murray Harbour, in King's County, in Prince Edward Island, this 31st day of July, A. D. 1877, before me, the erasures and interlineations opposite my name having been first made.

CHARLES W. DUNN.

MALCOM McFADYEN,

J. P. for Kings County, Prince Edward Island.

No. 31.

I, James Howlett, of Georgetown, in King's County, Prince Edward Island, fisherman, make oath and say:

1. That I have been engaged in fishing for fifteen years, in vessels belonging to the United States. I have fished all about Bay Chaleur, from Port Hood to Seven Islands, at the Magdalens, all along this Island coast, and two year's mackerel fishing on the American shores, and many winters cod-fishing.

2. That I should say the American fleet in this Gulf numbers three hundred and fifty to four hundred sail, for certain, each year. The number varies, last year there were few schooners in the Bay.

3. That in the "Affodite," an American schooner, of about sixty-eight tons, and carrying fifteen hands, we landed two trips at Canso; and carried two home, making four in all, averaging two hundred and seventy-five barrels each trip.

4. That in the "Alice G. Wanson," I fished one season in this Bay, and we carried home four hundred barrels of mackerel. She was seventy tons measurement, and carried sixteen hands.

5. That one summer in the "Energy," a large schooner of one hundred tons, we took home four hundred and fifty barrels.

6. That I was in the "Glenwood," for the Fall trip, or about half the season; in her we carried home two hundred and seventy-five barrels. She was a schooner of about sixty-five tons, and carried fourteen or fifteen hands.

7. That I was in the "Rose Skerret," fishing in this Bay for the first trip of about two months, July and August, and we took home two hundred and five barrels. She was about seventy-five tons, and carried seventeen hands.

8. That I was one whole season in the "Pescadore," fishing in the Bay for two trips. We carried home in all five hundred and fifty barrels. She was about fifty-eight tons burden, and carried fourteen hands.

9. That I was in the "C. D. Oliver," for two-thirds of the season, when we carried home two hundred and seventy-five barrels of mackerel.

10. That in my experience of fishing in the Bay, we averaged, for the whole season, from five to six hundred barrels of mackerel each year.

11. That one season in the "John Somes," we took home seven hundred barrels of mackerel. She was about sixty-five tons burden, and carried fifteen and sixteen hands.

12. That in the first part of the season, the fish caught in these vessels were mostly caught between West Point and North Cape of this Island, in the latter part at North Cape, Magdalens, Port Hood, and some at Sydney.

13. That I was half of two seasons on the American shores, mackerel fishing, two hundred and fifty barrels was the most we got. Most of the mackerel there are seined, and I think the seining prevents the hooking.

14. That there is a large fleet of American vessels engaged in the cod-fishing. All the Western and Grand Bankers get their bait from the Newfoundland and Dominion shores. They also get their ice there too. That cod fishery is dependent on these herring fisheries for its existence, as without the herring you cannot get cod fish.

15. That there is also a large halibut fishery off Newfoundland, Grand Banks and the Nova Scotia shores. These use herring for bait, and other small fish, but they do not use so much herring as cod fishermen.

16. That the right of trans-shipment is of value to the Americans, in this way, that they can thereby save three weeks on the trip, which, in good years, would amount to about a trip saved. They can refit at pretty much the same rate as at home.

17. That I believe that trawling and seining are ruinous to fishing, as the trawls catch up the old mother cod-fish before they spawn. The seining does harm, as it catches big and small, and the small are never used; and when large catches are made there are quantities of fish killed in the seines—and these are lost. I have known vessels take two or three hundred barrels more than could be saved, and these had to be tripped out and went to the bottom.

Sworn to at Georgetown, in Kings County, Prince Edward Island, this 31st day of July, A.D. 1877 before me

DANIEL GORDON,

J. P. for Prince Edward Island.

JAMES HOWLETT.

No. 32.

I, John Graham, of Cavendish, in Queen's County, Prince Edward Island, fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing off this Island, in boats, for about fifteen years, and am acquainted with the fishing grounds.

2. That there are fully forty boats along this beach without reckoning the harbor, and the number is increasing every year. The number of boats along here has doubled if not trebled in the last five years, and the boats are better now than then, being better modelled and better built.

3. That these beach boats carry on an average crews of three men each, in the harbors the boats carry average crews of five men each, that is besides the stage men employed on shore, of whom there are a good number.

4. That the average catch of mackerel along this beach would be about one hundred barrels to the boat. The bulk of these fish, I should say three-fourths, are caught within one mile and one half to two miles from the shore. In the Fall the harbor boats sometimes go further off.

5. That one reason for the increase in the number of boats is that people can now ship away their own fish, even in small quantities, whereas, formerly, they had to sell to the dealers here for what the latter choose to give. We can always get the cash for the fish now, while for farm produce and in other business we cannot. It is found to pay now which is the great reason for going in for fishing. Fishermen handle a good deal of money which they could not get in any other way.

6. That the American fishermen come down here about the first of July and stop all Summer. Sometimes I have seen as many as one hundred and fifty sail of them from this stage at one time, all fishing close to the shore; they fish where the boats do. Latterly they have been using seines, at one time last year (1876) I saw three of them seining off this shore. I look upon their seining as an injury to our fishing. There were not so many of them here last Summer as in some former years, but there have been seventy sail of them off the shore at a time last year.

7. That the Americans often do harm to our fishing by coming in among the boats and taking away the fish. They come in near the shore and throw a lot of bait and then drift off to sea and the fish follow them. We never calculate on doing much for some days after we see the Americans coming in shore, as the fish get full of bait and will not bite. They come in among the boats which are getting fish and lee-bow them, thus causing the mackerel to leave the boats. I never want to see them coming round. After their fleet comes round we cannot do much with the boats. I think that throwing over so much bait and also throwing the offal of so many fish overboard, injure the fishing.

8. That it is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to come here and fit out for fishing and trans-ship their fish when they have them. They come into Charlottetown and fit out, and they often go into the same port to ship away their fish. They save enough time by having the right of trans-shipment, to make another voyage to the fishing grounds. The fish get poorer in look and in quality by being kept long in the holds of the vessels, and by being trans-shipped they are saved from this deterioration, and consequently command higher prices. The fishermen are also enabled to take advantage of the fluctuations of the fish market, and catch good prices.

Sworn to at Cayendish, in Queens County, Prince Edward Island, this 11th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOHN GRAHAM.

ALEX. M. McNEILL, J. P.,

Commissioner for taking Affidavits for Queens County.

No. 33.

I, John R. McDonald, of St. Margaret's, in Kings County, in Prince Edward Island, farmer and fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have had a practical acquaintance with the fishing business for the last eighteen years, all in schooners, both belonging to this Island and to the United States. I have fished out of Gloucester, in the United States, for seven years, and I know the Gulf fisheries well. I have been master of fishing schooners for the last eight years, excepting the present year (A. D. 1877).

2. That at the present time I am carrying on a fishing business at New London Harbor in Queens County in said Island. There are about one hundred and fifteen boats belonging to and fishing off the New London Harbor and Beach at the present time and I believe they are increasing. There are a lot of new boats fishing here now, and a lot of stages have been put up here during the past year. The reason I give for the increase in the number of boats and the increased quantity of money invested in boat-fishing, is that, when the people carried on fishing on the coast in a small way, they found the business to pay, and then they went more into it, and the more boats they put into the business the greater were their profits in proportion to the number of boats employed. It does not cost very much more to run ten boats fishing than it does to run six, because the stages and all the shore expense and outfit would be the same, and the only additional expense would be the actual cost of the new boats with their outfits, and the extra feed and wages of the men on board them, while the profits would be larger. In short, as far as my experience goes, I find the fishing to be a paying business, although some years are better than others.

3. That the boats are now much better built, better rigged and better equipped in every way than they were five years ago. People now take pride in their boats.

4. That the average crews of the boats are about four men to each boat, besides those employed on shore, who are employed at about the rate of four to six men to six boats.

5. That I should call one hundred and fifty barrels a fair average catch of mackerel per boat for the season, taking one year with another; but less than that would pay well.

6. I should think that all the mackerel are caught within three miles of the shore. I found in vessels that I could do nothing more than three miles from the shore. Within the last three or four years none have been caught outside of three miles.

7. That I fished for eight years on board of Island schooners, in the Gulf, as captain. I fished in the schooners "Letty," "Corsair," "Octavia," "George S. Fogg," "Little Belle," belonging to this Island.

8. That I went out fishing in the "Corsair" about eight years ago. She was of about forty tons burden and carried a crew of twelve hands. She made two trips that season, mostly along the Island shore, and partly in Bay Chaleur. On board of her, that season, we caught about four hundred and fifty barrels of mackerel.

9. That the year after I was on-board the "Corsair," I fished in the "Octavia," a schooner of sixty-four tons burden, belonging to Charlottetown. She carried seventeen hands, and we made three trips, two of which were along this Island shore, and one up the Bay Chaleur. In the three trips we caught eight hundred and fifty barrels of mackerel. We did not go in for any other kind of fishing. In both those vessels nearly all the fish were caught in shore, about two miles and from that in, being the best fishing. Fully two-thirds of our catches were within two miles of the shore, and nearly all within three miles of the shore.

10. That I fished on board the "Letty" for two years. She was a schooner of fifty-seven tons burden and carried sixteen hands. We fished altogether on the Island coast, and the first year made two trips, and caught five hundred barrels of mackerel, nearly all of which were caught near the shore. The second year we fished in the same places and caught about four hundred and ninety barrels of mackerel.

11. That the year after I was fishing in the "Letty," I went in the "George S. Fogg" of this Island, a schooner of one hundred and three tons burden, and having a crew of twenty-one men. We made two trips in her, and caught in the two trips about seven hundred and eighty barrels of mackerel. These were all caught along the Island shore and Nova Scotia coast. Nearly all were caught within three miles of the shore.

12. That last year (1876) which was the worst year I ever knew, I was out in the "Little Bello" of thirty-eight tons burden and carrying twelve men. We only caught one hundred and eighty barrels that year. The fish were too close to the shore for schooners to do much.

13. That almost all the American fishermen fish close in to the shore of the different provinces of the Dominion, and I do not think the Americans would find it worth while to fit out for the Gulf fishing if they could not fish near the shore. The year the cutters were about the Americans did not do very much although they used to dodge the cutters and fish in shore.

14. That I fished on board of American schooners for about seven years in the Gulf, and during those years we used to land from six hundred to one thousand barrels the season, averaging about eight hundred barrels. We used then to generally fish about the Magdalen Islands, and close in.

15. That the boat fishermen complain that the American schooners break up the schools of mackerel and injure the boat fishing. They throw so much bait that the fish get glutted and sink to the bottom, wont bite, and very often leave the grounds. The Americans also lee-bow the boats whenever they see the latter getting mackerel, and take the fish away, when there is no use for the boats to stop there any longer.

16. That the right to land at our ports and harbors, ship away their fish, and take in a new outfit without having to go home, is a very great advantage to the Americans. Outfits are cheaper here than in the United States, and labor also is cheaper, such as coopering. They save a great deal of time, as they can go in and send away their fish and take in a new outfit, and be back on the ground without losing much time, while if they had to go on to the States they would lose about a fortnight each trip, which would amount to a good trip saved in the summer. They can also watch the fish markets and ship away their fish as soon as they land, if the price is up, selling them "to arrive." The mackerel market is a very fluctuating one, so that it is a great advantage to be able to trans-ship without delay. The fish also are getting worse the longer they are kept in the holds of vessels. The pickle is apt to sour or run off, in which latter case the fish rust, and they get knocked about by the tossing of the ship, and they thus become of an inferior quality by the time they get to market, and command smaller prices.

17. That I have fished for herring at the Magdalen Islands for four or five Springs, and there has always been a large number of American schooners fishing herring there. They seine the herring, catching large quantities. They send a great many of these to Sweden and Norway and the West Indies, besides to the United States. At the Magdalen Islands they fish right in shore, in fact they drag the seines to the shore.

18. That in my opinion the American plan of seining is injurious to the mackerel and other fishing, as they only keep the good large fish, and throw the small ones and the other kinds of fish overboard, and they are destroyed.

19. That the mackerel strike about the Magdalen Islands first in the Spring, and then they strike down towards Bay Chaleur, and then to North Cape of this Island. At the Magdalen Islands they are caught in nets in the Spring, and a great many Americans catch them there. The Americans know all about the way the fish strike, and they follow them as the fish go from place to place.

Sworn to at French River, in New London, in Queen's County, in Prince Edward Island, this 12th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

JOHN R. McDONALD.

JOHN SHARPE,

Justice of the Peace.

No. 34.

I, Colin McKenzie, of French River, in New London, Queen's County, Prince Edward Island, farmer and fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing for twelve years, fishing off the north side of this Island, in both boats and schooners, and have fished herring in the Spring at the Magdalen Islands, and also on the north coast of Newfoundland. I have been dealing in fish and had a good opportunity to see the fishing there.

2. That there are over one hundred boats fishing out of this harbor, and off the shores in this neighborhood. Four years ago there were not half so many as there are now, and the number is still increasing fast. The boats are of a superior quality in every respect to what they were four years ago. The capital invested in boats has more than doubled within the same time. There are now about twenty

fishing stages, and more built for carrying on the fishing business, and six years ago there were only one or two.

3. That the boats carry crews of four men each, on an average, and there are three men to every four boats, employed as stage men; that is, not reckoning the coopers and others employed on shore. The boats also furnish employment to the vessels in the carrying trade, during the dull freight season. There is also a lot of money put in circulation through the country, which creates a trade for the country about the stages.

4. That the boats, on an average, catch about one hundred barrels of mackerel each during the season, worth about one thousand dollars. As soon as the mackerel are shipped we can draw and get the cash for them.

5. That I should say that one reason the boats are increasing in numbers is that good fishermen can now be obtained. Another reason is that there is now a surplus population growing up, who have no land, and take to fishing for employment. The chief reason for the increase is that the business is found to pay.

6. That the boats along this part of the Island catch large quantities of cod-fish before the mackerel season comes on, but the principal part of the boats leave off cod-fishing when the mackerel come. If followed up here, the cod-fishing would be valuable.

7. That there are considerable quantities of herring caught about here in the spring, and if people went into herring-fishing, they might get as many herring as they wanted. We get herring also down at the Magdalén Islands. The herring are used for bait during the mackerel season, and also for home use. Each boat, on an average, wants about twenty barrels of herring for bait, during the season.

8. That nearly all the mackerel and all the herring taken by the boats, are caught inshore, that is within three miles of the coast line. About half the cod-fish are caught within the same distance from the shore.

9. That I have fished in schooners belonging to this island for several seasons. That I fished in a schooner called the "Garland" about twelve years ago, a schooner of about fifty tons burden and carrying eight hands. We fished in her off this island for the whole season, and got at last three hundred barrels of mackerel. Most of these fish were caught inshore.

10. That I fished for a season in the schooner "Hannah" of this island also of about fifty tons burden and carrying eight hands. We fished off this island, that was about eight years ago. We caught about three hundred barrels of mackerel in her, the greater part of which were caught close to the shore.

11. That I fished about seven years ago, for a couple of seasons on board the "Minnie R." carrying nine hands. In her we fished along the Island shore and up the Bay Chaleur, and caught about two hundred and eighty barrels each year, but we did not fit out till nearly the first of August. In all these vessels we traded along through the spring and did not fit out for fishing till late. Every year we fished, I noticed that we used to fish closer to the shore, which I consider shows the mackerel are working closer to the land.

12. That during the seasons I was fishing in schooners, there were large fleets of American fishermen fishing in the Gulf. They used mostly to fish within three miles of the shore, especially during the last two years I was out. I should say that at least two-thirds of their catch of mackerel were caught inshore. I have seen some of their vessels take their entire loads close inshore, never going off.

13. That, taking one year with another, for the last eight or ten years, there have been fleets of American schooners fishing in this Gulf, of about four hundred sail each year. For the last two years they have not been so many, the reason for that is that they have had good fishing on their own shores in those two years, which they do not often have. During the last two years I should not think there were more than three hundred of them in the Bay.

14. That the American schooners often interfere with the boats, by coming in, throwing bait and drifting away, taking the fish with them. They, in fact, break up the boat-fishing to some extent. Their coming is looked upon as an injury to the boats, fishermen would sooner not see them coming, when the boats are lying at anchor getting fish, the vessels drift down and lee-bow the boats, spoiling their fishing for that time.

15. That I was down at the Magdalen Islands some years ago, herring-fishing, and there were a hundred sail of American fishing vessels getting herring there. They would take an on average eight hundred barrels each, they ship them away to the West Indies and to other places. The herring there are all caught in the bays and harbors, and are caught with seines, which they often drag to shore. That fishery is valuable to the Americans, as they will get large returns for small out-lay, and many of their cod-fishermen take their bait at the Magdalen Islands.

16. That I have been getting herring at Newfoundland and have seen large numbers of American vessels fishing there. They fish there all Winter. They freeze large quantities of the herring caught there, for bait for their Georges fishing fleet, in fact Newfoundland supplies nearly all the bait for their Georges fishing.

17. That in the Spring, nearly all the mackerel coming here, come by Cape North and through the Gut of Canso, and then they strike the Magdalenes, and the herring come in the same way. From the Magdalenes the herring and mackerel strike up for Bay Chaleurs and for the coasts of this Island and for Anticosti, and towards Fall both mackerel and herring work back again in the opposite direction. The American fishermen know all about this habit of the fish, and follow them as they swim, and catch them at the different shores.

18. That I am of opinion that, for some years back, it would not pay the schooners to fit out for

the Gulf fishing, if they were prohibited from fishing within three miles of the shore, that is for herring and mackerel.

19. That when the cutters were about they used to frighten off the American schooners to a large extent. I have seen them here and in the Bay Chaleurs; have to clear out when the cutter was coming, even when they were getting good fishing. The reason they were not kept off altogether was that there were not enough cutters to watch the coast.

20. That I consider the right to land here, trans-ship and re-fit is very valuable to the Americans, as they would save a fortnight each trip, right in the heart of the fishing season, which would amount, in a great many cases, to a trip saved in the season. They are enabled, owing to having the right to trans-ship, to take advantage of favorable prices in the fish market, which is very fluctuating. Besides that, by trans-shipping, they can get their fish into market in better order than if they kept them on board their own vessels. The fish, by being kept in the holds of the vessels, are apt to lose pickle and rust, and mackerel are fish that need repacking.

Sworn to at French River, in New London, in Prince Edward Island, this 12th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me,

JOHN SHARPE,
Justice of the Peace.

COLIN McKENZIE.

No. 35.

I, Alphonso Gilman, of Malpeque, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been following the fishing for about seventeen years, in both boats and schooners, that I have been engaged in fishing out of this island about six years and out of the United States the rest of the time in schooners.

2. That out of Malpeque Harbour and on the shore there are about fifty boats, of all sizes, engaged in fishing, and the number has increased considerably during the last two years. These boats carry crews, on an average, of about four men to a boat. That the boats engaged in cod fishing average about forty quintals a boat for the season, and the average catch of each boat engaged in mackerel fishing, not reckoning dories, would along here, be about thirty barrels.

3. That these fish caught by the boats are caught not further than three miles from the shore.

4. That, taking one year with another, there would be seven or eight hundred schooners engaged every year in fishing in the Bay, of which about six hundred sail are Americans. These schooners generally fish around the Magdalen Islands, in the Bay Chaleur, in the bend of this island, around the East Point, around Margaree, in the bend of this island these schooners generally fish close inshore, and at the other places, from ten miles out to the shore. Within the past ten years the greater part over half of the mackerel, taken by schooners, would be taken within three miles of the shore.

5. That I have fished in about twenty schooners, both Island and American, and these schooners would average three hundred barrels for the season.

6. That the right to refit and trans-ship here saves time to the Americans, as they can save about three weeks each trip by being able to land here and trans-ship without having to take their fish home in their own vessels, and that would amount to a trip saved during the season. There is the further advantage that by trans-shipping, they are able to take advantage of the markets for fish which is a very variable market.

7. That when the mackerel first come in to the Bay, they generally come up towards Bay Chaleur, Gaspé and round there,—passing the Magdalen Islands on their way. It is up there that the American fleet generally goes first to catch fish.

8. That I am an American citizen and have fished for years out of Boston, Gloucester, Camden, Frankfort and Belfast in the United States.

Sworn to at Malpeque, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, this 13th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me,

H. S. MARSHALL,
J. P. for Prince County, Prince Edward Island.

ALPHONSO GILMAN.

No. 36.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington.

I, E. Marshall, of the Island of Anticosti, County of Saguenay, Province of Quebec, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

Was born in the State of Maine, U. S. Have carried on the shore and vessel mackerel fishery for about thirty years consecutively, till 1870. Twenty-two years I spent in the shore and vessel mackerel

fishery at Prince Edward Island. For six seasons previous was master of American fishing vessels in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and from 1867 to 1870 was master of the "S. G. Marshall," which was seized for supposed illegal fishing inshore in Gaspé Bay. The names of the vessels of which I was master, were the "Orelia," of C. C. Gazel, of Alexandria, Virginia; "Oasis," of Ingham, Mass.; "Chance," of C. C. Duroc, of Boston (a seining vessel), and the "S. G. Marshall," of P. E. Island.

1. The fishing by American schooners was very extensive from 1852 to '70. During that period the number of American vessels which have visited the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence for fishing purposes, yearly, amounted from 300 to 500 sails. This I have seen with my own eyes. Each vessel having an average of 12 men for a crew. All these were mackerel fishing. The places where the Americans fished most during that period were on the shores of Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and on the shores of Bay of Chaleur, from Port Daniel to Dalhousie, and east, from Port Daniel to Bonaventure Island, in Gaspé Bay, and on the south shore of Gaspé, from Cape Rozier to Matam, and on the north shore from Groisie to Gadbout River. I have fished myself nearly every year in these places, and I never missed my voyage.

2. Each of these vessels have made good fares every season, and some of them have made two trips of mackerel. Each of these vessels have made yearly a voyage of about 400 barrels.

3. The Americans catch their mackerel with seines and hand lines.

4. My opinion is that codfish gurry should not be allowed to be thrown overboard on any fishing ground around the shores, because it injures the small fish and drives away the large fish. This is my experience. For instance, if we throw codfish gurry on a fishing ground in the night, we could not find a fish there in the morning.

5. Mackerel caught by the Americans during the period mentioned above, have all been taken inshore, with the exception of a few barrels. The mackerel which I caught myself were all taken inshore.

6. The inshore fishery is by far the most valuable for all kinds of fish. In fact there is only two places where fish are taken in any quantity outside—the Orphans and Bradley Banks. But the Americans don't resort there.

7. When American vessels come to fish among the boats, they entice all the mackerel away, it is my experience, I have enticed mackerel away from the boats myself often. This is done by the Americans whenever they get the chance.

8. Most of the Americans are supplied with either purse or hauling seines. The hauling seines have been in use for the last 40 years, and the purse seines for mackerel, for about 15 years.

9. The fishing with hauling seines are all practiced from the shores, and the purse seine in deep and shoal water.

10. Within the last 5 or 6 years most of the mackerel are caught in the Gulf with the seines.

11. The use of the hauling seine has been mostly practiced in our shores from Port Hood to Cape Chat on the south shore and Goudbout to Seven Islands on the north shore. I have practiced seining for three years from Gaspé Basin to Goudbout and Matam, and I have done well. In eleven days I stocked \$7,000 in Gaspé Basin, and I have seen at Goudbout, about 23 years ago, two American vessels loaded in one haul of the seine. The purse seines are mostly used now for mackerel.

12. I believe that the practice of seining is injurious to all kinds of fish, more especially to mackerel, because it destroys small and large fish.

13. The bait that the Americans use for taking cod and halibut, is all caught inshore or bought from the inhabitants at Anticosti and the north and south shore. Bait is taken with nets and seines.

14. Codfish, haddock, halibut, and pollock, are caught by American fishermen in inshore waters. And the same fish are also caught by the Canadian fishermen inshore.

15. The herring are all taken inshore, and is an important fishery. Four hundred barrels have been taken by the Americans at Fox Bay this Spring. They take herring for bait and for sale in their own and foreign markets.

16. On an average the Canadian mackerel are larger than the American.

17. The principle breeding and feeding grounds of mackerel are at Magdalen Islands, P. E. Island, Bay Chaleur and Gaspé Bay. Mackerel feed on lance, herring, shrimps and other marine animals floating in or about the surface of the water inshore.

18. I consider it a great advantage to American fishermen frequenting Canadian waters to be allowed to land, dry their nets and cure their fish.

19. The privilege granted to the American fishermen by the Treaty of Washington, to be allowed to trans-ship their cargoes, is of the greatest advantage to them, in this respect, that it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds, and to double and triple their fares.

20. The American fishermen could not carry on the fishery of cod and halibut if they were not allowed to catch bait inshore or to buy it from the inhabitants. If they buy it instead of catching it, it is because they save time and find it more profitable.

21. I consider it a great advantage to Americans to be allowed to resort to Canadian inshores for ice. Not later than last week an American schooner fishing halibut here, lost her fare by not having ice.

22. The privilege of fishing in American waters is of no advantage to us. I never knew of any vessel from here ever resorting there to fish.

23. Fishing by Americans in Canadian waters injures their fisheries. Let us suppose for an

instant that Gaspé Bay was full of mackerel and let 50 sail of vessels come in and fish one day, and you could not find a fish there next day, that is my experience.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Anticosti, County of Saguenay, Province of Québec, Dominion of Canada, this 23rd day of July, 1877, before me,

E. MARSHALL.

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 37.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington.

I, James A. Nickerson, of Margaret's Bay, in County of Halifax, Province of Nova Scotia, master mariner, make oath and say, as follows:—

1. I have been engaged nearly all my life, either directly or indirectly, in the fishing business. For about eight years I was engaged in the mackerel fisheries and commanded the vessel. Two of the years were immediately before the Reciprocity Treaty and the other six were during its continuance.

2. My vessel, "The Argo," was about sixty tons burthen, and my average catch per season was eight hundred barrels.

3. I fished along the northern and eastern coast of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island, and followed up to Bay of Gaspé and the Bay de Chaleur.

4. My best catches were taken off the north coast of Cape Breton, from Shittegan to Hanley Island, Port Hood, and I never caught any of the fish to speak of beyond three miles from the shore. I am certain and positively swear that fully nine-tenths, and I believe more than that proportion of my entire catch was taken within three miles of the shore, the nearer to the shore I could get the better it would be for catching fish. One reason of that is that the mackerel keep close inshore to get the fishes they feed on, and these little fishes keep in the eddies of the tide quite close to the shore.

5. If I had been prevented from catching fish within these three miles, I am satisfied I could not have got any fish at all.

6. Along Prince Edward Island the fishermen sometimes get good catches more than three miles from the shores. This is caused by the large fleets of vessels who only fish when the wind is off shore, drawing the schools of mackerel out into the Gulf by throwing bait while fishing and drifting off from the land. It is necessary, however, for the fishing vessels to go close inshore before they can raise the mackerel and to draw them off. If the fishing vessels were kept out of the three-miles belt or limit the same result would follow as off Cape Breton, no mackerel would be taken.

6. Later on in the season, the fishing fleet, by constantly throwing bait and drawing the mackerel from the shore, manage to get the fish in deeper water, and then sometimes catches are made at long distances from the shore.

7. In Bay de Chaleur catches of mackerel are sometimes made or taken more than three miles from shore, but this is the result of their being drawn off shore by the fleet fishing, the same as off the other coasts I have spoken of.

8. The American fishing fleet frequented the Gulf in great numbers during the years I fished, but their numbers varied greatly, sometimes numbering five hundred and sometimes one thousand.

9. These American fishermen got their catches in the same places we did. They took the fish close into the shore, that is by far the larger proportion of them, and the opinion among the American fishermen was universal, that if they were excluded from fishing within these three miles off the shore they might as well at once abandon the fishery.

10. The fishing was principally carried on by hook and line, but since the Treaty of Washington Americans have used to a considerable extent purse seines to catch the mackerel.

11. I am satisfied that the fishing grounds are seriously injured by the American fishing fleet, throwing over the offal from the mackerel when cleaning them— and I am acquainted with localities where the fishing was temporarily destroyed from this cause. Boat fishermen never throw over the offal, they carry it on shore with them.

12. I was one of the officers of the "Sweepstake," one of the Canadian Marine Police cruisers one year, the year 1869, and of the "S. G. Marshall" during the years 1870 and 1871. The "S. G. Marshall" was another of these cruisers. Our duties were to enforce the law preventing American fishing vessels from fishing along the inshores. The two first years our station for cruising lay between Pictou and Saint Paul's Island, and the last year from Shediac to Gaspé, including the Bay de Chaleur. My experience was that the Americans constantly endeavored to get into the prohibited ground to fish. The first few weeks we commenced cruising we were stationed at the Gut of Canso, and we boarded all the American vessels that passed through, and warned them not to fish within three miles of the shore on pain of being seized and forfeited. Notwithstanding that warning they kept continually creeping in and we eventually seized the "A. H. Wanson" while fishing within three miles of the north shore of

Cape Breton. At that time there was at least fifty American fishing vessels fishing at the same place and within three miles of the shore, but we could only seize one. The others left for home almost immediately saying it was useless to prosecute the fishing unless they could do so within three miles of the shore.

13. During the first two years we were cruising we were constantly finding them fishing within three miles of the shore. They could not raise the fish outside and were obliged to come in. We kept constantly warning them, but they as constantly and persistently kept fishing inside the limits and close to the shore. The last year (1871) when cruising between Shediac and Gaspé we did not see many of them violate the Law by coming within the limits, but when I ran over to Prince Edward Island I saw great numbers of them fishing within three miles of the shore, as many as thirty at one time. At that time they were allowed by the Island Government to fish there as I understood, but I had no authority to interfere with them.

14. The experience gained by me during these years when I was engaged in these cruisers and my own previous knowledge gained from years of practical experience in the business convinces me beyond a doubt, and I have no hesitation in stating it under oath as my firm deliberate conviction that if the American fishermen were prohibited or could be strictly prevented from fishing within three miles of the shore they would entirely abandon the British American waters altogether, so far as mackerel are concerned.

15. The inshore fisheries are of so much more greater value than the outshore or deep sea fisheries that the latter would be utterly useless by themselves and without participation in the inshore fishery.

16. The Americans do use the purse seines for catching mackerel on our coasts and their use has the effect of driving the fish into deep water and away from the ordinary fishing grounds. I am not aware that they have been used extensively, my opinion is, that they have not been.

17. I am aware that the American fishermen buy large quantities of bait all along the coasts of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. I cannot say whether they catch it to any extent themselves. Without this bait they could not carry on the codfishery at all. When I speak of not being able to say whether they catch bait I wish to confine that to the herrings. I am aware that they fish for and catch squid in Canseau, Guysboro and along the Eastern coast of Cape Breton in considerable quantities. I have seen them catching these squid everytime I have been along the coast in the squid season. These squid are among the very best bait for codfish, far better than herring. They are taken close into the shore, sometimes up against the rocks. They would prefer buying the squid to catching them if they could buy them, but they cannot because the people do not catch them to any extent. Squid are taken with a jig. They are not taken in nets.

18. Since the Washington Treaty the American codfishers have been able to get their supplies for the codfishery besides their bait and ice along our coasts and the consequence is there has been a marked increase, I would say fifty per cent of these American codfishers. Being able to obtain bait and ice so near and so easily they have their trawls extending from Cape Sable to Cape North in Cape Breton and a consequence is in my opinion that the best fish are prevented coming inshore, and are lost to our shore fishermen. Without being able to get the bait they could not do this.

19. The herring fishery is entirely an inshore fishery. None are taken outside. It extends round the entire coasts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Lower Canada, and are chiefly taken by Dominion fishermen and used as bait or sold as such to the Americans.

20. The food of the mackerel is various depending upon the season, a small fish called a shrimp, and another called brit, and small herring, the seasons spawn are the food they generally feed on. These small fish are found in the tide rips in the small bays, and off from points, but close to shore within half or quarter of mile from shore or less. That is where the mackerel are first found after rising from spawning. They feed there for a time until they fatten and then they begin to move further off from shore and after getting fat move southward again. The mackerel breed along the coasts and in the bays of Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, and Quebec, they go into shoal water to spawn unless disturbed.

21. The privilege of trans-shipping their fish is a very valuable one to American fishermen because it saves so much of their time at the very season when it is most valuable. In this way they are enabled to make an extra trip at least, and some of the more fortunate two trips and consequently make very much larger catches. Without this privilege I don't believe many of the Americans would prosecute the mackerel fishery on our coast. * * * I form this belief from my intercourse with the American fishermen themselves.

22. The privilege of fishing in the American waters is of no use or benefit to Canadian fishermen.

28. United States fishermen coming into our inshores professedly for fishing purposes take advantage of it to trade with the inhabitants and sell them large quantities of smuggled goods from the United States. This is quite prevalent.

29. I have been for the past four weeks ill from the effects of a tumour which I have had removed from my throat and am still in the doctor's hands and unable with safety to move about much.

Sworn to at Halifax, in the Province of Nova Scotia, this day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

JAS. A. NICKERSON.

WM. ACKHURST, J. P.

No. 38.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington.

I, John L. Ingraham, of North Sydney, in the County of Cape Breton, in the Province of Nova Scotia, fish merchant, make oath and say as follows :

1. I have been engaged in the business of fish merchant during the past twenty years, and am at present so engaged, and am well acquainted with Canadian fishermen and American fishermen in this locality, also with the buying and selling of fish, bait, ice, and fishermen's supplies.
2. I have seen at one time two hundred American fishing vessels in this harbor. In the summer of eighteen hundred and seventy-six I have seen as many as thirty at one time. In these vessels there are from ten to fifteen men each.
3. These vessels fish often within one-half mile of the coast, North and East of Cape Breton, and all around.
3. They take from one hundred to five hundred barrels of mackerel each; some take from one hundred to one thousand quintals of codfish. This amount they take each trip. They get them around the shore, on Grand Bank, and wherever they can. The mackerel men make two trips, and those catching codfish make an average of at least two trips, some making three trips.
4. I have been well acquainted, during the past twenty years, with the amount of fish taken by vessels around this locality, and have found that the amount varies, being sometimes good for two or three years, poor for two or three years, and again good for another two or three; they have been rather poor for the last two or three years. This year the mackerel have been reported plenty east of Cape Breton, and will probably be plenty again for a number of years.
5. The fishing is mostly done with hooks and trawls, the Americans trawling in deeper water than Canadian fishermen.
6. The American heavy trawling destroys the mother fish. They catch the larger fish, and often throw over any small ones taken, thus injuring the fisheries.
7. During and before the Reciprocity Treaty of eighteen hundred and fifty-four the American fishermen fished close to the shore, following the fish close in and wherever they could take them. Since the Treaty of Washington they come along the shore, fish close in, within three miles of the coast. When our armed vessels come, they leave, and when the armed vessels go away, they return.
8. The inshore fishing is, in my opinion, of more value than the fishing outside, as the fish make in towards the shore, and if the Americans could not come in and get bait and ice to keep their bait, the outside fishing would be of no benefit to them whatever, the privilege of fishing and purchasing bait, purchasing ice and supplies being invaluable.
9. The American fishermen use seines in deep water and also on the shore, and Canadian fishermen complain that by these seines they take great quantities before they can get in shore, and break up the schools of fish.
10. The Americans get all their bait within three miles of the shore, in the bays, creeks, and harbors, by fishing for it with hook and line, and with nets; they also purchase large quantities, because they say it is more convenient to do so at times.
11. The American fishermen, to my knowledge, take codfish and haddock inshore by trawling and hooking them, and Canadians in the same way.
12. Almost all herring fishing is done inshore, and the Americans catch them for bait, and they often sell herring thus caught. This I know well, having purchased herring from them all along the coast.
13. The Americans catch very large quantities of mackerel, and I have often heard American masters say that our mackerel is much superior to that caught in American waters, being larger and fatter.
14. I have been informed by American fishermen that the mackerel feed inshore and places where the water is shoal, and I have known American vessels catch a cargo of over three hundred barrels of mackerel in a week within five miles of this harbour, and I know of no reason why it may not be done again within the next eight years; the right of transshipping at such a time would be of great value as also the right to land and dry their nets.
15. The right of taking bait in our bays, creeks and harbours is in my opinion invaluable, for without this privilege they would be unable to prosecute the fisheries.
16. American fishermen purchase bait at times because they say, it is more profitable for them to do so, I have sold them large quantities of ice to pack their bait from ten to twelve tons per vessel each fishing trip without which they could not keep their bait. They take about two tons at one time and frequently return for more ice and bait in order to complete the trip.
17. I sold yesterday two American fishermen ice to pack their bait. They also buy flour, beef, oil and molasses when they run short of stock taken from home.
18. I have been engaged in the buying and selling of fish for not less than twenty years, and am acquainted with many Canadian and American fishermen, and I have never known or heard of any

Canadian fishing vessel fishing in American waters, and do not know of any practical advantage that would arise from doing so.

19. If American fishermen were excluded fish would undoubtedly be more plentiful. There would be more Canadian vessels employed not having to compete with American fishermen, and I also believe that if American fishermen were totally excluded from our markets and from fishing in our waters these markets of our own would afford sufficient inducement to carry on fishing extensively and prosperously by our own people.

20. I believe that any diminution in the mackerel trade will not be of long continuance, and know of no reason why it may not be better than it has ever been.

21. American fishermen come around the southern and eastern coast of Cape Breton by dozens through the Canal and Bras d'Or lake and wherever it suits them.

22. From information I have received from masters of Canadian and American vessels I have been led to believe that there have been year after year a thousand American vessels fishing in Canadian waters, the number of which I have no information may have been as great.

Sworn to at North Sydney, in the County of Cape Breton, in the Province of Nova Scotia, this 15th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

JOHN L. INGRAHAM.

W. H. MORSE, J. P.,

For the County Cape Breton.

No. 39.

I, John J. McPhee, of Big Pond, Township number forty-five in King's County, Prince Edward Island, fishermen and fish-stage owner, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing or carrying on the fishing business for twenty odd years, and I am carrying the business at a stage on the North side of this part of this Island at the present time. I have fished in both boats and schooners, but chiefly in schooners both American and Island. I have fished all in this Gulf, except some deep-sea cod fishing on the Georgias Banks, and I am acquainted with the fishing grounds of the Gulf very well.

2. That there are about forty boats engaged in fishing between the East Point and my stage, a distance of about fifteen miles. In that distance there are no harbours, and the boats have to be beached. The number of boats has increased a good deal since last year. The reason for the increase in the boat-fishing is that the men from here, who used to fish on the American shore, found that it did not pay, and they came home to fish on the Island shores.

3. That these boats take crews of from two to four men each, and average about three men each. That is clear of the men employed on shore to carry on the business.

4. That the boats get as many herring in the spring as they want for mackerel bait during the summer, and if the people choose to go into the business, they could get a great many. Last year my boats and dories averaged fifty quintals of cod and hake. The boats also get on an average, on that side, about fifty barrels of mackerel in the season. These fish are all caught within three miles of the shore, that being the good fishing ground.

5. That I was out fishing in several Island schooners, in the "Jane," "Margaret," in one Nova Scotian vessel, the "Tyro," and some other Island vessels. In the "Jane" we got about two hundred and twenty barrels of mackerel. Most of these were taken in on the shore, very few of them were taken in deep water. In the "Margaret" we were cod-fishing right off this shore; the fish taken in her were caught within three miles of the shore. In the "Tyro," a small little vessel, we took about two hundred and twenty barrels of mackerel, all of which were caught near the shore, round the coast.

6. That I fished for two years in the Bay in American vessels, one year in the "Two-forty," and one year in the "G. G. Kidder." In the "Two-forty" we took nine hundred and ninety barrels of mackerel. She was a schooner of sixty-seven tons burden, and carried 15 hands. Of these fish about one hundred and fifty barrels were caught in deep water, more than three miles from the shore; the rest were taken close to shore, within three miles of this Island—the New Brunswick, Nova Scotian, and Magdalen Islands shores.

7. That in the "G. G. Kidder," a schooner of about the same size as the other, we took three hundred and sixty-six or seventy barrels of mackerel, most of these fish were taken close in round the shores. We took very few in deep water.

8. That I have been cod-fishing in deep water off the American shore. There are over a thousand American vessels engaged in this fishery. They get the main part of the bait they use at Newfoundland, round the Nova Scotia shore, and at the Magdalen Islands. The cod-fishery there is dependent on these herring fisheries, and would be a failure if these herring could not be taken. They also get supplies of ice on our shores.

9. That for the last ten years there has been an American fleet of fishing schooners, on an average, of over five hundred sail in this Gulf fishing. Some years there are more and some years less. Last year there were not a great many; the number varies. There are a lot of Americans coming down here this year; this season there are a number of seiners down here, and they do a lot of harm.

10. That the American fishermen clean the fish on the grounds, and throw the dirt and offal overboard. This does a lot of harm to the fishing. The fish eat up this dirt or gurry, and this sickens them, and, I believe, kills the fish. When this is thrown overboard the fish stop biting and cannot be caught. I have always seen them stop biting when we threw the offal overboard. This hurts the boat-fishing, as they have to stop on the ground; the schooners can leave and go to other places. We fishermen look upon this as a very serious injury to us.

11. That the schooners also do a great deal of injury to the boat-fishing by lee-bowing the boats. They come up around the boats, throw a lot of bait and drift off, drawing the fish after them. They do this purposely. It was done in the American vessels in which I fished myself.

12. That the right to land here, trans-ship their fish and refit, is a very great boon to the Americans. The schooners save, I should say, about twenty days by being able to land their fish here instead of going home. They take a good while to go home, whereas they can land in our ports with very little loss of time. They can also fit out in our ports cheaper than they can at home.

13. That the Americans are now beginning to seine here, and that ought to be stopped; it is a very great injury to the fishing. I believe it has spoiled the fishing on the American shore. Seining hurts the fishing, as it breaks up the schools, scares them off the shore, and large quantities of fish are killed. They take all sorts of fish, and they throw away everything except the mackerel. They also take small mackerel, and these are killed in the seines and thrown away.

Sworn to at Black Bush, in King's County, Prince Edward Island, this 26th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOHN J. McPHEE.

JAMES MacDONALD,

Justice of the Peace for Kings County.

No. 40.

I, James McDonald, of Chepstow, in Township Number Forty-five in Kings County, Prince Edward Island, farmer and fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged as boy and man, in fishing for forty years past, in both boats and schooners, the schooners being both American and Island vessels. I fished four years in island schooners and three years in American. I have fished all round this island, down at the Magdalens, up west, in the Bay Chaleur, and herring fishing in the winter at Newfoundland.

2. That, including boats and dories, there are engaged in the fishery from Murray Harbour to East Point on the south side of this island from three hundred to three hundred and fifty boats. The number is increasing fast every year, they have doubled in number in the last three years and are now increasing fast.

3. That the boats increase because there is a demand for fish, and fishing pays better than any other work that I know. Fish are ready money articles, and we can get cash for them any day, and we cannot get it for anything else. The fishing puts a lot of money in circulation in the country which in itself is a great advantage.

4. That the boats, including dories, take on an average, two to three men each, the dories generally taking two.

5. That the boats get as many herring in the spring as they want for bait. The boats use from ten to twenty barrels each during the season for mackerel and cod fish bait. The boats catch some two and three hundred quintals of cod fish and hake during the season, and some less. The average would be about two hundred quintals, which produce a large quantity of sounds and oil. The sounds of the hake are worth nearly twice as much as the fish themselves without the sounds. Some of the boats get, on this side, forty barrels of mackerel and more. The average catch would be thirty-five barrels to a boat. We go in principally for cod fishing here.

6. That nearly all the herring caught are taken close in shore. About half the cod fish are taken near the shore, that is within three miles. There might be one quarter of the mackerel taken by boats here, caught more than three miles from shore; the rest are taken within that distance.

7. That I was out eight weeks one season in the "Spray," belonging to Charlottetown, carrying eighteen hands, in that time we took over one hundred quintals of cod fish, and over two hundred and fifty barrels of mackerel, but that was not half the season.

8. That I was out in another Charlottetown vessel, carrying twelve hands, for five weeks, and in that time we caught two hundred barrels of mackerel.

9. That I was out one season in the American schooner "Mary S. Wanson," of Booth Bay, and we caught six hundred and fifty barrels of mackerel; she was about eighty tons burden and carried seventeen hands, we made two trips and part of another in her.

10. That I was out part of one season in the "Burnside," we were out about two months and caught five hundred barrels of mackerel. She carried sixteen or seventeen hands.

11. That I was out in the "Fox," a long time ago, she was a small vessel, I was not in her the whole season, she only took two hundred barrels while I was in her.

12. That we fished in these vessels all round the North and part of the South side of this Island, catching most of the fish in the Bight of this Island. We got the fish all close in shore, none of the fish were caught more than two or three miles off, and most of them right in among the boats on the shore. Most of the American vessels fished in the same places. Wherever the Americans saw the boats taking fish, they came right in there.

13. That the American fishermen do a great deal of harm to the boats by coming in and lee-bow-ing, and taking the fish away. They come in close to shore, throw bait and drift off taking the fish with them. They sometimes drift down on the boats themselves, and the latter have to get out of the way to avoid being swamped, I have often had to do so myself. The fishermen are sure when the Americans come round, that the boats are going to lose the fish, the vessels are the ruin of the boat fishing. They heave so much bait that they glut and sink the mackerel. They also throw overboard the dirt and offal of the fish they clean, and the fish get sickened by it and wont bite, in fact that offal poisons the fish.

14. That when the cutters were about they used to keep the Americans from fishing near the shore, to a great extent, I have seen the schooners when the boats were getting plenty of fish in their sight, not daring to heave a line for fear of the cutters. Had there been half a dozen cutters the Americans would not have been able to fish in shore at all.

15. That the right to trans-ship their fish is a great advantage to the Americans, as they can thereby save more than a fortnight each trip, which, in the course of a summer, would amount to another trip.

16. That I was down at the Magdalen Islands herring fishing one season, and there were then fifty or sixty sail of Americans fishing herring there. The herring are seined there, and a few are netted, they are caught right in shore, in Pleasant Bay.

17. That one winter I was herring-fishing at Newfoundland, then there were about thirty-five sail of Americans seining herring in Fortune Bay. These herring they freeze for the Georgias fleet, and for markets.

18. That there are large fleets of American fishing schooners in this Gulf every year. There are three, four and five hundred sail at a time. There are a great many of them coming down now, they are arriving fast.

19. That the Americans are now seining down here, and thereby doing a great deal of harm. They take so many more fish than they can save in the seines, that large quantities of fish are smothered and are thrown overboard. They take large quantities of herring in these seines, which they throw away and the fish are destroyed. One seiner last week here, seined a trip of about a thousand barrels which he had to throw away, as his vessel was loaded. Several of the American vessels have already taken their loads and gone. The fish which are thrown overboard by the seiners rot at the bottom and drive the other fish away.

Sworn to at Souris in Kings County, Prince Edward Island, this 24th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me, the words opposite my initials having been first interlined, he fully understanding the same, and knowing the contents.

his
JAMES ✕ McDONALD.
mark

JAMES R. MACLEAN,
Justice of the Peace for Kings County.

No. 41.

1, James Nowlan, of Souris, in Kings County, in Prince Edward Island, fisherman, make oath and say :—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing for about thirty-six years, part of that time in boats and in schooners. I fished for eight summers in American schooners, and I know the fishing grounds all round the North side of this Island, the Cape Breton coast, the Magdalen Islands, and up the Bay Chaleur.

2. That there are about one hundred and fifty boats fishing out of the New London harbor, where I am now fishing, and along the beach, and the number is increasing fast, has doubled at least within the last six years, and the boats themselves are now very much better than they were then; the boats are better built, better modelled, and are smarter boats than they were, they are worth much more. There is very much more money now invested in boats than there was a few years ago. People find that the fishing pays, and they are going in for it more and more. The boat-fishing affords employment to a lot of men, who otherwise would not be at work.

3. The average crews of the boats are from four to five men to each boat, besides the men employed on shore, who are a good number.

4. That the average catch of mackerel for each boat of here is about one hundred barrels. Some years they catch more and some years less.

5. That the greater part of the mackerel caught by the boats is caught near the shore, more than three-quarters of the whole catch are caught within three miles from the shore.

6. That I was on board a small Island schooner called the "Mountie R.," of about sixteen tons burden, and carrying seven hands. I was out in her for about one month, two years ago, and we caught seventy-five barrels of mackerel; all we caught were caught within three miles of the land.

7. That I fished one year for mackerel on board the Nova Scotia schooner "Let-her-Rip," of about twenty-seven tons burden, and carrying eight hands. I was in her only two months and thirteen days, and caught one hundred and fifty barrels of mackerel.

8. That I fished in American schooners eight summers, the last time being in the summer of 1874, on board the schooner "Uncle Joe," of Southport, Maine. She was of about sixty tons burden, and carried sixteen hands. We caught six hundred and eighty barrels of mackerel that summer on board of her. These mackerel were mostly caught along the Island shore and up towards Port Hood. Of these we caught one hundred and seventy barrels in Rustico Cove, about a quarter to a half a mile from shore. More than three-quarters of the whole catch were caught within three miles of the shore.

9. That the American vessels, in which I sailed, would average about four hundred barrels of mackerel the season.

10. That the American fishermen hurt our fishing as they throw so much bait, that they sink the fish. They also clean their fish and throw the offal overboard, and that does harm to the fishing. This offal sickens and kills the fish. The Americans interfere with the boat-fishing, by lee-bowing them and draw off the fish. They come up ahead of the boats and throw bait and drift off taking the fish with them. They break up the schools of mackerel where the boats are. The fishermen look upon the coming of the Americans as the end of the good-fishing for the season, the boats do better before the Americans come than afterwards.

11. That the right to trans-ship and re-fit on our shores is a very great advantage to the Americans. By having this right, they are able to save the time which it would take them to go home. This would be a save of at least a fortnight each trip, which would amount to a full trip saved for the season. They can also send away their mackerel in time to catch the market, which is a very changeable one. That in itself is a great advantage.

12. That I have often been herring fishing at the Magdalene Islands, at Labrador, and on the Newfoundland coast. I was at the Magdalene Islands, this Summer, two years and there were a number of Americans fishing down there. The herring there are caught right in the harbor. The Americans catch large loads of herring at the Magdalene Islands, some of which I believe they send down to the West Indies. The herring there are caught altogether by seines. The American herring fishing there is a big trade.

13. The greater part of the codfish and hake are caught about two miles off the shore, from this Island. Three-quarters of the cod and hake are caught within three miles of the shore, the fishing within that distance is much better than further off.

14. The fish, I believe, in the Spring, come down through the Gut of Canso, and then go to the Magdalene Islands, and from there they strike down towards the North Cape of this Island. The American and any skilled fishermen know of this habit of the fish and know where to get them. The fishermen know just where to get the fish, and they make down from the States in the Spring to the places to get them.

15. The year the cutters were about the Americans were afraid of them, but still they used to dodge in and fish. I believe that six or eight small cutters well fitted out would keep the American fishing schooners clear of the coast.

his
 JAMES X NOWLAN.
 mark

Sworn to at French River, New London, Queen's County, Prince Edward Island, this 12th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me, having been first read over and explained, the said James Nowlan signing by his mark. Before me.

JOHN SHARPE,
Justice of the Peace.

No. 42.

I, John G. McNeill, of North Rustico, in Queens County, in Prince Edward Island, farmer and fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing for eighteen years, and that my experience has been in boat fishing, and I am acquainted with the fishing off this part of the Island.

2. That there are about eighty boats fishing out of North Rustico, without taking into consideration the other parts of Rustico. The number of boats has more than doubled in the last ten years, and is still on the increase. The boats take on an average crews of five men each, besides what men they employ on shore as stage-men.

3. That the boats on an average catch about one hundred barrels of mackerel each, for the season, and about twenty quintals of cod fish and hake each.

4. That the fish are nearly all caught close to the shore, the best fishing ground being about one and one half miles from the shore, in October the boats sometimes go off more than three miles from land. Fully two thirds of the mackerel are caught within three miles from the shore, and all are caught within what is known as the three mile limit, that is within a line drawn between two points taken three miles off the North Cape and East Point of this Island.

5. The reasons for the increase in the number of boats is that people find that the fishing pays and therefore they go in for it.

6. Some years there have been five hundred sail of American schooners fishing off this coast, I think the reason the schooners have not been as numerous around this shore within the last few years, as they were before, is that they were scared away by the cutters some years ago, and they have been compelled to stop fishing. I believe, from what I know of the American vessels, that they catch on an average about five hundred barrels of mackerel each.

7. That the right of trans-shipment is valuable to the Americans because they thereby save about three weeks each trip right in the heart of the fishing season, which, taking the two trips into consideration, would amount to a trip saved in the season. They can refit here more cheaply I believe than they can in the United States. They are also thereby enabled to take advantage of the markets, they can come on shore, find out how the markets are in Boston and other places, and ship away at once in time to catch good markets. That is a great advantage for them.

8. The cod fishing begins here about the tenth of June, and the mackerel about the beginning of July, and the cod fishing lasts till about the tenth of November, and the mackerel fishing till about the twentieth of October, although we have taken mackerel later than that date.

9. There is pretty much a separate class here going in for fishing. The people now pay more attention to the fishing than formerly, the boats are better in every way than they used to be.

10. The coming of the Americans is a great injury to the fishing, they come down and lee-bow the boats, taking the fish away. They sometimes drift down on the boats and break the masts out of the boats doing great injury. The Americans put an end to our good fishing when they come around. I believe one reason for this is the amount of offal which the Americans throw overboard; the blood and offal hurt the fish and sink them to the bottom. Their habit of throwing the offal overboard is very injurious to the fishing.

11. The Americans for the past two years have not been so numerous here as before, because, owing to the large quantities of fish caught two years ago, the price of mackerel is not now as high as formerly. Two years ago with three boats, I shipped one thousand barrels of mackerel.

Sworn to at North Rustico, in Queen's County, in Prince Edward Island, this 10th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me.

JOHN G. McNEILL.

WM. S. McNEIL, J. P.,
Queen's County.

No. 43.

I, George McKenzie, of French River, in New London, in Queen's County, Prince Edward Island, master mariner, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing for about forty years, in schooners nearly altogether, I have fished at the Labrador for codfish and herring, and in the Gulf cod and mackerel fishing, and I am well acquainted with all the fishing grounds from Sandwich Bay in Labrador all up the Gulf to Anticosti, I have fished two years in Anticosti.

2. That there is a very large number of boats fishing off this harbour and the coast in this locality and their number is increasing very fast, in this harbour they have doubled in number during the last year, and the boats are a hundred per cent better now than they were, they are better rigged, better shaped, of better material, larger, and better in every respect than they were. The reasons for the increase in the boat fishing now, is that people, finding it pay are going more and more into it, and young men are now going in for fishing instead of leaving the Island. Young men do not care about going to sea as much as for fishing, as they can get money easier in the latter way. There is also a considerable surplus population springing up now, which find employment in fishing, which they could not get in any other way. Men see there is an opening here for them in the fishing business and they would sooner go into it, than go away.

3. The boats take, on an average, crews of four men each besides the men employed about the stages, who would be at the rate of about four men to six boats. This is besides the men who make the barrels, and others to whom employment is given preparing out-fit and material for the boats. During the fishing season it would take twenty men, clear of the stages and the crews, to keep six boats going. Last year I paid one thousand and sixty dollars for the barrels used by me for my six boats, and which barrels were all made and supplied by men having nothing to do with the boats or stages.

4. That the average catch of mackerel for the boats, taking one with another, is not less than one hundred barrels. This I know from the number of barrels caught by the different boats here, as shown by the actual figures taken as the boats landed the fish.

5. That all these mackerel are caught right along the shore, none further out than three miles from shore, and the greater part within one mile of the line of the shore.

6. That the boat fishing here puts a great deal of money in circulation in the country, as the moment the fish are shipped the fishermen or shippers can draw for the money, and the banks cash their drafts. This keeps up a good circulation of cash in the country and does a lot of good in that way.

7. Until the last two years there have been fleets of five hundred sail of American fishermen fishing in the Gulf, the reason they have not been so numerous the last two years is that they have had good fishing on their own shore, a thing which very seldom happens. It is only very seldom that they have good fishing on their own coasts.

8. That fully two-thirds of the fish caught by the Americans are caught near the shore, within three miles of it, I know this because I have fished among them year after year and I never saw twenty of them at a time fishing more than three miles off, while from one hundred and fifty to two hundred sail of them would be fishing close to the shore. They and the Island schooners always fish about the same grounds. The inshore fishing has always been the best for mackerel at all seasons of the year.

9. That my average catch of mackerel while fishing in Island schooners was about five hundred barrels of mackerel each year, but we were not so well fitted out as the Americans, they having more men, better fit-outs, and more experienced fishermen than we had. The average catch of the Americans was consequently much larger than ours, they would average a thousand barrels each until the last two years, when they have been fishing on their own coast. During the last two years they would not average more than four hundred barrels down here, because they did not come in in time, and the fish were close in shore, and there were not so many fish here as before.

10. That the Americans catch cod-fish near the Labrador, close in to the rocks. There used to be above two hundred sail of American cod-fishermen at the Labrador and along the Gulf shores.

11. That the American schooners used to do great injury to the boat fishing. When the American fleet was down here it used to knock up the boat fishing. They used to hurt the boats, and in fact their schooners did not care what they did to the boats. When they saw the boats raising fish they would come right up and drift down upon the boats when the boats had to get out of the way. Their schooners, when the boats were getting fish, come up and lee-low the boats and take the fish away from them. They used to break up the schools by running down among them and throwing bait. When the Americans clean their fish they throw the offal overboard and that is a great injury to the fishing, as it drives the mackerel from the ground, and I believe it kills them.

12. That the Americans fish large quantities of herring at the Magdalen Islands, they often have one hundred and fifty sail of vessels there fishing herring there. I have seen the number as low as sixty sail, but very seldom. They average about one thousand barrels of herring to each vessel. These are all caught inside of Pleasant Bay, and they are all caught by seines. These herring are partly smoked and are sent to different parts of the United States, and to the West Indies and Sweden, and in fact to wherever there is a market. The herring fishery at the Magdalen Islands is a very valuable one for the Americans, as they are put to little expense about it and get large returns.

13. The Americans always come down after the fourth of July, I have seen a hundred sail of them go into Halifax in one day to fit out for the Gulf-fishing. They stop here till late in November, generally making two or three trips in the season. I have seen thirty sail of American schooners come out of Malpeque Harbour, and to my certain knowledge, they each wanted from one hundred to one hundred and fifty barrels of being loaded, and they dropped down and fished between New London Head and Rustico Head, not two miles from shore, and before sun-down they had all completed their cargoes and sailed for home.

14. Our regular mackerel season begins here about the first of July, the mackerel strike in here about that time, at the North Cape of this Island they strike earlier than they do here. The mackerel season lasts till about the last of September, although they are often caught as late as December. The mackerel stop here till December but the weather gets too blustery to go off for them.

15. That in the spring the mackerel are first caught at the Magdalen Islands, where they are caught in nets by the Nova Scotians and Americans. The mackerel strike the Magdalen Islands about the first of June, right after the herring leave. I think they always come to the Magdalens round Cape North, the mackerel don't stop there long, but strike for the North Cape of this Island, and from there they make over for the New Brunswick coast, and about the month of August they work back Southward again. This general habit of the mackerel is well known to fishermen, and the American fishermen know the habit first rate. When the mackerel strike off for this Island the American schooners never wait along the bight of this Island but press up towards the North Cape, and Miscon, and Mira, and generally along the west coast of New Brunswick and up as far as Seven Islands above Anticosti, as their experience has taught them that that is the quarter where the fish are to be found first. Later on in August and September they come back into the bight of this Island, and that is the time they interfere with the boats. Nearly all the fish caught during these times are caught near the shores of the British possessions, although there are some American vessels which fished entirely in deep water away from the land, but these are comparatively few. Some of the Americans used to be afraid to fish near the shore through fear of the cutters.

16. That it would not be worth while for the American fishing schooners to fit out for fishing in the Gulf, if they were not allowed to fish near the shores. They might as well stop at home.

17. That at the present time about four hundred sail of American cod-fishing vessels fit out on the

British coasts from Cape Sable in the Southern part of Nova Scotia, round to Cape North. They take in bait and ice for the trawl or set-line fishing on the Banks off the Nova Scotia and Newfoundland coasts. They could not carry on this cod-fishery unless they could get their ice and bait on British territory. They could not bring the bait from home with them, as the distance is too great and they could not get fresh herring at home. They also get their ice cheaper and better on our shores than they can buy it in Boston.

18. That the right of trans-shipment is a very great privilege to the Americans. By it they are enabled to make a trip more in the season, than they could if they had to take their fish home in their own vessels, they save a fortnight each trip by having this right. They can also fit out here cheaper than they can at home which in itself is a great advantage to them. They can also put their fish into the markets without delay, when they are able to trans-ship them in our ports, and thus take advantage of high prices in the fish-market, which is about the most fluctuating market in the world. The vessels can land even partial cargoes, and ship them on to the United States and sell them "to arrive," which is a very great thing for the fishermen. The fish also get worse the longer they are kept on board the vessels, they fail, that is, they get light, and are apt to rust owing to the barrels leaking the pickle, in fact they get to look worse, and are worse, and command a lower price the longer they are kept on board the vessel. They also get knocked about by the tossing of the vessels.

19. That there is a great deal of herring fishing done by the Americans in the winter, at Boone Bay, Bay Fortune and at other places on the coast of Newfoundland. These herring are caught for pickling and for bait, and quantities are frozen to send down to Boston and other places in the States for home consumption. There would be fifty sail of Americans down there at a time and they are coming and going the whole time.

Sworn to at French River, in New London, in Prince Edward Island, this 12th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

GEORGE MCKENZIE.

JOHN SHARPE,
Justice of the Peace.

No. 44.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, Peter Paint, Senior, of Port Hawkesbury, in the County of Inverness, and Province of Nova Scotia, merchant, make oath and say, as follows:—

1. I have been for the past forty-five years dealing in fish and fishing supplies, and I am acquainted with the fisheries in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, but principally with those on the Nova Scotia shores, bordering on that Gulf. I deal in all kinds of dry and pickled fish to the extent of \$20,000 per annum.

2. I estimate that since I have been doing business as aforesaid, the American fishing fleet in the Gulf of St. Lawrence has ranged from four hundred to eight hundred sail each year. I have understood that there have been some years as high as one thousand sail of mackerelers and codfishermen. I have known of one hundred and fifty cod fishing vessels and six hundred sail of mackerel catchers in a single season in the Gulf.

3. The catch of mackerel per vessel is between four hundred and five hundred barrels each season worth about \$12.00 per barrel. The codfishermen average about one thousand quintals per vessel each season, worth \$5.00 per quintal.

4. The codfish are caught with hooks, and the mackerel principally with hooks.

5. I believe that the Americans injure our fishing grounds by throwing overboard offal and garbage and that the fish are driven away by this practice.

6. The Americans have always fished as near the shore as they could, whether it was lawful for them to do so or not. The cutters kept them off to some extent between 1865 and 1871.

7. The inshore mackerel fishery is, in my opinion, more valuable than that outside. The herring fishery is carried on inshore altogether. I am of opinion that more than half the mackerel are caught inshore.

8. The American fishermen of late years are attempting to use seines in catching the mackerel in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. I consider this practice very injurious to the mackerel fishery as it tends to break up the schools and drive away the fish.

9. I am not aware that the fish frequenting Canadian waters have increased or decreased to any great extent since the Treaty of Washington. The mackerel were somewhat scarce in 1875 and 1876, but I have known them to be just as scarce several times since I have been doing business here, and they always came in plenty again in a year or two. The mackerel are coming in in large numbers this year and there is every prospect of a good catch I believe.

10. I believe that the Americans handle and dress their mackerel better than our fishermen do, and for that reason they sometimes obtain a higher price for them in the American market.

11. It is certainly a very great advantage to the Americans to be allowed to land and trans-ship their cargoes, as it enables them to make more trips and consequently catch more fish than they otherwise could. By means of this privilege they save about a fortnight each trip. I think it adds fifty per cent. to their catch when the fish are plenty.

12. It is much cheaper for the American cod fishermen to buy their bait on our shores than to spend the time in catching it themselves. They consequently purchase almost all their bait from our merchants and fishermen. It would be utterly impossible for the Americans to carry on the cod and other deep sea fisheries profitably without resorting to our shores and harbors for bait; nor could they carry on these fisheries profitably without obtaining ice to preserve their fresh bait, and other supplies on our shores.

13. The privilege of fishing in American waters I consider to be of no practical advantage to Canadians and I never heard of Canadians availing themselves of this privilege.

The said Peter Paint was sworn to the truth of this affidavit at Port Hawkesbury, in the County of Inverness, this 25th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

MALCOM McDONALD,
Justice of the Peace.

PETER PAINT, *Senr.*

No. 45.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington :

I, George C. Lawrence, of Port Hastings, in the County of Inverness, merchant, make oath and say as follows :

1. I have been engaged here and at Port Hood for the past fourteen years in a general fish trade, and have dealt in cod-fish, mackerel and herring. I am carrying on a large fishing business here now, and during the period named I have had good opportunities of watching the fishing business of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and becoming familiar with it.

2. During the Reciprocity Treaty there were each year in the Gulf about five hundred American vessels. These would average from sixty to seventy tons each, and their crews would number about fifteen men. They were engaged chiefly in taking mackerel, and codfish and herring, from the Magdalene Islands and Bay Chaleurs. The mackerel vessels in the Gulf during the Reciprocity in the most favorable years would average about five hundred barrels of mackerel per season.

3. After the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty, the number of American vessels decreased on this coast, and so far as I am able to give an opinion, their profits diminished after that time. During the past two or three years since the Washington Treaty the American mackerel fleet in the Gulf has been somewhat smaller than in former years under the Reciprocity Treaty. The catch of mackerel has been smaller. I do not regard this as due to any permanent falling off in our mackerel fisheries, but merely accidental and temporary. I have reason to believe that the catch will be larger this year than for some years past, and I know no reason why our mackerel ground should not be as productive during the next eight years as heretofore.

4. The privilege of transshipping cargoes in our ports is a great advantage to American fishermen. I have known it to be done since the Washington Treaty. It enables the American vessels to make more trips, catch more fish, and increases the paying capacity of the enterprise.

5. It is a great advantage to American fishermen to be allowed to procure bait in our waters and ports, and from our fishermen. They could not carry on their cod-fishing successfully without it. The very fact that Americans in many cases buy the bait instead of catching it themselves is evidence that they find it more profitable to do so.

6. It is also an advantage to American fishermen to be allowed to resort to Canadian inshores for ice to preserve their bait and to supply themselves with other articles for outfit required in the business.

7. The privilege of fishing in American waters has so far, at least, not proved of any advantage to Canadian fishermen so far as I know.

8. Not nearly all the American fishing vessels passing through the Straits of Canso are noted or reported. A great number pass through every year that have never been noted or reported at all.

9. The Newfoundland herring fleet from American ports go thither along the eastern side of Cape Breton instead of passing through the Straits, and toward the latter part of the season large quantities of the most valuable mackerel are taken by Americans on the eastern shore of Cape Breton between Cape North and Louisburg, and thereabouts.

10. I do not consider the privileges derived by Canadians of sending fish into American markets free of duty as at all equivalent to the advantages which the Americans obtain under the Treaty of Washington of catching fish, getting bait, and transshipping in our waters and ports.

Sworn to before me at Port Hastings, in the County of Inverness, this 25th day of July, 1877.
before me,

W. M. CLOUGH, J. P.

GEO. C. LAWRENCE.

No. 46.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington.

I, James B. Hadley, of Port Mulgrave, in the County of Guysborough and Province of Nova Scotia, Notary Public, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have resided at the Strait of Canso since the year 1837. From that time until the year 1841 I was engaged in general trade and fishing business. After that I was Collector of Light Duties and Preventive and Excise officer until the year 1848, after which year and until the year 1856 I was engaged in mercantile and fishing business. Since the year 1856 I have done business as a Public Notary. During the whole period since the year 1837 I have had a very extensive and complete knowledge, both personally and otherwise, of the fishing business as carried on by the Americans in the waters on the coasts of Nova Scotia, the Eastern or Gulf coasts of New Brunswick and Quebec, at the Magdalen Islands and Anticosti.

2. That I am well acquainted with the different voyages that the Americans undertake in our waters for fishing purposes. From about the 20th of April to the 10th of May, the Americans pass through the Strait of Canso to the herring fishery at the Magdalen Islands. The next fishery, in point of time, was in former years the Labrador Codfishery; now, however, trawling for codfish comes next, upon which they enter, as soon as they can procure bait, which, with other supplies they obtain on our coasts, especially at the Strait of Canso. From the 25th of June until the last of October they enter our waters to prosecute the mackerel fishery chiefly in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The number of American vessels fishing in our waters for mackerel has ranged in different years from one hundred and fifty to six hundred sail, the number of men in each vessel ranging from ten to eighteen. The principal places where the Americans fish for mackerel in the summer months are all over the Gulf of St. Lawrence, off Pomquet Island, Port Hood, Prince Edward Island, in the Northumberland Straits, off Point Miscou, as far up as the Magdalen River, across to the Seven Islands, off and around Magdalen Islands, and in the fall from East Point and the Magdalen Islands and Island Brion, thence to Cape St. Lawrence and Port Hood, and around the eastern shore of Cape Breton to Sydney Harbor. The trawling for codfish is done all around our shores from the first of May till the fall. They also carry on the herring fishery and cod and halibut fishery from Anticosti, as far north as Greenland, and Labrador on both shores; also at Bay of Islands, Bay St. George and Fortune Bay, the latter place being visited in the winter season. The number of vessels in the herring fishery at the Magdalen Islands alone, ranges from ten to seventy-five sail of American vessels.

3 The mackerel fleet take from four hundred to eight hundred barrels per vessel each season. The herring fleet would formerly take from six hundred to a thousand barrels in bulk each season, per vessel; latterly larger vessels are used in this fishery and a larger quantity taken.

4 The American fishermen carry on their fishery in our waters by the means of seining, trawling and hooks.

5. Wherever trawling is prosecuted it is very destructive to the boat fishery. The Americans also injure our boat fishery or shore fishery by throwing over great quantities of bait. The fishes are also in some cases driven away by the quantity of garbage and offal thrown overboard by American vessels. Great destruction is also done to our fisheries by the Americans by the practice of seining.

6. In the prosecution of the mackerel fishery by far the greater portion is taken within three miles of the shore and the mackerel fishing outside the three miles is of little or no value. The herrings are all taken within the harbors and bays of our coasts, and the trawling for codfish is also done within three miles of the shore. The privilege of coming within the three miles of the shore is of vital importance to the Americans, as all the best mackerel are taken close inshore to the very rocks. The outside fisheries would be of little importance or value to the Americans if they were kept outside the three mile limit. It is for this reason that they have exposed themselves to so great risks in order to fish within the three miles, as they obtain so large a price for the mackerel caught inside in the fall of the year between Port Hood and Margaree, which used to bring from twenty to thirty dollars per barrel.

7. The Americans do great injury to our boat fishery by running in and "lee-bowing" the boats and taking away the fish from them into deep water by throwing bait. Their system of trawling for codfish tends to destroy the mother fish which are lying on the bottom in a kind of stupid state just before they spawn.

8. The privilege of landing and drying their seines and nets and curing their fish is of great importance to the American fishermen.

9. It is also a valuable privilege to the Americans to be allowed to land and trans-ship or store their cargoes, by which means they are enabled to make three or four trips to the Gulf of St. Lawrence if the fish are plenty, whereas they could otherwise make only one or two trips by taking the fish home in their own bottoms each time.

10. The trawlers for codfish could not prosecute their calling without obtaining bait and other supplies on our shores; at least not at all in a profitable manner. I have known them to be compelled to abandon their voyage in consequence of not being able to procure bait on our shores. The obtaining of ice and other supplies on our coasts is also a very great advantage to the American fishing vessels on our coasts.

11. The privilege of fishing in American waters is in my opinion of no practical advantage whatever to Canadians, and I never heard of any Canadian using those waters for fishing purposes.

12. In my opinion it would be better for Canadians to exclude the Americans from the fisheries within the three mile limit and keep them for our own people, even if the American Government put a duty of \$2.00 per barrel or any other amount of duty on our fish.

And I say that the above statements to the best of my knowledge and belief are true in substance and in fact.

The said James B. Hadley was sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Port Mulgrave, in the County of Guysborough, this 24th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

JAMES B. HADLEY.

GEO. B. HADLEY,

A Justice of the Peace.

No. 47.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, Michael Crispo, of Harbor Au Bouche, in the County of Antigonish and Province of Nova Scotia, merchant, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been acquainted with the fisheries on our coasts for the past thirty years, during ten years of which time I was personally engaged as a practical fisherman, and during the remainder of said time I have dealt in various kinds of fish to the extent of about \$20,000 or \$25,000 yearly. Up to the year 1874, I estimate that there were on an average about four hundred sail of American vessels engaged in the mackerel fishery on our coasts and in our waters each year, and that the yearly catch up to that date would average about six hundred barrels to each vessel. During the past three years the number of American vessels in the mackerel fishery on our coasts has been smaller, as the mackerel have been less plenty. This year, however, there appear to be plenty of mackerel in Antigonish Bay, and there is a good prospect of a fair catch there. I have not heard how the fishery this year is succeeding on the other parts of our coast. It is my opinion that the scarcity of mackerel in our waters is not permanent, and that they will come in again as plenty as ever, unless destroyed by the purse-seines which the Americans are beginning to introduce in our waters.

2. Formerly about one-half of the mackerel were caught within three miles of the shore; of late years, however, two-thirds of them are caught within that distance, in my opinion; and I consider the inshore mackerel fishery of much greater value than that outside. The herring fishery is almost altogether inshore, and is carried on principally at the Magdalens and on the shores of Newfoundland and Labrador, and is probably as good at the present time as ever it has been. The cod fishery is principally on the Banks, as the inshore fishery has been greatly injured by the practice of trawling followed by the American fishermen. The mackerel are caught all around the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

3. I consider the practice of seining, which is beginning to be employed of late years by the Americans in the mackerel fishery, is very injurious. By means of this they have ruined the mackerel fishery on their own coasts, and will doubtless injure ours very greatly in the same way. The seines to which I refer are called "purse seines," because they draw up at the bottom like a purse. They destroy a great many fish uselessly, and tend to break up the schools of mackerel.

4. I do not think that the Americans could profitably carry on the cod fishery without procuring bait on our shores. They purchase a large quantity of bait from our fishermen and merchants. They also procure on our coasts a good deal of ice, which enables them to preserve their bait much longer than they otherwise could. I refer to the cod fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The vessels engaged in this take about four hundred barrels per vessel each season, worth about \$1,600.

5. The inshore boat fishery of Canadians is injured by the Americans coming in among them and baiting the mackerel and enticing them away; and I consider that it would be a valuable advantage to British fishermen to carry on this inshore fishery without being subjected to local competition by United States citizens.

6. The privilege of landing and trans-shipping cargoes is of great advantage to the Americans engaged in the mackerel fishery on our coasts, as they are thereby enabled to make more trips and catch more fish than they otherwise could. They save about a fortnight by this means on each trip they make.

7. I consider that the fact of American mackerel bringing a higher price than Canadian is largely owing to the former being placed in the market sooner after being caught than are the Canadian mackerel. On this account they look better and fresher when sold, and consequently bring a higher price. Our mackerel are worth about \$12 per barrel.

8. The privilege of fishing in American waters I consider of no advantage to Canadians, and I never heard of Canadians availing themselves of such privilege. To the best of my knowledge and belief these statements I have made in this affidavit are correct.

MICHAEL CRISPO.

The said Michael Crispo was sworn to the truth of this affidavit at Harbor Au Bouche, in the County of Antigonish, this 1st day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

EDWARD CORBET,

A Justice of the Peace.

No. 48.

Robert Stewart Munn, aged 47 years, merchant, and one of the partners in the firm of John Munn & Co'y., doing business at Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—

Deponent has been for upwards of twenty five years engaged in the trade and fisheries of Newfoundland, and is well acquainted therewith in all their details.

Deponent is aware that a large number of United States vessels prosecuting the Bank fishery are supplied with fresh bait and ice in the harbors along our coasts.

Deponent further states, that the Newfoundland cod fishery is an inshore fishery as is the bait fishery, being prosecuted within three miles of the shore. The supply of bait to United States fishermen along our shores acts injuriously on local fishermen, for although it is true that there is an abundant supply of such bait, yet the very large quantities required by United States fishermen and their extensive operations in procuring such frequently drives bait from coves and inlets where local fishermen were accustomed to get their supply, and where their facilities enabled them to obtain what bait they needed, whereas they have not the conveniences of following the bait from harbor to harbor, and further, the bait being thus driven from these localities, codfish also disappear, as they follow the bait, the result being that the local catch has become precarious, and a marked reduction is evident since United States fishermen began the bait trade in these waters.

Deponent is well informed in affirming that one million dollars is a moderate valuation of the fish consumed for food, bait, and agricultural purposes by the inhabitants of Newfoundland, and that an average estimate of the profit on the yield of the inshore fisheries of Newfoundland would and does exceed twenty per cent, as is shown by the annexed statements marked "A. and B.," which were carefully compiled from the books of the firm of whose business this deponent is managing partner.

The traffic in bait by United States fishermen is an absolute injury to the people of this country and represents no actual money profit to our fishermen.

Commercially the Treaty of Washington has not benefitted Newfoundland by creating an extra demand or outlet for any of the produce of this country, nor can such be expected inasmuch as United States fishermen, enjoying equal rights with Newfoundland fishermen will fully supply their own markets with fish, and the exports of oils have not increased since the Treaty of Washington came into operation.

In explanation I wish to state that the reason why I say that the "bait traffic" is of no money profit to our fishermen, is, first,—the amount paid for bait is small and no compensation for the labor of procuring the same, and secondly the fishermen could be more profitably employed in catching codfish which would yield them a much larger profit, and as a fact, fishermen engage in this bait traffic for the purpose of obtaining a little ready cash, the greater part of which they waste in dissipation.

Sworn before me at Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, this 27th July, 1877.

ROBERT S. MUNN.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

A.

FISHING VOYAGE STATEMENT.

We take the average of 4 years' catch—1873, 1874, '5 and '6 of one of our Fishing Jacks, with two men, and find it 80 quintals, which at the value of \$5 per qtl. is	\$400 00	
and 2 barrels herring at \$2	4 00	
		\$404 00

EXPENSES, &c.

Now if these men hired their boat, they would have to pay only \$14—but we charge her as a new boat, costing with all her outfit \$90.00. She should at least run 7 years—making a yearly hire equal to	\$12 86	
Add yearly expenses fitting out	7 14	
		20 00
A Herring net and moorings cost \$24—for four years, or yearly	6 00	
1 Cast net \$3— for three "	1 00	
1 dozen Lines \$4. and 6 dozen Hooks 60c	4 60	
Twines used and lead	1 40	
		13 00
Extra allowed—Cordage, &c., that may be required		10 00

PROVISIONS USED.

1½ bags Bread at \$6	9 00	
1 barrel Flour	10 00	
½ barrel Pork	12 00	
5 gallons Molasses	3 50	
6 lbs. Tea... 70 c. 10 lbs. Butter ... 30 c.	7 20	
Allowed for expenses, cooking gear, &c	3 30	
	<u>45 00</u>	
Allowed for labor, assisting to cure fish—80 qtls. at 20	16 00	104 00
		<u>104 00</u>
	Net amount for boat	\$300 00
	“	per man \$150 00

The yield of oil one year with the other fully pays the expense of salt.

ROBERT S. MUNN.

The above account is for two partners; deducting the customary wages therefore of one-half their catch, shows a profit of 25 p. c.—J. O. F.

E.

A COD SEINE CREW.

On an average would for the season catch 500 quintals, at \$5. Crew consisting of Master, 6 Sharemen, 1 boy and 2 girls \$2500 00

EXPENSES.

A new Cod Seine will cost	\$440 00	
Bags, Cordage, &c	80 00	
	<u>\$520 00</u>	
Probably required for a period of 7 years use—to replace twine, &c	80 00	
Full cost	<u>600 00</u>	
Which for seven years will be yearly for hire		85 60
Allowed for Extra Cordage, &c., yearly		20 00
A Cod Seine boat and gear will cost \$63, or 7 years hire		9 00
2 Bulley boats	160 00	
1 Smaller boat	48 00	
1 Punt	16 00	
	<u>224 00</u>	32 00
Which will run at least 7 years, making a yearly hire of		12 00
Allow for expenses yearly boats		12 00
3 Dozen Linés for fall fishing		1 40
1 Gross Hooks “		5 00
Twines, \$3; Lead, \$2		250 00
Provisions used and extras		20 00
Yearly hire Nets		1050 00
6 Sharemen at \$175	70 00	
1 Boy	50 00	
2 Girls at 25		<u>1170 00</u>
Allowed for yearly expenses, fishing room, &c.		50 00
For other labor besides crew, curing fish, say 500 quintals at 20c		100 00
Masters share as Shareman		175 00
		<u>1942 00</u>
Nett gain on voyage		558 00

Oil for salt as usual. Some of the expenses fitting out is done by crew.

ROBERT S. MUNN.

No. 49.

NEWFOUNDLAND

ST. JOHN'S, TO-WIT:

James S. Hayward, of St. John's aforesaid, Assistant Collector of Her Majesty's Customs, maketh oath and saith: That the statement hereto annexed*, showing the quantity and value of the products therein referred to exported and imported by the Colony of Newfoundland for the years therein stated,

* APPENDIX I.

viz., Eighteen Hundred and Fifty-One to Eighteen Hundred and Seventy-Six, in and from page I to page XX inclusive, and also that the statements hereto annexed, marked A and B*, purporting to be a recapitulation of the imports from the United States and exports to the United States and other countries for the year 1851 to the year 1876 inclusive, and a statement showing the total and average imports and exports of fish and products of fish for the four years preceding the Reciprocity Treaty, the twelve years under the Treaty, seven years after its abrogation, and three years under the Washington Treaty respectively," have been carefully examined by this deponent, and that the said statements, to the best of this deponents knowledge and belief, exhibits a true and correct account of the several matters therein set forth.

Sworn before me, at St. John's, aforesaid, this nineteenth day of July, A.D., 1877.

JAMES S. HAYWARD,
Assistant Collector.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidts.

No. 50.

NEWFOUNDLAND,

ST. JOHN'S, TO WIT:

James S. Hayward, of St. John's, aforesaid, Assistant Collector of the Customs, maketh oath and saith, that the statement annexed, marked No. 11†, has been carefully examined by this deponent and he verily believes the same to be correct in every particular; the same having been compiled from the records of the Customs Establishment and other authentic records in this Island.

Sworn before me at St. John's, aforesaid, this fifth day of June, A. D., 1877.

JAMES S. HAYWARD,
Asst. Collector.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 51.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

ST. JOHN'S, TO WIT:

The Honorable James Johnstone Rogerson, of St. John's, aforesaid, Receiver General and Collector of Customs for the Island of Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith, that the annexed statement marked A‡ has been carefully examined by this deponent, and he verily believes the same to be correct in every particular as therein set forth, the said statement having been compiled from the records of the Customs Department, and other authentic records of the said Island.

Sworn before me at St. John's aforesaid, this 8th day of June, A. D., 1877.

JAMES J. ROGERSON,
R. G. and C. Collector.

JAMES O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidts.

No. 52.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

ST. JOHN'S, TO WIT:

I, Joseph P. Deneff, at present in St. John's, aforesaid, and a native of the said Island, do declare that I have been for the past six years, last preceding the date hereof, engaged in prosecuting the fisheries out of the ports of Salem and Gloucester, in the United States, on the coasts of Newfoundland, of the Dominion of Canada, and on the Banks in the deep sea. That I am of opinion that it will be of the greatest importance to American fishermen to be enabled to get the bait necessary for the Bank fisheries in Newfoundland; that this benefit can hardly be over-estimated; that there will be, during the current season, upwards of two hundred American vessels in Fortune Bay for bait, and that there will be upwards of three hundred vessels which are engaged in the Grand Bank fisheries belonging to the United States, to which it will be of the greatest advantage to run in to Newfoundland for bait of different kinds and they would probably make about four trips during the season. That caplin is among the best bait which can be used for this fishery, and vessels would probably be enabled to make two trips during the caplin season. That this declarant is of opinion from his experience that the Bank fisheries are capable of immense expansion and development, and that the privilege of getting bait on the Newfoundland coast is indispensable to accomplish this object. That a vessel of from seventy to ninety tons would take about one hundred barrels of caplin each trip.

Declared before me this 23rd day of May, A.D., 1876, at St. John's aforesaid.

JOSEPH P. DENEFF,
Master of the schr. John Smith, of Gloucester, Mass., U. S.

W. O. WHITEWAY,
Notary Public.

* APPENDIX I.

† SEE ANNEX B, attached to British case.

‡ " " " D, " " " "

No. 53.

William H. Mulloy, master mariner, aged 27 years, presently residing at Gloucester, U. S. A., and now at Saint John's, N. F., maketh oath and saith: I have prosecuted the Bank cod-fishery six years as master, and two years as a hand, during all this time I sailed from Gloucester, U. S. A. The size of the United States vessels prosecuting the Bank fishery ranges from sixty-five to ninety tons, carrying crews of from twelve to fourteen men all told.

The cost of outfit for a new Banker of about seventy tons, will be about three thousand dollars, over and above the price of the vessel.

In the opinion of this deponent it is of the greatest importance for American vessels prosecuting the Bank fishery from the United States to be enabled to procure bait and refit their vessels in the harbors of Newfoundland, it will enable them to increase the number of trips, and the consequent lucrative results of the operation, especially if trans-shipments be resorted to in Newfoundland harbors. The advantage of baiting on the coast of Newfoundland, as compared with baiting on the coast of Nova Scotia, or any other part of the Dominion of Canada is very considerable, inasmuch as from Newfoundland harbors a vessel baiting there can generally be upon the fishing grounds on the Banks from twelve to twenty hours after leaving port, whereas from the coasts of Nova Scotia, the distance being much greater and a greater prevalence of easterly winds, bait is liable to and does frequently become deteriorated before reaching the fishing grounds.

From my experience and observation I am of opinion that the Bank fishery off the coast of Newfoundland is capable of vast expansion and development, towards which the privilege of baiting and refitting in the harbors of Newfoundland is indispensable. If United States vessels were prevented from procuring bait on the coasts of Newfoundland and the Dominion, they would be dependent alone upon salt bait and such casual refuse bait such as haggdown halibut, small cod-fish, cod-roe and such like as could be got upon the Banks, and therefore could not make more than one trip of cod-fish during the season, in fact the Bank fishery under such circumstances could not be carried on from the United States with profitable results, and as a matter of fact, prior to 1874, United States Banking vessels have generally resorted to ports on the Newfoundland coast for bait where they could evade customs officers and procured bait in contravention of the law.

Prior to 1874 United States bankers threw away all fish less than twenty-two inches split or twenty-eight inches as caught; now the small fish is brought into Newfoundland ports and there sold, slightly salted to advantage. I last year sold one hundred and fifty quintals of such fish at nine shillings and sixpence per quintal, the privilege of selling oil in Newfoundland ports is of importance—also as providing necessary funds for the purchase of bait and for refitting.

The quantity of small cod-fish caught by each Banker during the season will be fully two hundred and fifty quintals upon an average of every two loads of cod-fish caught upon the Banks. The number of United States vessels prosecuting the cod-fishery on the Banks off Newfoundland each season from the port of Gloucester is about three hundred, there are vessels fitted out from other ports in the United States besides Gloucester but not to so large an extent. The average catch per vessel on the Banks will be two thousand five hundred quintals cod-fish, the value of which will be about twelve thousand dollars to the owner.

The result of my last years operations is as follows:

Total catch thirty-seven hundred quintals for the season,—three Banking trips. Value thereof, about seventeen thousand dollars, expenses of wages, crews share of voyage, outfit and provisions, was about twelve thousand dollars, leaving a clear profit to the owner of about five thousand dollars. The owner derives a considerable profit also from the difference between the prices he allows the crews for their share of fish, and what it is worth to him in the market, by which he would gain on the quantity above stated about eighteen hundred dollars. The owner, in my case above cited, settled with the crew at two dollars and seventy-five cents per quintal as weighed out of the vessel, the market value of which fish when cured was four dollars eighty cents per quintal—the loss in weight which is very trifling—and labor in curing would not cost more than one dollar per quintal. Each United States fishing vessel will make from three to five trips to the Newfoundland coast for bait during the season. Each vessel takes from sixty to eighty barrels of the bait in season per bait trip. At the time when caplin first strike the shores of Newfoundland there is no bait equal to it in the quantity of fish taken by it, and this bait is peculiar to Newfoundland. Caplin keep longer fresh in ice than any other bait we know of.

During the last three years there has been a marked scarcity of squid on the Great Banks, where formerly an ample supply of squid was procured for baiting purposes, but latterly has been found wholly insufficient, and consequently the importance of having Newfoundland as a basis for bait supply is materially enhanced.

In illustration of the result of a season's Bank fishery operations in two vessels similarly outfitted and alike in all respects, both fitting out from Gloucester, one having the privileges conferred by the Washington Treaty, the other without these privileges, I am of opinion that the latter would only accomplish one voyage or trip during the season, whilst the former would accomplish three voyages or trips. I am generally well acquainted with the bait supply along the Newfoundland coasts, and know that there

has always been procured a sufficiency for the purposes of United States fishing vessels, and ice can always be obtained along the coast.

I know of two United States vessels that fished for cod-fish inside the Keys, St. Mary's, that is on the inshore ground. I fished there myself.

Sworn, before me, at St. Johns, N. F., this 24th of May, 1877.

WM. H. MOLLOY.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 54.

George Rose, aged 54 years, maketh oath and saith, that he resides at Little Bay, in Fortune Bay, fisherman. I have become acquainted with the Newfoundland fisheries by following the same for forty years.

I have observed United States fishing vessels in this neighborhood; about twenty this year. Among these I can name "W. J. Sawyer," John Archard, master, of Southport, U.S.A.; another commanded by Capt. McDonald; another, the "Gettysburg," Robert Grant, master; the "City of Gloster," Stephen Mitchell, master, of Cape Ann; the "Pettingale," Hector McKenzie or McKeen, master, of Gloucester, Cape Ann. The vessels I saw in this neighborhood came to purchase bait, which they procured.

I have sold bait to United States fishing vessels. I have baited six of such vessels, supplying each vessel with fifty barrels herrings, for which I was paid from twenty to twenty-five dollars each vessel.

Newfoundland fishermen fish within three miles of the shore. The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery.

The caplin, herring, and squid fishery is inshore. Squid, at certain times, are taken a mile from the land, but generally are taken in the coves of the different bays.

I never heard tell of a Newfoundland vessel fishing on the United States coast. About thirty American vessels frequent Fortune Bay for the purchase of frozen herring in Winter, which they purchase because they can purchase cheaper than they can catch. American fishermen do refit their vessels as required on their visits to these parts.

I do think that the supply of fresh bait to the Americans, who fish in large numbers on the Banks off our coast, helps greatly to shorten the catch of our local fishermen, and that the short catch on our southwestern shores this summer has been caused by the extra number of Americans thus engaged. My opinion is that the Americans do more harm to us in this way than the French. We can see the difference marked by the facts of this year and last.

I estimate that there are about 200,000 barrels of herrings annually supplied the French at St. Pierre from this Bay; the value of this bait would be 1,600,000 francs. In addition to this they take caplin and squids, the value of which I am unacquainted with.

There are several ice houses in this neighborhood. American fishing vessels, I know, avail of these for the preservation of bait, but I cannot say to what extent. I am informed that a larger number of American vessels will next year visit these parts for bait and ice, for which, I understand, arrangements have been made between American captains and residents on these shores.

GEORGE ROSE.

Sworn to before me, at Jersey Harbor, Fortune Bay, this 4th November, 1876.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 55.

John Evans, aged 43 years, fisherman, residing at English Harbor, Fortune Bay, N. F., maketh oath and saith that: I know the fisheries of Newfoundland by following the same for thirty years. I have seen United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood. A large fleet of such vessels frequent these parts for bait. I should say not less than one hundred sail. These vessels run from about 60 to 100 tons; they came here to purchase bait and did purchase bait. I have sold bait to United States fishing vessels, and have baited altogether some seven or eight vessels, the price being about twenty-five dollars per vessel for each vessel for from 30 to 70 brls. herrings. Newfoundland fishermen catch fish within three miles of the shore. The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery. The caplin, herring and squid fisheries are inshore fisheries, being taken in the coves and harbors of the coasts. I do not know of a Newfoundland fishing vessel having been on a fishing voyage on the United States coasts. I don't know whether United States fishermen have sold any small fish or other fishery produce in this neighbourhood.

About thirty American vessels frequent Fortune Bay in winter for herrings; they purchase these herrings from the residents and never catch them for themselves. The halibut fishery followed by the United States fishing vessels about Pass Island has been abandoned during late years. I have not heard of American fishing vessels trying to catch fish on the Newfoundland inshore fishery. American fishing

vessels do refit in this neighbourhood when required. I consider that the system followed of barring large quantities of herrings for sale to the Americans does interfere injuriously with the supply of bait for our local fishermen; the spawning of the herring is thus affected which cannot act otherwise than hurtful to the supply for local purposes. I am of opinion that the supply of fresh bait to the United States fishermen who line the Banks off our coasts therewith, prevents the fish passing in to our fishing grounds and thus injuriously affects the catch of our people.

I am of opinion that the short catch of cod fish on our south-western coasts this summer has been caused by the United States fishing vessels fishing on the outer Banks. I can attribute the short catch to no other cause. I know the fish is not on the shores, else it would be caught, as there are all sorts of contrivances for catching fish.

There are conveniences for the supply of ice for preserving bait in this Bay; I know of six ice houses. The United States fishermen avail of such ice for preservation of their fresh bait, but to what extent I cannot say.

The American fishing vessels bait in this Bay four and five times every summer, about a fortnight between each baiting.

Sworn before me at English Harbor W, N. F., Nov. 8, 1876.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

His
JOHN X EVANS.
mark.

No. 56.

John Rose, aged forty-four years, fisherman, residing at Belloram, Fortune Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—I am acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland, having prosecuted the same for upwards of twenty years. American fishing vessels have been observed by me in this neighborhood. About forty American fishing vessels have been baited hereabouts the past season by our fishermen. Over a dozen American vessels were loaded with salt herrings, and over thirty were loaded with frozen herrings. I did not see one half the American fishing vessels that I am well informed visited this Bay for bait. Among the vessels seen by me I can name the following:—*W. P. Whitman*, of Gloucester; *W. E. McDonald*, do; *Grace L. Pears*, do; *Moro Castle*, do; *Magic*, do; *Eben Parsons*, do; *Eptstar* (Grant) do; schr. over 100 tons (Hodgeson) master, do; *Moses Adams*, do; *Reporter*, do; schr. (Wm. Collins, master) do; *Ruth Grove*, do; *Frank Butler*, do; *M. L. Wetherall*, do; *Mary Carlisle*, do; *Bellerophon*, do; *Carry S. Doyle*, do; *Thomas Rye*, about Provincetown; *Serene*, do; schr. (Isaac, master). I have sold bait to several of these American fishing vessels, but cannot say how much; the price paid for herrings generally is one dollar per barrel.

Newfoundland fishermen catch codfish in this Bay within three miles of the shore; the Newfoundland fisheries are all inshore except the seal fishery. Caplin, herrings and squids are taken in the Coves close to the shore. No Newfoundland vessels that I have heard tell of or know anything about, go fishing on any of the coasts of the U. S. A. inshore. American fishermen have this year sold what they call small codfish to our people who did not consider such fish small. I am not informed as to what quantity was sold and purchased, nor what prices were paid.

American fishing vessels are accustomed to refit in this neighbourhood when necessary. There are between 250 and 300 schooners catching bait in this Bay to supply French Bankers at St. Pierre; the average quantity of bait supplied by each schooner would be about one hundred barrels herrings, they frequently have 400 and 500, and they make each from two to four trips. The quantity of caplin supplied to the French by the schooners referred to by me, would be about two hundred hhd. for each schooner. The price paid for herrings thus supplied the French, varies from two to thirty francs per barrel, ten francs being a fair average; for caplin, the average would be about ten francs per hhd. There are, in this neighborhood, great conveniences for preserving ice, which abounds on the ponds close to the salt water, five such ice houses are erected in this Bay which are used to preserve ice for sale to American fishermen who largely avail of the same for the preservation of fresh bait purchased from our fishermen; the number of American fishermen frequenting these quarters we expect will be largely increased.

Sworn before me at Belloram, this Sixth day of November, A.D., 1876.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidts.

JOHN ROSE.

No. 57.

Philip Hubert, aged 40 years, Sub-Collector H. M. Customs, residing at Harbor Breton, Nfld., maketh oath and saith: that I have become acquainted with the Newfoundland fisheries by a residence in the country for twenty-three years and an immediate connection with the fisheries of Newfoundland during all that time.

I have observed United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood. Last December the following vessels entered at the Customs to enable them to sell part cargo, they being engaged on a voyage for the purchase of frozen herrings in Fortune Bay, viz:—

S. R. Lane, 72 tons, S. Jacobs, master, Gloucester; *General Grant*, 86 tons, Jas. Bowel, master, Gloucester; *Landseer*, 99 tons, P. Malady, master, Gloucester; *Mary M.*, 101 tons, M. B. Murray, master, Gloucester; *Crown Point*, 103 tons, W. H. Burne, master, Newburyport. I believe there have been fully one hundred and fifty United States fishing vessels in this Bay during the past summer.

In the fall of '74 and beginning of 1875, I find that twelve United States vessels entered at this port, being engaged on a voyage for the purchase of frozen herrings.

The United States vessels referred to by me as in this Bay the present summer came to purchase bait. Not one of these vessels entered at the Customs at Harbor Breton. I am of opinion that two-thirds of these vessels have not entered at any Customs office in Newfoundland, nor paid light dues. These vessels came into this Bay to purchase bait. One vessel had a seine intending to haul bait, but found it less trouble to purchase.

United States fishing vessels have fished about Pass Island, and formerly made good catches there. Capt. Jacobs, of schr. _____, is said to have been offered nine thousand dollars for his load taken about Pass Island. American fishing vessels fishing off and about Pass Island fished for halibut and cod fish, but chiefly for halibut. My estimate of the value of their catch is at least equal to ten thousand dollars per annum, and such fishery was conducted exclusively within three miles of our shores. Newfoundland fishermen catch their "voyage" within three miles of our shores, generally about one or two miles from the shore.

The Newfoundland fisheries are peculiarly inshore fisheries.

Caplin, herrings, and squid used for bait are always taken inshore, generally in the coves and harbors along our coasts.

I never heard tell of a Newfoundland fishing vessel that prosecuted the fishery on the coasts of the United States of America.

American fishermen have sold small codfish in this Bay; some vessels sold one hundred quintals, the price ranging from seven to ten shillings per cwt., green.

From thirty to forty American vessels frequent Fortune Bay in Winter for the purchase of frozen herrings; they always purchase. The average quantity of frozen herrings taken by each vessel will be from five to eight hundred barrels.

American fishermen do not now fish for halibut about Pass Island as they formerly did, because I believe that that fishery has been exhausted by the Americans. I know of no United States fishing vessels fishing within three miles of the shore, except at and about Pass Island, as already stated.

American fishing vessels do avail of the privilege to refit their vessels in this Bay when they come from the Banks.

I have not heard of American fishing vessels trans-shipping cargo in a Newfoundland port.

The supply of bait to United States fishermen has decreased the supply of bait to our local fishermen. There is not the least doubt but that the presence of so large a number of American vessels fishing on the Banks off our coasts, well supplied with fresh bait, largely interferes with and reduces the catch of our local fishermen, and I am of opinion that the scarcity of fish along our southwest coast this summer has been mainly caused by the United States fishing vessels fishing on the outer Banks. The quantity of bait annually sent to St. Peters from Fortune Bay I estimate as follows:—

About thirty thousand barrels herrings and about ten thousand hogsheads caplin. The quantity of squid supplied the French I cannot state.

The value would be about sixteen thousand pounds, annually, for bait supplied the French.

There are five or six ice houses in this neighborhood where ice is stored for sale to the Americans to preserve fresh bait.

American fishing vessels each make two and three trips to the Banks, and take each trip from forty to sixty barrels fresh herrings per vessel, for which they pay from fifty to one hundred cents per barrel. These American fishing vessels take each from three to five tons ice per trip for preservation of their bait, for which they pay three and one-half dollars per ton.

Sworn before me at Harbor Breton, Newfoundland, this fourteenth day of November, 1876.

PHILIP HUBERT, *Sub-Collector.*

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 58.

George T. R. Snellgrove, aged 52 years, Sub-Collector, residing at St. Jacques, in Fortune Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith: that the statement attached marked A, contains the names of American vessels loaded in 1876, with frozen herrings and salted herrings at Fortune Bay, Newfoundland, as far as I am personally aware of; that the statement attached marked B, contains the names of American fishing vessels visited by him in 1876, and known by him to have called at this neighborhood for the purpose of procuring bait.

I am aware that a large number of American schooners in addition to those named by me, have called at various parts of this Bay during the past year for bait; I think quite as many as I have named. Bait was purchased by these American fishermen from Newfoundland fishermen.

I have to complain that American vessels frequenting these parts studiously try to evade payment of Light Dues during the fishing season, comparatively few of them having paid, I being without means to enforce payment.

Sworn before me at St. Jacques, N. F., this Sixth day of November, A. D., 1876.

GEO. T. R. SNELLGROVE,
Sub Collector.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affds.

A

STATEMENT of American Vessels, (as far as ascertained,) Loaded with Frozen and Salt Herrings in Fortune Bay, between Boxeys and Long Harbor, 1876.

Name of Vessel.	Master.	From Whence.	Frozen	Salted
			Herrings.	Herrings.
			Brls.	Brls.
Bunker Hill,	Jno. McDonell,	Gloucester.		1200
Cornelius Stoker,	Currey,	Salem.		900
Sattagan,	Gubtill,	Gloucester.		500
S. R. Lane,	Jacobs,	do.	450	
Ontario,	Jph. Bouie,	do.	600	
Martha C.,	Martin,	do.	550	
Rattler,	McPherson,	do.	500	
Bellerophon,	W. McDonald,	do.	600	
Maracabo,	Nicholson,	Boston.	200	900
H. M. Rogers,	Warren,	Gloucester.	500	
J. P. Whitman,	J. McDonell,	do.	675	
Ada K. Dawson,	Cunningham,	do.	700	
W. E. McDonell,	Wm. McDonald,	do.	550	
Hereward,	Pennington,	do.	450	
Laura Nelson,	Williams,	do.	450	
J. H. Sawyer,	Orchard,	do.	400	
Grace L. Fears,	R. McDonell,	do.	450	
Chas. C. Warren,	Peter Smith,	do.	400	
General Grant,	James Bowie,	do.	500	
Col. Aysworth,	Penticost,	Salem.		700
Concord,	Deygo,	Gloucester.	Failed to get load.	
Landseer,	Malady,	do.		1000
Ed. E. Webster,	Nate,	do.	Failed to get load.	
Moro Castle,	Noss,	do.	do.	
Fred. P. Fry,	Sidney Smith,	do.	do.	
Mary E. Chisholm,	Chisholm,	do.	do.	
Charles P. Thompson,	Ryan,	do.	do.	
Wild Fire,	Bearse,	do.	do.	
Boanza,	Smith,	do.		1800
Seth Stockbridge,	Smith,	do.		950
Repo ter,	Balanzon,	do.	Failed to get load.	
Eben E. Parsons,	Dagle,	do.	do.	
Viking,	Stapleton,	do.	do.	
Moses Adams,	Anderson,	do.	320	
Flash,	McGuire,	do.	Failed to get load.	
Bell Bartlett,	Hutchings,	do.		750
Crown Point,	Byrnes,	do.	Failed to get load.	
Mary M,	Murray,	do.	do.	
Bunker Hill,	McDonell,	do.		1000
Cornelius Stokum,	Kirby,	do.		1400
Mattie A. White,	Battelle.	Boston.		1500

NOTE:—

Dora S. Pringle, Minor, Master, hails from Boston; the shipper belongs to Gloucester: his name—H. A. Babston—and cleared and sailed for Gottenburg, in Sweden, with 4000 barrels pickled herrings.

Sworn before me at St Jacques, Fortune Bay, N. F., this Sixth day of November, A.D., 1876.

GEORGE T. R. SNELLGROVE,
Sub-Collector.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affds.

B

STATEMENT giving particulars, as far as ascertained, of American Fishing Vessels and their Cargoes visited by me in Fortune Bay, 1876.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Vessel's Name.</i>	<i>Owners.</i>	<i>Master.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>From Whence.</i>
April 10	W. T. Smith,	Danl. Sayard.	Chas. Keen,	82	Gloucester.
23	J. P. Whitman,		Jas. McDonald,	94	do
24	Moro Castle,		Loren Nans,	89	do
26	Grace C. Hadley,	C D Pittingale & Co	Edwin Hall,	67	do
May 4	Tragabizanda,	J. Warren Wouson.	Wm. Mulloy,	68	do
.	Edw. E. Webster,	C. Nate, part owner	Chas. Nate,	99	do
10	Grace L. Fears,		R. McDonald,	88	do
12	Elisha Crowell,		Wm. Wells,	67	do
15	W. E. McDonell,	W. McDonell,	Wm. McDonell,	98	do
.	Proctor Bros.,	Harvey Knowlton,	Edw. Trevoy,	77	do
20	Bellerophon,		— Goodwin,	85	do
25	Ocean Bell,	Addison, Sett & Co	Jno. Thompson,	67	do
.	Mary Carlyle,	Wm. M. Fleet,	W. H. Greenleaf,	66	do
29	J. P. Whitman,		J. McDonald,	94	do
.	Grace C. Hadley,	C D Pittingale & Co	Edwin Hall,	67	do
.	Josephine,		Wilson,	50	Beverley, Me.
31	Edw. E. Webster,	Chas Nate,	Chas. Nate,	99	Gloucester.
.	Viking,		Ed. Stapleton,	73	do
.	N. H. Philips,	Wm. McDonell,	W. McDonell,	66	do
.	J. W. Roberts,	J. W. Bradley,	P. Conolly,	73	do
.	Eben Parsons,		Charles Dagle,	91	do
June 1	Martha C,		Chas. Martin,	79	do
4	Elisha Crowell,		Wm. Wells,	67	do
.	Charles P. Thompson,			73	do
.	Laura Nelson,		Wm. Hall,	89	do
5	Moses Adams,		J. Anderson,	100	do
8	Frank A. Williams.		Hugh A. Lyons,	66	do
.	Lizzie B. Knight,		W. E. Morrissey,	68	Marble Head.
9	Herman Babson,	Babson & Co.,	Chas. Lawson,	100	Gloucester.
10	Bunker Hill,		J. McDonell,	100	do
.	W. E. McDonell,	W. McDonell,	W. McDonell,	98	do
16	— Angus,		— Kelly,	83	do
.	Webster Saunders,		Matw. McDonell.	75	do
.	Daniel Webster,		A. Wilkinson,	60	Rockport, Me.
21	J. P. Whitman,		J. McDonell,	94	Gloucester.
24	N. H. Philips,	W. McDonell,	W. McDonell,	66	do
26	Frank A. Williams,		Hugh A. Lyons,	66	do
.	Lizzie B. Knight,		W. E. Morrissey,	68	Marble Head.
27	Henry L. Philips,			64	Gloucester.
28	Triton,		Geo. H. Curtis,	71	do
.	Barracouta,		J. Newbury,	68	do
.	Isaac Patch.		F. Carrol,	72	do
.	Ada K. Dymond,		Ed. Walters,	94	do
.	Jno. F. Presson,		Chas Crew,	92	do
.	Sterling,		J. Boen,	62	do
.	Peter D. Smith,		Dan. McFayden,	69	do
29	Magie,		E. M. McLaren,	67	do

Sworn before me at St. Jacques, Fortune Bay, N. F., this Sixth day of Nov., 1876.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner Affls.

GEO. T. R. SNELLGROVE,
Sub-Collector.

No. 59.

Personally appeared before me, Philip Hubert, Esq., Stipendiary Magistrate at Harbor Breton, Fortune Bay, this twenty-third day of May, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, Mr. Henry Giovanninni, of Rencontre, Fortune Bay, merchant, who upon oath voluntarily saith: I have been carrying on trade in Newfoundland over twenty years. My business calls me to many harbors along the coast, principally from Cape La Hune to Cape Chapeau Rouge. I have occasion to transact some business with United States vessels very often. I can affirm that at least twenty-five United States vessels shipped herrings, mostly in a frozen state, from first of January to last of February of present year (some of them made two trips during that time), from Fortune Bay for ports in United States, they each carry from 400 to 600 barrels herring, when frozen, and from 800 to 1,200 barrels when salted. Since

last of April to present date at least thirty United States fishing vessels have arrived in Fortune Bay for bait (herring) and ice for their own use. Some have already made two trips to the Banks, and are making five trips; each vessel takes from 30 to 50 barrels bait each trip, and from three to five tons of ice. I can affirm that our (English) fishermen suffer and lose much for the want of bait in the summer season, the cause of which they attribute to the large numbers of seines which are continually employed hauling for those vessels. One United States vessel now at St. Jacques, Fortune Bay, is shipping herring for United States; she will carry 6,500 barrels when loaded. I am able to state that it is the general opinion in Fortune Bay that if the usual numbers of United States vessels continue to draw on Fortune Bay for their bait, that in a very few years there will be none, either for our fishermen or them.

HENRY GIOVANNINI.

Sworn before me at Harbor Breton, Fortune Bay, Newfoundland, this 23d of May, 1877.

PHILIP HUBERT,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

No. 60.

James Philip Snook, aged 29 years, Preventive Officer, residing at Fortune, in the District of Burin, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith that:—

I have observed a number of United States fishing vessels in this neighborhood and its proximities, probably from sixty to seventy, during the past summer. I can only name a few of these vessels. See paper marked "Fortune A." The vessels named in paper marked "Fortune A," with "P" before their names, denotes that these vessels paid light dues; those marked "G" denotes that these vessels paid light dues elsewhere; those marked "O" denotes that these vessels did not pay light dues, they refusing to do so; the master of "Gertie F. Foster,"—Campbell, by name—especially, was very abusive and violent, he not only refusing to pay his light money, but also counselling the master of the schooner "Victor" and "David M. Hilton" not to pay their light dues.

These vessels all came into this Bay to purchase fresh bait, and they did procure such bait. My visit to some of these United States vessels was on the occasion of their second trip from the Banks, they not having come on this side of the Bay on their first trip.

United States fishing vessels have fished on the inshore fishing grounds, but I cannot give particulars further than that I have seen them so fishing off Danzig Cove, near south Point of Fortune Bay.

I estimate the bait annually sold at St. Pierre, by fishermen of this harbor, to be as follows: 5,000 barrels herrings, valued at 40,000 francs; 10,000 hogsheads caplin, valued at 60,000 francs. Besides this there is an average destruction of herrings—thrown overboard—annually, of about ten thousand barrels herrings, being found unsaleable at St. Pierre.

JAMES P. SNOOK,

Preventive Officer, Fortune, Newfoundland.

Sworn before me at Fortune, Newfoundland, this 27th November, 1876.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

FORTUNE A.

Names of vessels of the United States of America in Fortune Bay for the purchase of fresh bait, boarded by me:—

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Masters.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Where belonging.</i>
O. W. F. Foye,	L. W. Smith,	70	Gloucester.
G. Sygnet,	Unknown	..	Unknown.
G. Proctor Brothers,	do.	..	do.
G. Lizzie B. Knight,	do.	...	do.
G. Frank A. Williams,	do.	..	do.
O. Joshua S. Sanbourne,	do.	..	do.
P. Wachusett,	Zad Hawkins,	79	Gloucester.
O. George W. Stetson,	John Daniels,	Unknown.	do.
O. Gertie F. Forster,	—— Campbell,	..	do.
O. Victor Nat,	—— Latham,	70	do.
O. David M. Hilton,	Ozas Pinkham,	66	do.
P. Chester R. Lawrance,	Jas. McDonald,	90	do.
O. Gail Hamilton,	M. Stephens,	69	do.
O. Carrie S. Dagle,	J. F. Coombes,	74	do.
O. Mary Carlisle,	Will Grimleth,	63	do.
G. Barracouta,	John Newbury,	63	do.
G. Triton,	G. W. Curtis,	71	do.

JAMES P. SNOOK,

Preventive Officer, Fortune, Newfoundland.

Sworn before me at Fortune N. F., this 27th Nov. 1876.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 61.

William George Bennett, fisherman, aged 26 years, residing at Fortune, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith that:—

I have become acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by being actively engaged in their prosecution since I was sixteen years of age. I have seen United States fishing vessels passing this neighborhood, going up Fortune Bay and elsewhere. The number seen by me the past summer was over thirty, but I do not know their names. These vessels came into the Bay to purchase fresh herrings for bait, which they procured. Our crew baited one of these vessels this summer; last summer we baited three. Each vessel took twenty-five and thirty barrels herrings, for which they paid about twenty dollars each. The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery, being generally prosecuted close along shores.

The caplin, herring and squid fisheries used for bait are inshore fisheries. I never knew of a Newfoundland vessel having engaged on a fishing voyage on any of the coasts of the United States of America. There are from forty to fifty American vessels frequenting Fortune Bay in Winter for the purchase of fresh herring to freeze, and when frozen to be freighted by these American vessels to the United States. Americans purchase these herrings from our people. I believe the supply of bait to United States vessels decreases the supply of bait to our local fishermen. I believe that if the practice now being pursued of "barring" large quantities of herrings to be sold as bait to United States is suffered to be continued, that the supply of bait to fishermen in this Bay will speedily be destroyed.

I do not doubt but that the large number of United States vessels fishing on the Banks with fresh bait tends greatly to reduce the catch of our people along shore, and if continued as at present, will starve local fishermen. I believe that the short catch by our people the past summer along our southwest coasts is chiefly caused by Americans fishing on the outer Banks as aforesaid.

Signed by his mark, he having sore thumb:

WM. GEORGE ^{His} ~~X~~ BENNETT.
Mark.

Sworn before me at Fortune, this twenty-seventh day of November, 1876.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 62.

Samuel George Hickman, aged 36 years, planter, residing at Grand Bank, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith that: I am acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by being a fisherman myself the past twenty-five years. I have annually observed United States fishing vessels in this Bay, but especially last year, when there were about three hundred of such vessels in the Bay; I name among these: *Lizzie V. Knight*, Wm. Morrissey, master; *Proctor Bros.*, Edward Trevo, master, and a large number of others too numerous to delay naming, my time being fully occupied.

These vessels came into this Bay to purchase fresh herrings for bait, which they purchased from our fishermen. I have sold United States vessels fresh bait; I have with others under me, supplied over a hundred United States vessels with bait from first to last; each vessel would take about forty to sixty barrels, for which they would pay from twenty to thirty dollars.

I have seen our shore surrounded by American fishermen fishing for halibut and codfish, but cannot say that all these vessels were inside three miles of a line from headland to headland; I have frequently seen United States vessels fishing between Pass Island and Brunette Island, in some instances these vessels have been fishing up the Bay among the skiffs. I cannot speak of the quantity or value of their catches, but I do know that they destroyed the halibut fishery about Pass Island, and largely damaged the codfishery of Fortune Bay; one of their captains told me "it was no use for our fishermen to go fishing after United States fishermen."

Newfoundland fishermen catch codfish generally within two miles of the shore, there being exceptional places and instances where they go from six to nine miles off the coast. The caplin, herring and squid—used for bait—are inshore fisheries being taken in coves and harbors along the coasts, and for such purposes are never prosecuted outside three miles.

I never knew of a United States vessel prosecuting a fishing voyage on any of their coasts. I believe United States fishermen do sell codfish in this neighborhood to our people, sometimes at St. Pierre, and sometimes in the harbors of the Bay.

From forty to fifty United States vessels regularly visit Fortune Bay in Winter to purchase herrings for freezing; they have always purchased their load of herrings except when prevented by ice in the Bay, their load runs from six hundred to seven hundred barrels each, for which they pay our fishermen nominally one dollar, but allowing for measure exacted, seventy-five cents per barrel will be a fair average of the price paid. These Americans have not caught any herrings as yet, because the people of the Bay would thereby be annoyed, and because Americans can purchase cheaper than cost of catching by

themselves. I do not know of Americans fishing for turbot in this neighborhood. I am certain that the supply of bait to United States fishermen has decreased the supply of bait to our local fishermen. I estimate there are eighty herring seines belonging to this Bay engaged in hauling bait for the Americans, and that fully eighty seines belonging elsewhere are also engaged in the same service. Bait for Americans commences to be hauled about first to tenth of May and ends in August. American vessels come in from the Banks once every fortnight or three weeks, and take fresh bait averaging from forty to sixty barrels herrings. During the baiting season as aforesaid, it very generally happens that many seines will have large quantities of herrings enclosed—say from five hundred to fifteen hundred barrels, and retained as long as two months, sometimes herrings rotting where enclosed, and where washed on shore impregnating the air through all the stages of putrefaction. These large seines “bar” herrings wherever they meet them—in coves, creeks, and along shore; and during such enclosures, it stands to reason that so great a number of *captives* lessens the numbers *free*, and injures net owners; it is a fact that, during this barring, herrings do not mesh in nets as at other times.

I am of opinion that the presence of the large number of United States vessels fishing on the Banks off our coasts supplied with bait, interferes with and is the main cause in reducing the local catch; and that the scarcity of fish along our southwest coast this year has been caused by the Americans fishing on the outer Banks.

The average catch of fishermen of this harbor, this year, will be about fifteen quintals per man. The catch in previous years was from fifty to seventy quintals per man, but more generally seventy would be nearer correctly stated. The price of fish this year—averaging all round—would be about five dollars and twenty cents per quintal.

The bait sold at St. Pierre by the people of this harbor will be about—

5,000 or 6,000 barrels herring, value..... 45,000frs.

10,000 hds. caplin, “ 60,000 “

and about ten thousand barrels herrings thrown away being unsaleable, also from five to six hundred hds. caplin.

SAMUEL G. HICKMAN.

Sworn before, at Grand Banks, this 24th November, 1876.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 63.

Henry Benning, aged 37 years, Sub-Collector H. M. Customs, residing at Lamalin, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith: That I have become acquainted with the Newfoundland fisheries by connection therewith as supplier and otherwise during eight years.

I have observed United States fishing vessels in this neighborhood, but can only name two, namely, in the year 1874:

<i>D. E. Woodbury</i> ,....	<i>D. E. Collins</i>	65	Gloucester
<i>G. P. Whitman</i> ,	<i>J. McDonald</i>	94	do

These vessels came here to purchase fresh bait, which they procured, and then sailed away for the Grand Banks. No American vessels have fished in this immediate neighborhood that I am aware of.

The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery. The caplin, herring, and squid fisheries, used for bait, are all inshore fisheries. The caplin is taken in the landwash, herrings frequently so, and squid from half to quarter mile from the shore, but generally in the coves and harbors. I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel prosecuting or attempting to prosecute any fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

American fishermen have not sold any small codfish in this neighborhood. From thirty to fifty American vessels frequent Fortune Bay in Winter for the purchase of fresh herrings, to be frozen and conveyed to the United States, viz.: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. Their cargoes consist of from six hundred to one thousand barrels. The price paid is about a dollar per barrel, and when very scarce one and one-half dollars per barrel.

I am positive that the presence of the large number of United States vessels fishing on the Banks off our coasts, using fresh bait, greatly reduces the catch of our local fishermen, and that the short catch of our people last Summer is owing to this cause.

The bait sold at St. Pierre by schooners belonging to this harbor I estimate as follows per annum:—

Herrings taken at Fortune Bay, viz.:

3,400 brls. herrings, value..... 23,800 francs.

7,000 hds. caplin, taken at Lamaline..... 70,000 francs.

The average catch of codfish per man, previous to the last two years, has been from sixty to eighty quintals; last year it was about twenty quintals; and the present year it has been fifteen quintals per man.

Sworn before me at Lamaline, this first day of December, 1876.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

HENRY BENNING,

Sub-Collector.

No. 64.

James Reeves, aged 68 years, Planter, residing at St. Lawrence, N. F., maketh oath and saith :— That I have become acquainted with the Newfoundland fisheries by prosecuting the same during the past forty-eight years. I have seen a large number of United States fishing vessels in Fortune Bay and elsewhere, but cannot name any, my desire was to keep clear of them and they to keep clear of us. These American vessels visit those quarters for bait, which they generally purchase from our fishermen, which they generally procure. I have baited two United States vessels with fresh herrings; can't remember their names. Newfoundland fishermen, generally, fish within two mile of the shores. The caplin, herring and squid fisheries used for bait by Newfoundland fishermen are inshore fisheries, being followed in the coves and harbors along the coast. I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel prosecuting any fishing voyage on any of the coasts of the United States of America, and don't believe our vessels ever go on such a voyage.

From forty to fifty American vessels frequent Fortune Bay in winter for herrings to freeze, and freight to Gloucester, New York and Boston; these herrings they always purchase from our people. Americans do not fish off Pass Island, they having exhausted that fishery. American fishing vessels have been seen fishing off Cape St. Marys; I have not seen any fishing in this neighborhood.

The supply of bait to United States fishermen shortens the supply of bait to our local fishermen. I am of decided opinion that the large number of United States vessels fishing on the Banks off our coasts shortens the catch of our local fishermen, as these Americans are well supplied with fresh bait which attracts the fish to the ground where United States fishermen fish. It has been remarked that when the great body of American vessels leave the Banks in the fall of the year then the fish becomes more abundant than before.

I am of opinion that the scarcity of fish the past summer along our south-west coasts is owing to United States fishermen fishing on the Banks off our coasts.

Sworn before me at St. Lawrence, this fifth day of December, 1876.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

JAMES REEVES.

No. 65.

Hugh Vavasseur, aged 60 years, Preventive Officer, residing at St. Lawrence, N. F., maketh oath and saith that: I have resided at St. Lawrence during the past thirty-six years, during all which time and for ten years previously at Gaultois and Harbor Breton. I was closely connected with the fisheries of this country. I have seen a number of United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood. I can only give particulars of the following, viz. :—

Name.	Master.	Tonnage.	
1876.—Ernest F. Norwood,	Natl. Greenleaf.....	74	Gloucester.
Gertie Lewis,	Joseph W. Prout.....	72	do.
Carrie S. Dagle,	J. F. Coombes.....	74	do.
1875.—Tragabizanda,	Wm. Mulloy.....	68	do.
Lizzie B. Knight,	Wm. Morrissey.....	67	do.
John Dodge,	Silvan Frost.....	83	do.

These vessels, among the many that called at this Harbor, were the only vessels that paid light money. The above named vessels with the other United States fishing vessels that called at this Harbor came to procure bait, which they procured, principally, by purchasing from our people, but in several instances they jigged squids for themselves on the jigging grounds used by our people, their operations being very hurtful to local fishermen from the noise and turmoil of their doreys and crews which drives the squids from the ground.

Newfoundland fishermen catch codfish generally within two miles of the shores, the only exceptions being on the west coast where fishermen sometimes fish off from six to nine miles from the shores. The caplin, herrings and squid fisheries, for the purposes of bait, are all inshore fisheries, and are never prosecuted further than a half a mile from the shores, being invariably prosecuted in the coves and small harbors along the coasts.

I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel prosecuting any fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America. American fishermen have not sold any small codfish or other fishery produce in this neighbourhood.

American vessels avail of the privilege to refit in our harbors and have done so in this harbor. I remember that the Tragabizanda did so refit his vessel at this port. It is quite certain that the supply of bait to United States fishermen decreases the supply of bait to our local fishermen. I am well aware that the presence of the large number of United States fishermen fishing on the outer Banks off our coasts well supplied with fresh bait greatly interferes with and reduces the catch of our local fishermen.

Codfish strike our shores in quest of bait; and if they meet fresh bait on the Banks they will not pass it, but will remain there as long as fresh bait is to be had. I do think that the scarcity of codfish along our south and south-west coasts the past summer has been caused by Americans fishing on the outer Banks. Previous to the last three years the average catch of codfish in this harbor was eighty qtls. per man; during the last two years it has not exceeded twenty qtls. per man. The quantity of bait annually exported by craft belonging to St. Lawrence and Lawn will average three thousand hnds, for which the average price would be twenty-four thousand francs; and herrings taken in Fortune Bay by these same craft, will average three thousand barrels herrings, realizing eighteen thousand francs. There are no ice houses at this harbor for the preservation of fish bait.

Sworn before me, at St. Lawrence, this fifth day Dec., 1876.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

HUGH VAVASSEUR,
Preventive Officer.

No. 66.

Thomas Winter, aged 61 years, Sub-Collector H. M. Customs, residing at Burin, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—

I am acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland, by observation, during a residence in this district for upwards of twelve years.

I have observed a large number of United States fishermen in this neighborhood, about sixt in 1875, and twelve or thirteen the past Summer. Of those in this neighborhood in 1876 I can name the following, viz.:

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Master.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Where belonging.</i>
Gleaner,	Lyons,	63	East Gloucester
Eptstarr,	R. C. Grand,	70	Gloucester
David W. Hilton,	Pinkham,	59	do
Massasoit,	Gorman,	73	do
Mary Carlyle,	Greenleaf,	66	do
Viking,	E. Stapleton,	73	do
Addison Center,	Jas. Jamieson,	74	do
Mist,	McCarty,	..	do
Morro Castle,	_____	89	do

These vessels came here for ice and bait.

Every United States vessel calling in this neighborhood systematically arranged to avoid the Customs authorities, and their captains and crews are generally most insulting and offensive to the officers who visit them, the captains outrageously so. Without sufficient force it is wholly impossible to enforce an observance of the Customs laws by United States fishing vessels frequenting these coasts.

The light dues paid here by United States vessels is generally paid by orders. In one instance they have sold fishery produce for cash, which they said they required to purchase bait.

Sworn before me at Burin, N. F., this eighth day December, 1876.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

T. WINTER,
Sub-Collector.

No. 67.

Philip Pine, aged 35 years, planter, residing at Burin Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith: I am acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by following the same and supplying therefor since I was seventeen years of age.

I have observed a great number of United States fishing vessels in this neighborhood, there being as many as forty sail here at one time. These vessels came here for bait and for ice, which they procured by purchasing from our people, it being stated that in some instances their crews mixed with our people in hauling bait. These United States fishermen sometimes jig squids for themselves; I have seen them doing so at jigging Coves, in this neighborhood.

The past year I supplied ice to about forty United States vessels, the quantity being from two tons to five—in all I supplied over one hundred tons; the year previous, the number of United States vessels in this neighborhood was larger than the past year, and the quantity of ice taken was greater. I can only name the following captains and vessels among those here last year.

White Fawn ..	Nickleson.
Vessel forgotten ..	Lowe.
do ..	Campbell.
Flying Scud ..	_____
Fair Sailer ..	_____
Vessel not named ..	Hennessey.
do ..	Hall.
do ..	O'Brien.
C. F. Butler ..	_____
P. L. Whitten ..	_____
G. J. Tar ..	_____

In 1876, I supplied ice to the following United States vessels among others :—

Sehr. Hayward.....	Capt. Greenleaf.	Sehr. ———	Capt. Kelly.
“ Glina	“ Lyons.	“ ———	“ Trevoy.
“ ———	“ Noss.	“ ———	“ Garden.
“ ———	“ Gorman.	“ ———	“ Lennox.
“ ———	“ Grant.	“ J. Jamison, or.....	“ J. Jamison.
“ ———	“ Thompson.	“ E. R. Nickleson.....	“ ———
“ ———	“ Pinkam.		

These particulars are merely memorandums from my note-book, made when the captains of these United States vessels ordered ice or were supplied therewith; I kept no particular register.

Newfoundland fishermen generally catch codfish within two miles of the shore; the Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery.

The caplin, herring, and squids, used for bait, are taken along shores only, and are never taken at a distance of three miles off, except in isolated instances when fishermen belonging to this neighborhood have taken squids on Burin Bank.

I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel having engaged in prosecuting a fishing voyage on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

I believe United States fishermen have sold small fish in this neighborhood, but I cannot state as to quantity.

United States vessels do refit in this neighborhood. I have had a draft for cost of outfit to them by myself.

The supply of bait to United States fishermen by our people, tends to decrease the supply of bait to our own people; an instance occurred last season at Corbin Island Cove in the last of the caplin, when a joint crew of Americans and our people “*thrashed*” the cove for the Americans, leaving our own people without bait and idle in consequence, which resulted in great loss to them. I believe that the presence of the large number of United States fishermen fishing on the Banks off our coasts and well supplied as they are with fresh bait, greatly reduces the catch of our local fishermen, and am of opinion that the short catch of codfish the past Summer along our south and west coasts has been caused by the “*bleeding process*” of the Americans on the Banks off our coasts.

PHILIP PINE.

Sworn before me at Burin Bay, this eighth day of December, 1876.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 68.

William Collins, aged forty-two years, Planter, residing at Burin, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith that: I have become acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by being engaged in their prosecution since I was fourteen years of age.

I have observed a number of United States vessels in this neighborhood; there were upwards of 20 this year; last year there were upwards of 40; the difference between the two years, I believe, is owing to the fact that this year a larger number of these vessels went into harbors along the southern coast for bait.

This year, at Cape St. Marys, two or three American fishing vessels came in and took fresh caplin for bait which they purchased. I have not seen them otherwise fishing.

Newfoundland fishermen generally catch codfish within one and two miles from the shore. The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery. The caplin, herring, and squid used for bait are all inshore fisheries, taken in coves close to land. I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel or crew engaging in a fishing voyage on any of the coasts of the United States of America:

American fishermen do sometimes fish on the “*inshore fishing*” ground off Cape St. Marys. I have seen as many as three of these vessels fishing there.

I do consider that the supply of bait to United States fishermen decreases the supply of bait to our local fishermen. They engage our people who sweep the coves, and frequently leave nothing behind them.

I believe that the presence of the large number of United States vessels fishing on the Banks off our coasts, and supplied with fresh bait, greatly interferes with and reduces the catch of our local fishermen; and that the short catch of codfish the past summer along our south and west coast is owing chiefly to their operations. The quantity of bait sent to St. Pierre from this harbor is small, but there are thirty craft engaged in supplying bait to the French—chiefly from Fortune Bay from where some 15,000 barrels herrings are taken to St. Pierre by vessels of this harbor; the value of this bait would be about thirty thousand francs; a third of the above quantity annually is thrown overboard, being unsaleable at St. Pierre in seasons of abundance. There is one ice house at this harbor where ice is kept principally, and almost exclusively, for sale to United States vessels for the preservation of fresh bait. A number of United States vessels did purchase ice at this harbor the past season, but I cannot give particulars.

Sworn before me at Burin, this sixth day of December, A. D., 1876.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

WILLIAM COLLINS.

No. 69.

Owen Pine, aged 67 years, planter, residing at Burin Bay or Inlet, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith that:

I have become acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by following the same in all its branches since I was fourteen years of age.

I have seen from ten to fifteen United States fishing vessels at a time in this neighborhood. They came for bait and ice, which they purchase in general. I have seen them catch bait for themselves in our harbors. I believe the supply of bait to United States fishermen decreases the supply to our local fishermen.

I am clearly of opinion that United States fishermen on the Banks off our coasts, supplied with fresh bait, greatly reduce the catch of codfish by our local fishermen, and believe that the short catch the past summer along our south and west coasts is mainly owing to their presence on the outer Banks off our coasts. We know that they line the Banks facing these shores, with fresh bait, and that while codfish can get such bait on the Banks they will not pass towards our shores in quest of what they can get on the Banks. The increase of American fishermen on the Banks has been remarkable by a decrease of codfish along our shores.

Sworn before me at Burin Bay, N. F., the 8th December, 1876.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

OWEN PINE.

No. 70.

Richard Paul, aged 40 years, fisherman, residing at Burin Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—I know the fisheries of Newfoundland by having prosecuted the same for over 25 years. I have observed a number of United States fishing vessels in this neighborhood; they are all the time passing backwards and forwards; over seventy sail of these vessels passed this neighborhood the past seasons. Not being particularly connected with these vessels, I took no note of their names. I know they came to purchase ice and bait, and jig squids when they could. I have seen them many times taking squids in the coves close to shore, within one-eighth mile of the shore. These vessels were supplied with ice and with bait when to be had. Excepting squid bait, they purchase other bait from our people, and in part also they purchase squid bait when they cannot catch enough for themselves.

Newfoundland fishermen generally catch codfish within two miles of the shores, beyond which distances catches are exceptional.

The caplin, herring and squid used for bait are all inshore fisheries taken almost solely in the coves close to shore. I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel engaged on a fishing voyage on any of the coasts (inshore or within three miles) of the United States of America.

American fishermen have sold fish and oil in this neighborhood; I only know of their selling thirty-seven quintals at 7s. per quintal, and seventy gallons cod oil at half a dollar. I understand from their statements the past season that hereafter they intend to sell to our people all the codfish they catch under twenty-two inches in length.

I am of opinion that the supply of bait to United States fishermen decreases the supply of bait to our local fishermen. I am of decided opinion that the presence of the large number of United States fishing vessels well supplied as they are with fresh bait, fishing on the Banks off our coasts interferes with and tends greatly to reduce the catch of our local fishermen.

Americans on the Banks are known to fish generally on the Eastern part of the great Bank, from whence the fish works westerly towards our shores. When we hear of fish plenty to the eastward of us, we always reckon on a good spurt, as fish works westerly this side of the island. Such has been the experience of our fishermen until United States vessels began prosecuting the fishery on the Banks, the result of which has been to keep the fish from coming in towards our shores. We used formerly to get French hooks in the mouths of the fish occasionally; but now we frequently get American hooks instead and rarely a French hook—not one in ten we used to get.

I am of decided opinion that the short catch the past summer along our south-west coast has been caused principally by United States fishermen on the outer Banks as aforesaid. The catch of codfish by fishermen in this neighborhood, previous to the last three years, would average fifty quintals per man, the average in 1876 will not reach thirty quintals per man. The falling off we can attribute to no other cause than American operations in fishing on the Banks.

The supply of squids sold at St Pierre by fishermen from this neighborhood will be about five hundred thousand, the average price per thousand will be twenty francs. This supply to the French does little injury to the cod fishing compared to the supply of bait to the Americans, who use fresh bait, whereas the French salt bait. The French generally work more within a circle; the United States vessels move about following the fish. They have vessels acting as scouts from our shores to the Banks, with information as to where ice and fresh bait can be had.

Sworn before me at Burin Bay, the fifteenth day of December 1876.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

RICHARD PAUL.

No. 71.

Francis Berteau, aged 53 years, merchant, residing at Burin, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith that:—

I have become acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by carrying on the trade of the country for thirty years.

I have observed from forty to sixty United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood each year during the past three years. Having had no immediate connection with them I cannot name any of these vessels. I have not sold any bait to them, having nothing to do with the bait trade. United States fishing vessels have fished for codfish off Cape St. Mary's within three miles of the shore, where on one occasion one of our fishing crafts was fouled near the Bull and Calf by a United States fishing vessel.

Newfoundland fishermen catch codfish generally within two miles of the shores. The caplin, herrings and squid fisheries used for bait are all inshore, being taken in the coves along the coasts and harbours, and is never taken more than three miles off.

I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel engaging on a fishing voyage on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

American fishermen have sold small codfish in this neighbourhood, but I can't speak as to quantity.

I once bought from United States fishermen three or four barrels cod roes, this was two years ago. Occasionally United States fishing vessels refit in this neighbourhood. I have sold them provisions and wood. I do not know of their having trans-shipped cargo in a Newfoundland port.

The supply of bait to United States fishermen greatly decreases the supply of bait to our own fishermen. Last summer there were about twenty United States fishing craft in Ship Cove, and they employed several Burin fishermen to haul caplin for them in Grip Cove, near Port au Bras, which they did, loading seven or eight dorcoys and two skiff loads, after which no caplin was to be found in the cove, thus compelling over a dozen of our fishing craft to remain idle for a fortnight until the squids came in, thereby losing four or five hundred quintals of codfish.

In June 1875 there were about one hundred fishing punts in Burin Bay depending upon a supply of caplin for bait, which was prevented by the operations of a seine sent from St. Pierre and worked by a Burin man to supply fresh caplin to the American fishing schooners, the said seine having hauled continuously until the caplin were exhausted in one of the principal baiting coves; thereby the punt fishermen aforesaid lost their caplin school—the harvest of their fishery.

I am of decided opinion that the presence of the large number of United States fishing vessels on the Banks off our coasts, largely supplied with fresh bait, greatly reduces the catch of our local fishermen; and that the short catch of cod fish the past two summers along our south and west coasts is attributable to this cause.

It is remarkable that this year, when the supply of fresh bait to United States vessels by our people had ceased, then a moderate share of fish struck in upon our shores, enabling the fishermen of Great Burin to catch during October and November from eight to ten quintals for a man and a boy.

The general average of fish caught this year by fishermen of this neighbourhood, has been eight qtls. per man in punts and fifteen qtls. per man in boats going to Cape St. Mary's; Great Burin being an exception would give twenty qtls. a punt for man and boy.

Previous to the last three years the average catch of codfish per man in this neighbourhood has been forty quintals.

The supply of fresh bait to the French at St. Pierre by fishermen from St. Laurence to the Flat Islands, will exceed ten thousand pounds annually—the above section of coast including Burin Proper, St. Laurence, Mortier Bay, Tites Cove, Rock Harbor, Bean Bois and other harbors.

Sworn before me, at Burin, this seventh day of Dec., 1876.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

FRANCIS BERTEAU,

No. 72.

Richard McGrath, aged fifty years, Sub-Collector H. M. Customs, residing at Odegin, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith: I am acquainted with the Newfoundland fisheries by having prosecuted the same for fifteen years.

I have seen United States vessels in this neighborhood. In 1874 four or five of these vessels called in at the back of Odegin Island, having procured ice at Burin, and twelve miles from here hauled caplin for bait. They also purchased a few barrels; but principally they hauled their supply, whether this was done exclusively by themselves, or with the aid of local fishermen, I cannot say.

Newfoundland fishermen generally catch cod-fish within two miles of the shores. The caplin herring and squid fisheries for bait are inshore fisheries, squid being exceptionally taken several miles from the shore. I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel fishing on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

I am of opinion that the presence of the large number of United States vessels fishing on the Banks off our coasts with fresh bait, interferes with and tends to reduce the catch of our local fishermen. The

effect of baiting the Banks with fresh bait I conceive can have no other result than to attract cod-fish and prevent it passing in towards our shores, and am of opinion that the supply of fresh bait to United States vessels by our fishermen should be put a stop to as far as practicable.

RICHARD McGRATH,
Sub-Collector.

Sworn before me at Olerin, this 16th day of December, 1876.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 73.

Henry Pennell, aged 52 years, fisherman, residing at Trepany, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—

I am acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by having prosecuted the same for twenty-five years.

I have observed a number of United States fishing vessels in the neighborhood of Trepassey, St. Mary's Bay, during the last two years; the number so seen by me would be about forty. These vessels came to the harbor for fresh bait and ice. The chief fishermen of the place decided, last year, that to supply American fishermen with fresh bait would be injurious to the local fishery, and having met in a body, it was resolved not to haul bait for American fishermen, or otherwise supply them with bait. Only one or two persons in the place broke through the rule, and they to a limited extent only, supplied bait to American fishermen. Were it not for the determination of the people not to catch or haul bait for United States fishermen, it was known that a large number of their schooners would call in at Trepany from the Banks for fresh bait, and that their traffic would be hurtful to our bait supply.

Among the captains of the United States vessels at Trepany I remember only a few—Captain Rositer, Capt. Kane, were two, but without time to think I cannot recollect many. The bait in season when these United States vessels were at Trepany was caplin; the quantity they required was from forty barrels to one hundred barrels each. They would contract for forty barrels and would take one hundred barrels, if they could procure this quantity.

The great bulk of codfish caught by Newfoundland fishermen is taken within two miles of the shore, but a number of our boats go well off shore in the Spring, and after the cod seine fishery, which ends on our shores about Trepany about the tenth of August.

The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery. I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel engaging on any fishing voyage on any of the shores or coasts of the United States of America.

United States vessels have sold fish and oil at Trepany last year. Know their captains have done so, but I cannot say to what extent. Their vessels have been refitted at Trepany, where they also get wood and water.

I think the supply of bait by our people to United States fishermen decreases the supply for local purposes.

I am also of firm belief that the presence of the large number of United States fishing vessels well supplied with fresh bait, fishing on the Banks, largely and injuriously affects our local catch of codfish, and that the short catch last year along our south and west coasts was mainly attributable to their operations. Their captains last year told me that our bait supply was of the greatest service to them. That their vessels using fresh bait from our shores get a load in a comparatively short time, whereas vessels alongside of them, using clams for bait, hardly get a fish. It must be therefore that the fresh bait supplied by us, and used by United States fishermen on the Banks, tends to retain the fish on the Banks, preventing its passing in for our shores, and thus operating against our fishermen, as does the supply of bait, which has in some instances that I have seen, left local fishermen without bait to follow up their fishery.

The catch of codfish by fishermen in the neighborhood of Trepany last year was under two-thirds of former catches, and the catch by Trepany fishermen was greater than any other part of the Southern shore. United States fishing vessels sometimes come in among our boats to fish. The quickest trip I have known any of them make was a trip taken on Cape Ballard Bank, when in two offers of about three weeks each, this vessel completed her trip, with which she left for the United States. Her captain told me it was the quickest trip of codfish he had ever made.

There is an ice-house at Placentia where ice is stored for sale to United States fishermen. I have heard that there is also an ice-house at Salmonier, St. Mary's Bay, where ice is stored for like purposes. American vessels sometimes tow ice-bergs along with them to preserve fresh bait.

Sworn before me at St. John's, Newfoundland, this fourth May, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

HENRY PENNELL.

No. 74.

Patrick Leary, aged 72 years, planter and fisherman, residing at Renewes, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith : I have become acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by following the same since I was fourteen years of age, and have had charge of a public bait skiff, of a schooner to the Banks, and for many years was master of a Western boat, and in every town am well acquainted with all the fisheries of this country except whaling.

I have observed several United States fishing vessels in this neighborhood: Last year eight or ten of these vessels were here for bait, which some of them got and others went on to Cape Broyle and Bay Bulls for bait. The vessels referred to as being in this harbor came here for bait and to purchase ice. The ice purchased by them they pay three dollars per ton for. For squids they pay about ten shillings per barrel for what they purchase in this harbor. Each United States vessel takes forty barrels caplin per trip, and when squids are in season take forty barrels squids per trip. I hauled bait for one of their schooners—this was caplin that I supplied to Captain James Dunphy. I supplied him with bait in 1876 and 1875. I gave him forty barrels caplin each year. He found the crew and I found the seine and gear; he paid me eight dollars each year for my services. The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery. The bait fishery—caplin, herrings, and squid—is an inshore fishery, this bait being caught almost wholly in the harbors and coves of our Bays. I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel engaging in the prosecution of any fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

The supply of bait to United States fishermen has decreased the supply to our local fishermen. This is particularly true as regards squids, which were driven from our shores last Fall or else were all caught in supplying Americans.

I have no doubt whatever but that the presence of the large number of United States vessels fishing on the Banks off our coasts well supplied with fresh bait, acts ruinously upon our local fishery and reduces the catch of our fishermen. I think their operations last year was the cause, chiefly, of the short catch along the southwest coast by our fishermen. It is a common practice for certain of these United States vessels to supply themselves with large quantities of bait for the purpose of selling the same to vessels of their country on the Banks at large prices, thus serving as baitskiffs and saving time. This supply of fresh bait to United States vessels prevents codfish from working in upon our shores as they would otherwise do. Each United States fishing vessel has five or six doreys, and each dorey has over one thousand hooks all used as bultows along the banks, thus forming a fence—and as I believe a double fence along the whole part of our shores. The results must be ruinous to our fishery. The facilities afforded them of procuring fresh bait in our harbors and bays, arms them doubly against our fishing interest, by destroying, or at all events rendering scarce, a prime necessity to the prosecution of the fishery by our fishermen, and by keeping codfish from striking our shores. The average catch of fishermen in this neighborhood in 1875 and 1876 was about fifteen quintals; previous to 1874 the average would be about thirty-five quintals per hand.

Sworn before me, at Renewes, this 11th day of April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

PATRICK + LEARY,
his
mark.

Michael Jackman, aged 63, planter, residing at Renewes, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith that : I have followed the fisheries for fifty years; that I was present and heard Patrick Leary make the above statement, all of which, to my knowledge is true, except the remarks regarding his Patrick Leary's connection with the fisheries of Newfoundland and his services in procuring bait for Captain James Dunphy, of which I know none of the particulars.

MICHAEL JACKMAN.

Sworn before me at Renewes, this 11th day April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 75.

Garrett Jackman, aged 53 years, boat owner, residing at Renewes, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith : I have been a boat owner for thirty years following the fisheries in Newfoundland. I was present and heard Patrick Leary make the statement sworn to by him on this day the eleventh of April, before J. O. Fraser, Commissioner of Affidavits at Renewes; that excepting that part of his statement referring to the length of time he had followed the fisheries, and his transactions with Captain James Dunphy, I know that the statement of said Patrick Leary, as aforesaid, is true in every particular.

GARRETT JACKMAN.

Sworn before me at Renewes, this 11th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 76.

John White, aged 64 years, planter, residing at Ferryland, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith: I have become acquainted with the fisheries by following the same since I was sixteen years of age, and by having charge of a cod seine forty-five years. I understand all about the fisheries and their prosecution.

I have seen a number of United States fishing vessels in our bays and offings some days. I have seen fifteen in the harbors in this neighborhood. I think there were two hundred of these vessels frequenting harbors and coves on the southern shore the past year to procure fresh bait. I have heard the names of quite a number of these vessels, and have conversed with many of their crews, but have not particularly noted the names of their vessels.

Each vessel takes about forty barrels caplin per trip, and the same quantity of herrings when in season per trip, and also about forty barrels squids per vessel each trip. This I know and have been so told by Captain Ryan who was master of one of these United States vessels. The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery; the bait fishery—caplin, herring and squid—is inshore fishery. I never heard of a Newfoundland fishing vessel prosecuting any fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America. These United States vessels do sell small codfish and cod oil along the southern shore, and I know they refit their vessels in our harbors from having sold them cordage and other articles to refit. The supply of bait to United States fishermen has in some instances "swept the ground," leaving not a herring or a squid for our local fishermen. In one harbor close to us on the southern shore upwards of four thousand barrels squids have been taken by United States fishing vessels. I think it very injurious to our people that so large a quantity of bait is thus supplied to the United States fishing vessels. While our people are engaged catching bait for United States fishing vessels, they would catch double the value of what they receive for bait if they followed up the codfishery instead of giving it up for a pursuit that is fickle, and directly opposed to their interest, inasmuch as the fresh bait thus supplied United States vessels is used on the Banks to keep the fish from coming in upon our shores. Every season and almost every day an occasional fish is caught having an American hook in its mouth which proves that the fish striking our shores encounter United States fishermen's hooks—the more attractive we may help to make these hooks the more it will damage ourselves.

I do fully believe that the United States fishing vessels fishing on the Banks off our coast well supplied with fresh bait has reduced the catch of local fishermen, and that the short catch the past season was attributable to their operations on the Banks fishing and in our harbors for bait.

The effect of their operations must certainly be—as I heard more than one of their captains declare—that they would not leave a fish to be caught in a short time.

The average catch of codfish by our fishermen per man, since 1874, was under twenty quintals; previous to 1874 the catch per man would average fifty quintals.

The effect of United States fishermen's operations in our waters is absolutely ruinous to a degree that money cannot pay; they will destroy "the goose that lays the golden egg." Our fisheries are sacrificed by the concessions of the Treaty of Washington.

Sworn before me at Ferryland, this tenth day of April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

JOHN WHITE.

No. 77.

Robert Merry, aged 46 years, Supplying Merchant and Planter, residing at Caplin Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—I have become acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland from being connected therewith since I was boy. I have during the last two years seen a number of United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood. Last season I can safely say I saw upwards of a hundred of such vessels either in this harbor or passing close by; there were five or six of these vessels in this harbor last year—they came for bait—for caplin during the "caplin school," and squids afterward. This bait they hauled themselves in part, and jigged squids. I saw six doreys belonging to one of their vessels on the "jigging ground" busily employed jigging for squids. They also purchase bait from our people, being always in a hurry to get their bait as quickly as possible to proceed again to the Banks. Caplin they regularly haul for themselves when caplin is abundant, which it always is until the season advances. Each vessel takes about eighty barrels fresh caplin, which they preserve in ice purchased from our people. The bait hauled and jigged by these United States fishermen was taken in the harbor close to shore.

Newfoundland fishermen generally catch cod fish within one and a half miles of the shore. The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery, exceptionally, in the fall, boats do go off to Banks called Fermeuse and Renew's, Bantams and Cape Ballard Bank. The caplin, herring and squid used for bait are inshore fisheries, and are prosecuted close to shore.

I never heard of a Newfoundland fishing vessel prosecuting any fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America. The supply of bait to United States vessels decreases the supply of bait to our local fishermen. I feel certain that the supply of bait to these United States vessels has had the effect of reducing the catch of our local fishermen, and can attribute the short catch of cod fish in 1876 along these shores to no other cause than the operations of United States fishing vessels fishing on the

outer Banks. I consider that the evil resulting from the use being made by United States fishermen is the right to take bait in our waters, will every year become more hurtful to our people, and that it of already of serious magnitude. There were no ice houses at this harbor for the supply of bait to United States fishermen who purchased what they required at Cape Broyle and elsewhere.

Sworn before me at Caplin Bay, this tenth day of April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

ROBT. MORRY.

No. 78.

Peter Winsor, aged 54 years, planter, residing at Aquaforte, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—I have been connected with the fisheries of Newfoundland by either prosecuting the same or supplying therefor since I was fourteen years of age.

I have seen United States fishing vessels in this harbor the past season as well as the year previous, getting bait; they jigged squids themselves in part, and what they were short of catching they purchased from our fishermen. Caplin they hauled themselves, using a seine belonging to a person residing in this harbors which was worked by American fishermen, except one young man, the son of the seine owner. Four of these vessels have been in this harbor at one time catching bait; as many as fifteen have been at one time in Cape Broyle; I saw ten there one day whose crews were all engaged catching squids. In this immediate vicinity there were last summer not fewer than seventy of these United States vessels in our harbors during the caplin school; and I am well informed that between St. Johns and Trepany not fewer than two hundred have frequented the harbors for the supply of fresh bait, which they procured partly by catching for themselves and partly by purchasing. I am led to believe that it is the intention of United States vessels to come in upon our shores and into our harbors to catch bait to convey to their schooners on the Banks, so that they may prosecute the codfishery uninterruptedly. The supply of bait by each United States vessel per trip is about as follows:—40 barrels caplin during the caplin school, and as I was told by one of the captains, 50 barrels squids. United States vessels make two and three trips for bait.

United States fishermen do not fish on these shores, but I learn that they do fish within three miles of the shores about Cape St. Marys.

The Newfoundland cod fishery is an inshore fishery; and the bait fishery—caplin, herrings and squid—is an inshore fishery, generally taken in the harbors close to shore.

I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel prosecuting any fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America. United States fishermen have sold small codfish and cod oil in this neighborhood. I purchased ten quintals from them myself, and 4 barrels cod roes—this was last season. The price given by me was 10s per cwt., green, for fish, and 10s per barrel for cod roes.

I verily believe the supply of bait to United States fishermen decreases the supply to our local fishermen—particularly in squids. My chief reason for thinking so is that last year when one of their vessels anchored in this harbor and jigged and purchased fifty barrels squids, we could not afterward catch half bait for our own wants. I never knew so sudden a change before—from abundance to next to none. The price paid for squids, purchased by these Americans, to our people, was about six shillings per barrel. Quite a number of our own people gave up the cod fishery during the presence of United States vessels in order to catch squids to sell to United States vessels, by which they lost more than twice what they gained, and ultimately lost a great deal more inasmuch as the fifty barrels squids taken by the one vessel was a permanent loss to our people, which could not afterwards be recovered, and without bait there can be no fish.

It is my belief that the short fishery the past season along these south and west shores was owing in a great measure to the fishing operations of United States fishing vessels in our harbors for bait and fishing on the Banks off our shores.

The average catch of cod fish previous to 1874 would not be under fifty quintals; since 1874 it has not exceeded from fifteen to twenty. There are ice houses in this neighbourhood and I learn a large ice house has been built at Cape Broyle to preserve ice for sale to United States fishermen this year,—this ice they use to preserve bait fresh, which they use on the Banks to attract the fish. They do so successfully and keep codfish from striking our shores as they formerly did.

Sworn before me at Aquaforte, N. F., this tenth day April, A. D. 1877.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

PETER WINSER.

No. 79.

Richard Cashin, aged 62 years, planter, residing at Cape Broyle, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—

I have been connected with the fisheries of Newfoundland as supplier and fisherman for fifty years, during nearly the whole of which time I have followed the fishery myself as a catcher of codfish, and understand it well in all its branches. I have observed a number of United States fishing vessels in this neighborhood. Last Summer, for three months after first of July, there was hardly a day passed that I

did not see from one to fifteen of these vessels in this neighborhood. I did not take any particular account of vessels, but can name the following as among them :—

<i>Vessel's Name.</i>	<i>Captain's Name.</i>	<i>Where belonging.</i>
_____	McCabe,	Gloucester, U. S. A.
Pedro Venale,	Sylva,	Providence,
_____	McInnis,	Gloucester.
_____	McGrath,	do
_____	Lohem,	Cape Ann.
_____	Hogg,	Gloucester.
_____	Jas. McArthur,	do
Winefred J. King,	F. King,	do
Grace C. Hadley,	Edward Hall,	do
Flying Scud,	Hilts,	
_____	Mulloy,	

I cannot give particulars as to tonnage of these vessels, which would vary from sixty to one hundred tons. The United States vessels I refer to as frequenting this neighborhood came here to purchase and haul bait, which they did. For the purpose of hauling bait they hired seines belonging to the fishermen of the place. Except the last trip, made about end of October and first of November, these vessels procured full allowances of fresh bait, and purchased salted squids and herrings as their chief supply for the last trip. I have sold bait to United States fishing vessels. I, with others in this harbor, supplied bait last year to about one hundred and fifty United States fishing vessels. Each vessel would take forty barrels of squids—one vessel taking eighty barrels squids. The squids sold these United States fishing vessels would be supplied in August and September, which they preserved fresh in ice, when ice was procurable, and in October salted squids were sold to them for bait, when fresh was not to be had.

During the caplin season United States fishing vessels regularly frequent this neighborhood as they do for squids, and about in equal numbers. In the Spring they prefer herrings to caplin, but failing to get herrings they take caplin, which they preserve in ice. American fishing vessels (I mean United States vessels) make from one to three trips for bait and ice. The prices paid for bait by United States fishing vessels in this neighborhood has been for caplin one dollar per barrel; for herrings, from five to ten shillings per barrel, and for squids, from ten shillings to twelve shillings and sixpence per barrel for fresh squids. Sometimes when squids are scarce, they give three shillings per hundred squids.

The squid for bait has been represented by the captains of these United States vessels as invaluable. One captain refused a brother captain on the Banks to give him a barrel of squids for sixteen dollars. Newfoundland fishermen generally fish within two miles of our shores. The Newfoundland cod fishery is an inshore fishery. The caplin, herring, and squid for bait are all inshore fisheries, and except in rare instances, when squids are caught some distance off, are never taken at a distance of more than three miles from the shore, but are generally caught in the harbors and coves along our shores.

I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel prosecuting any fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

United States fishermen have sold small codfish and cod oil in this neighborhood. I have purchased codfish and oil from them. The prices paid have been eight and nine shillings per cwt. for green codfish, and two shillings and sixpence per gallon for cod oil. Eighty quintals fish and two and one-half tons oil is what I purchased.

United States vessels regularly refit in this neighborhood, and have purchased provisions, wood, and water. I have furnished them with provisions and other supplies, taking their orders in payment thereof; these orders generally have been paid, but in one instance the captain's order on the American Consul, St. John's, in my favor, was refused, and I have never since been paid.

The supply of bait to United States fishing vessels acts ruinously upon our local fishermen, and greatly shortens their supply of bait; this is true as regards herrings and squids, and results in shortening the catch of local fishermen. I do believe that the operations of United States fishermen on the Banks, well supplied with fresh bait, interferes with and reduces the catch of our local fishermen, and am of opinion that the short catch of codfish the past Summer has been caused by the United States fishermen fishing on the outer Banks.

The average catch of codfish here the last two years will not exceed twenty quintals per man; the average catch previous to 1874 would be fully fifty quintals per man.

There are ice-houses in this locality where ice is preserved for sale to United States fishermen. The price paid for ice supplied in this harbor has been four dollars per ton.

Sworn before me at Cape Broyle, this ninth day of April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER.

Commissioner of Affidavits.

RICHARD CASHIN.

No. 80.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, Thomas C. Roberts, of Cape Canso, in the county of Guysborough, and Province of Nova Scotia, but at present of the City and County of Halifax, in said Province, master mariner, make oath and say as follows:—

1.—I have been a practical fisherman for fifteen years of my life up to the year 1873, during five years of which time I was in command of a fishing vessel. I have fished for codfish, and mackerel, and herring, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and on the south shore of Nova Scotia, and during one season on the United States coast.

2.—During the years that I was employed in fishing, the number of American vessels fishing for mackerel and codfish in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and on the coast of Nova Scotia, would, to the best of my knowledge, range from six hundred to seven hundred each year. The average number of men to each vessel would be about fifteen.

3.—The average catch of American vessels while I was in the fishery, was about five hundred barrels per vessel each year.

4.—The practice of using purse seines which has been followed by the Americans during the past few years, is in my opinion very injurious to the mackerel fishery, as it tends to break up the schools of mackerel and drive them away; but perhaps the greatest injury resulting from this practice is the destruction of immense quantities of young mackerel, which are caught in seines and thrown away as worthless. In the cod fishery the practice of trawling is very destructive, as it destroys the mother or spawn fish which would be caught only in very small quantities by the hook and line.

5.—The greater part of the mackerel caught by American fishermen on our coasts are in my opinion caught inshore. As far as my own observation goes where there is one mackerel caught outside of three miles from shore, there are fifty mackerel caught within that distance. Almost all the mackerel caught in vessels in which I was employed were caught within three miles of the shore. The herring fishery is altogether an inshore fishery.

6.—The American fishermen catch a considerable amount of bait, especially squid for the cod fishery, in our harbors and bays, but they also buy a very large quantity from our fishermen. The American cod-fishermen cannot carry on the fishery successfully without procuring bait on our shores, or on the shores of Newfoundland.

7.—The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes on our shores is of vast advantage to American fishermen, that is the mackerel fishermen. By means of this they save from a fortnight to three weeks on each trip they make to the fishing grounds; and that generally in the best part of the fishing season. I have known an American mackereler to get a good trip in the time that another vessel was going home and returning.

8.—During my experience of fifteen years I found that the mackerel are variable, and that they are sometimes scarce for a time, and then come in again as plenty as ever. I do not think that their scarcity in 1875 and 1876 is permanent, but I believe that unless the fishery is destroyed by the use of purse seines, the mackerel will again be as plenty as ever. I have understood that this year the mackerel are very plenty in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and I myself have seen the mackerel along the coast from Halifax to Canso in large numbers in the month of June last.

9.—I am of opinion that the privilege of fishing in American waters is of no value whatever to Canadians.

10.—According to the best of my belief, at least two hundred and fifty American cod-fishing vessels touch at the shores of Guysborough County each year for bait and supplies. They purchase large quantities of ice at Canso, which is of course a valuable privilege to them.

THOMAS C. ROBERTS.

The said Thomas C. Roberts was sworn to the truth of this affidavit at Halifax, in the County of Halifax, on the 18th day of August, A. D. 1877.

Before me,

WILLIAM WILSON,

A Justice of the Peace.

No. 81.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington :

I, James Simon Richard, of Getson's Cove, in the County of Lunenburg, master mariner, make oath and say, as follows :

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for twenty-five years down to August, A.D., 1876. For fifteen years I have fished as master. I fished around the coast of Cape Breton, on the eastern side of New Brunswick, around Prince Edward Island, the Magdalenes, and on the Canadian coast of Labrador, along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, and am well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in Lunenburg County. I have taken all the kinds of fish found on the above mentioned coasts.

2. When in the North Bay about nine years ago I have seen from eighty to ninety American vessels at one time together taking mackerel. The mackerel were taken mostly all inshore within three miles of the shore, nor would it pay to go to the North Bay to take mackerel unless we could take them well in three miles of the shore.

3. The American mackerel vessels carried from fourteen to eighteen men each. Their vessels now carry more men because they are larger. These vessels took from three to four hundred barrels on each trip. They made from two to three trips. They ran into the Strait of Canso and landed their cargoes which were often sent away in steamers and fishing vessels. On the third trip they usually filled up full with from five to six hundred barrels and went home.

4. The Americans took in the Bay also large quantities of codfish and I would say that there were as many Americans in the North Bay taking codfish as there were Nova Scotian vessels year after year down till last year included. This has been my experience there for fifteen years. These codfish vessels average about fourteen men. They carry each from twelve to sixteen men. They take from a thousand to twelve hundred quintals to each vessel and generally made two trips.

5. I have seen at the Magdalenes over sixty American vessels engaged in taking herring and there were I think many more which I did not see. In the spring of seventy-six I saw around the Magdalenes many American herring vessels. These herring vessels carry from ten to twelve hands and take from a thousand to three thousand barrels to each vessel. These herring were taken all inshore by scining on the shore.

6. In my experience the mackerel fishing has varied, being some years good and others poor. In seventy-two the catch was very plentiful. The herring fishery in my experience has remained about the same. Codfish vary to some extent,—if bait is plenty cod fish are plenty, and in my experience I could always catch codfish if I had plenty of bait.

7. Mackerel used to be taken by the Americans usually with hook and line, they are now taken also by the Americans with purse seines. The Americans formerly took codfish with hook and line, now they take them mostly by trawling in the North Bay. The most of the Canadian vessels in the North Bay take codfish with hook and line. Trawling I consider very bad for the fishery, as the mother fish are taken and great quantities of spawn destroyed. By hand lining few mother fish are taken. The Americans take all their fish on the Banks by trawling and have done so since I can recollect. Canadians had commenced to take by trawling within the last four or five years. It is three years since I commenced. Canadians have been compelled to trawl in order to compete with the Americans.

8. The throwing overboard of "gurry" I consider injurious to the fishing ground, as it gluts and drives away the fish and destroys the eggs and young fish.

9. The Americans always fished inshore whatever the Treaty was. When a cutter came in sight they moved off and came inshore when she disappeared. Since the Treaty of Washington the Americans have fished inshore more freely than when they had not the right to our inshore fisheries.

10. The inshore fisheries in Canadian waters are of much greater value than the offshore fisheries. I would say more than double the value.

11. I have seen the Americans use purse seines to a large extent in the North Bay. These purse seines I consider very injurious to the fishery, as they mash a large quantity of the fish, catch both large and small mackerel, and all kinds of fish; the fish are spoiled if they are allowed to remain twenty-four hours in the seine. The seine is tripped and the fish which fall out are bad for the grounds. The schools of mackerel are also broken up by purse seining and the fish frightened away. I have never seen nor heard of any Canadian vessel using purse seines.

12. The Americans catch squid for bait, herring and mackerel they catch, but principally buy for bait because it saves time and expense. This bait they get in this harbor and in the bays and harbors along the Canadian coast from Cape Sable to Labrador.

13. I have seen the Americans seining codfish on the Canadian coast of Labrador. Large quantities of these fish are taken inshore by Canadian fishermen, and thousands of Canadians depend upon these fish for a livelihood.

14. The mackerel make inshore to feed; their food is found inshore. They spawn inshore. They are taken principally inshore, and I consider them to be an inshore fish.

15. The Americans save time and expense by trans-shipping cargo, and catch more fish. I think each vessel saves upwards of two thousand dollars by this privilege.

16. It is of great value to the Americans to procure bait in Canadian bays, harbors and creeks inshore, nor could they prosecute the fisheries in Canadian water either inshore or offshore or on the Banks without this bait. They get bait and ice all along our coast and without ice they could not keep their bait fresh, and without fresh bait they could not profitably catch fish.

17. The Americans hinder Canadian fishermen to a large extent by carrying off so many fish, by taking fish by improper methods, by making bait scarce for Canadian vessels of which there are about a hundred owned in this place and around the La Have.

18. I have never known nor heard of any Canadian vessel fishing in American waters.

19. I would consider it a great benefit to Canadian fishermen if Americans were excluded from our inshore waters, and I know of no benefits that we derive from American fishermen.

Sworn to at Getson's Cove, in the County of Lunenburg, this 9th day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

BENJ. RYNARD, J.P.

JAMES S. RICHARD.

No. 82.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington :

I, Jacob Groser, of Lower LaHave, in the County of Lunenburg, fisherman, make oath and say as follows :

1. I have been about forty years engaged in the fisheries. I have fished along the Southern coast of Nova Scotia, around the Island of Cape Breton, on the eastern coast of New Brunswick, around Prince Edward Island, the Magdalene Islands, and the Lower St. Lawrence, and am well acquainted with the inshore fishery in Lunenburg County.

2. Four years ago I was in the Bay of Chaleur, and for many years constantly before that time year after year. Five years ago I have seen in the Bay of Chaleur from two to three hundred American vessels in one fleet. The most of these vessels took mackerel and they took the most of their mackerel inshore, and very seldom caught much mackerel beyond three miles from the shore. I have fished codfish inshore around Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton within three miles of the shore, and the vessel in which I was took from four to five hundred quintals, the most of which was taken inshore ; and I have seen many Americans fishing codfish inshore where we fished. The Americans fished inshore for mackerel, and wherever they could get them.

3. The American mackerel-men carry from fifteen to twenty men each. They take from four hundred to five hundred barrels to each vessel. They make from two to three trips. The American codfishermen carry about fifteen men each in the North Bay, and they take from eight hundred to a thousand quintals of fish each, and generally make two trips. The vessels on the Banks engaged in cod-fishing take about the same.

4. In my experience mackerel fishing has varied, being good for some years and poor again for a number of years. This has been my experience for forty years. Codfish has always been plenty if we had plenty of fresh bait.

5. The Americans take mackerel mostly with hook and line. They take codfish with hook and line, but mostly by trawling, and I have seen them trawl inshore for codfish around Prince Edward Island. The taking of fish with trawls I consider very injurious as the mother fish are taken, and I have seen a cargo of eight hundred quintal the greater part of which were mother fish. In trawling the bait lies on the bottom and the mother fish are taken, in land-lining few mother fish are taken.

The Americans trawled since I can remember upwards of forty years ago ; our vessels, of which there are about from sixty to a hundred fishing out of the LaHave, never used trawls, but within the last six years our fishermen trawl in order to compete with the Americans.

6. The Americans in my experience fished inshore whenever they could, whether they had the right to do so or not. They moved out when a cutter hove in sight and returned when she disappeared.

7. The inshore fishery is more than double the value of the outside fishery.

8. The Americans made a common practice of lee-bowing us, and I have often seen them throw overboard bait to draw off the fish, and I have suffered in this way from them. I have also often seen them running into Nova Scotian vessels, and the large number of them made it dangerous for Nova Scotian fishermen. Since the Americans have the right of fishing inshore they do not practice throwing over bait to draw-off the fish.

9. Since eighteen hundred and seventy-one there has been more codfish taken than formerly. This summer mackerel has struck in very plentiful around this harbor in immense schools.

10. The herring fishery is all inshore and the Americans buy them for bait in this harbor and all along the coast wherever they can get them.

11. The mackerel make inshore to feed, and are inshore fish, where they are mostly all taken.

12. I have seen Americans land in Prince Edward Island and dry their nets on the shore, and this privilege is of value to them.

13. I have seen the Americans land at the Strait of Canso and trans-ship their cargo ; by doing this they save time, expense, and catch more fish.

14. The Americans get bait all along the coast, and without this bait and ice in which to preserve it, they could not carry on the Bank fishery. They get ice and bait in this harbor. Trawling must be carried on with fresh bait.

15. The Americans come here to buy bait before herring and mackerel set in, and make it scarce for our vessels, which is a great injury to our Bankers, and without this bait they could not profitably carry on the deep sea fisheries.

16. I have never known nor heard of any Canadian vessel fishing in American waters, and I consider this right of no value to Canadian fishermen.

17. I would consider it to be of great value to Canadian fishermen if the Americans were excluded from our waters, and I know of no benefit that we derive from American fishermen.

Sworn to at Lower LaHave, in the County of Lunenburg, this seventh day of August, A. D. 1877, before me,

JAMES H. WENTZEL, J.P.

JACOB GROSER.

No. 83.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Nathaniel Jost, of Lunenburg Town, in the County of Lunenburg, master mariner, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for twenty-one years. I fished along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, northern side of Cape Breton, around Prince Edward Island, in the Bay of Chaleur, on the eastern coast of New Brunswick, and the Magdalene Islands. I fished, mackerel, codfish and herring. I am acquainted with many American fishermen, Nova Scotian fishermen, and also with the inshore fisheries in the County of Lunenburg. I was master of a vessel for two years with a crew of seventeen hands all told.

2. I have seen about nine years ago two hundred sail of fishing vessels, mostly American, together in one fleet, near Port Hood Harbor, many of these were engaged in taking mackerel within three miles of the shore. I have also seen many American mackerel men engaged in taking mackerel around the coasts of Cape Breton, Prince Edward's Island, and eastern side of New Brunswick, and many of these fished inshore. I would say that there were at least four hundred American vessels around the before mentioned coasts taking mackerel. During the past two years I have seen at one time in sight five American vessels engaged in taking codfish on the southern coast of Nova Scotia, and a great many in sailing along; and at Sable Island this Spring I have seen from fifteen to twenty in sight at one time engaged in taking cod fish.

3. The Americans when I fished in the Bay of Chaleur averaged about six hundred barrels of mackerel to each vessel during the season. The past two or three years codfishing vessels averaged from fifteen hundred to two thousand quintals to each vessel during the season.

4. In my experience mackerel fishing has varied, being some years good and others poor. In '72 and '73 fair voyages were made. Ever since 1869 the codfishing has been good, and when bait and ice could be obtained plenty of fish could be had. On our coasts herring fishing has not been very extensively prosecuted, but when it has, herring has always been obtained. I saw this Spring an American vessel fitted out for catching herring around the Magdalenes, and they expected to take three thousand barrels, and last Spring large catches were made around the Magdalenes, which were shipped to the Baltic and Black Seas.

5. Some years ago the Americans took mackerel with hook and line, now I am informed they use purse seines, and hook and line; codfish are taken chiefly by trawling and handlining. The herring are taken around the Magdalene Islands with seines.

6. The offal is thrown overboard by the Americans which is very injurious to the fishing grounds, glutting the fish and driving them away. I have caught fish with sound bones in them in a sickly state.

7. I am acquainted with a great number of Nova Scotian vessels, and I have never seen nor heard of any of them using purse seines, and I consider the use of these purse seines by the Americans as very injurious to fishing.

8. The Americans buy bait all along the coast, and ice in which to pack it, wherever they can get it, and they buy it because they save time and the expense of netting.

9. When I was engaged in mackerel fishing it was a common practice among the Americans to lee-bow us. They make bait much more expensive to Canadian fishing vessels by coming into our harbours and purchasing it when bait is scarce. The time they come for bait, herring and mackerel are only beginning to set in.

10. Herring fishery is all inshore, and the Americans purchase herring for bait as already stated.

11. Taken on an average, Canadian mackerel are better than American.

12. Mackerel in my experience make inshore, and I consider them to be an inshore fish.

13. At the Strait of Canso I have often seen the Americans trans-shipping their cargoes, and by this plan they save time and catch more fish.

14. It is of great advantage to the Americans to be able to procure bait from our inshore fishermen, and ice in which to pack it, and without this privilege they could not carry on the deep sea fishery profitably. Last Summer I took fresh bait from Canso, and with it fished on the Grand Banks, Newfoundland, and took one hundred quintals a day for six days, then tried salt bait and only took from eight to ten, and while using fresh bait both American and Nova Scotian vessels using salt bait around me, could catch no fish, and hove up and went away.

15. Without ice it would be impossible for the Americans to keep their bait fresh. The Americans bring their supplies from home, except ice and bait, and when they run short, purchase to a small extent in our ports.

16. To my knowledge no Canadian vessels ever go to American waters to fish, and I consider the right of fishing in American waters of no benefit to Canadians.

17. If the Americans were excluded from getting bait and ice and from taking fish inshore, it would be of very great value to Canadian fishermen.

Sworn to at Lunenburg, in the County of Lunenburg, this 7th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

NATHANIEL JOST.

JOSEPH W. LOCKHART, J. P.

No. 84.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Charles Smith, of Lunenburg Town, in the County of Lunenburg, Master Mariner, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for fifteen years. I have fished along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, around Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, on the eastern side of New Brunswick, around the Magdalenes, on the Labrador coast, and am well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in Lunenburg County. I have taken all the kinds of fish found on the above-mentioned coasts. I have also been engaged in Bank fishing.

2. I have seen at Port Hood, in the Island of Cape Breton, about seven years ago, over three hundred sail of American mackerel vessels at one time. The last year I was in the North Bay I fished in an American vessel, "Alice M. Lewis," of Gloucester. We took the most of the mackerel inshore, within three miles of the shore. We had on board the said vessel a crew of fifteen hands, and took four hundred and twenty-five barrels of mackerel in one trip, nearly all within three miles of the shore. I have often seen, year after year, upwards of one hundred American vessels at one time in sight, engaged in taking mackerel. By the North Bay I mean the water around Prince Edward Island, eastern side of New Brunswick, northwestern side of Cape Breton, and the Magdalenes. These vessels took the most of their mackerel inshore, within three miles of the shore. I do not think it would pay Americans to go to the North Bay to fish mackerel, unless they could catch them within three miles of the shore.

3. The Americans get bait and ice in large quantities at Northwest Bay, on the Aspotogon Peninsula, in Lunenburg County. They get the ice in which to pack their bait upon the mountains. This ice they get free. Nearly the whole fleet of Lunenburg Bankers get their fresh bait at the said Northwest Bay. So many Americans getting bait and ice at this place interferes with our vessels. They make the bait scarce and dearer. Without this bait, and ice in which to pack it, the Americans could not carry on successfully the deep-sea fishery.

4. The Canadian vessels in which I fished in the North Bay, took codfish with hand-lines. The Americans all trawled, at least all I saw, and I saw many in the said Bay.

5. When on the Labrador coast, in 1871-2-3, I saw American vessels engaged in seining codfish on the shore. These vessels were on the Canadian coast of Labrador, and took two thousand quintals of codfish to each schooner. These schooners carried from twenty to twenty-two men each.

6. When in the American schooner, we always fished inshore, when we could. We moved away when a cutter appeared, and returned inshore when she disappeared.

Sworn to at Lunenburg, in the County of Lunenburg, this 13th day of August, A. D. 1877, before
me. CHARLES SMITH.

JOSEPH W. LOCKHART.

J. P.

No. 85.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Benjamin Wentzler, of Lower La Have, in the County of Lunenburg, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for twenty-seven years up to eighteen hundred and seventy-five inclusive, and fished every year in the North Bay, around Cape Breton, Prince Edward's Island, eastern side of New Brunswick, and around the Magdalenes. I have taken all the fish found in the waters on the above-mentioned coast. I am also well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in Lunenburg County. I have seen often more than a hundred American vessels fishing on the above-named coasts in one fleet together, and I have seen these vessels make off from the shore when a steamer appeared to protect the fishery, when the smoke of the steamer could not be seen they came in again to the shore. Such large numbers of them made it dangerous for Nova Scotian fishermen, and I have lost many a night's sleep by them in order to protect our vessel. I have seen in Port Hood harbour about three hundred sail of American vessels at one time, and it is seldom, if ever, that a third of them are in any harbour at one time, and I have been run into by an American schooner in Port Hood Harbour. From 1871 to 1875 inclusive, I have seen the Americans in large numbers around Prince Edward Island, eastern side of New Brunswick, and around Cape Breton. I have seen many American vessels on the above-mentioned coasts engaged in taking codfish. They took fish inshore by trawling, offshore and wherever they could catch them. Some parts of the season the codfish is better inshore than off, and in my experience I have caught in our vessels more codfish inshore than offshore.

2. The Americans took in their schooners from three to four hundred barrels of mackerel to each vessel, and they made three such trips. The Americans fish on Sunday which our vessels do not do. The American mackerel-men carry from fourteen to twenty men. The American codfishermen have about fifteen or sixteen men on board and take from six hundred to a thousand quintals.

3. The Americans take codfish by trawling and did so as long as I can remember. About five years ago our vessels commenced trawling in order to compete with the Americans. This trawling I consider very injurious to the fishery.

4. The Americans get bait all along the coast and in this harbour. Without this bait and ice they could not carry on the deep sea fishery.

5. It would, in my opinion, be of great value to us fishermen if the Americans were excluded, and I know of no benefit to us in allowing the Americans to come into our inshore waters.

BENJAMIN WENTZLER.

Sworn to at Lower La Have, in the County of Lunenburg, this 8th day of August, A. D. 1877.

JAMES H. WENTZEL, *J. P.*

No. 86.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, George Conrad, of South Village, in the County of Lunenburg, master mariner, make oath and say, as follows:—

1.—I have been engaged in the fisheries for forty years, and have fished mackerel, herring, codfish, halibut, haddock, pollock, and hake, along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, eastern side of Cape Breton, in the Bay of Chaleur, around Prince Edward Island, and the Magdalene Islands, for twelve years. I have fished as master of a vessel.

2.—About twelve years ago, I have seen in Port Hood, in the Island of Cape Breton, over three hundred sail at one time—about fifty or sixty were Nova Scotian, the remainder Americans. About eight years ago I have seen upwards of one hundred at one time on the coast of Prince Edward Island, fishing mackerel. These vessels fished inshore for mackerel, and were American vessels. I, along with other Nova Scotian captains, have made calculations when fishing in the Bay of Chaleur, and we concluded that there were upwards of four hundred American vessels at the time fishing mackerel in the Bay. Mackerel must be fished inshore, as they are an inshore fish. The American vessels carry from twelve to eighteen men each. Around Bay of Chaleur and the Banks, there would not be less than three or four hundred vessels engaged in taking codfish. Codfish vessels carry from twelve to eighteen men. Some American vessels are fitted out for halibut alone, but take large codfish, throwing away the small codfish. The Americans trawl for halibut and codfish.

3.—The American vessels take two to four hundred barrels of mackerel each, and some of them make three trips. American codfish-men take from one thousand to eighteen hundred quintals of codfish each, and make three trips.

4.—While in the Bay of Chaleur this Summer, I have seen the Americans with purse seines, and told me that they used them, and these purse seines in my opinion spoil the fishery. I have never seen any Canadian vessels with purse seines. I am acquainted with thirty or forty vessels which run out of Lunenburg every year, and none of these carry purse seines.

5.—The throwing overboard of gurry which is practised on the grounds is very injurious to the fishing grounds.

6.—Unless the Americans got bait and ice, they could not carry on the fishery of cod and halibut.

GEORGE CONRAD.

Sworn to at Lunenburg, in the County of Lunenburg, this 4th day of August, before me.

JOSEPH W. LOCKHART, *J. P.*

No. 87.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Geoffrey Cook, of Rose Bay, in the County of Lunenburg, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been sixteen years constantly engaged in the fishery. I have for two years fished as skipper. I have fished around Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, on the eastern side of New Brunswick, on the Labrador coast, and along the southern coast of Nova Scotia. I have caught mackerel for bait, and have been mostly engaged in taking codfish, and am at present well acquainted with the inshore fishery in Lunenburg County.

2. While in the Bay of Chaleur, the Summer before last, I saw many American vessels there engaged in fishing, and have also seen many of them there fishing since 1871. I have counted the Summer before last fifty American vessels within three-fourths of a mile from each other. The most of the

American vessels which I saw, fished inshore around the above-mentioned coasts. I saw them take both codfish and mackerel inshore, within three miles of the shore. Mackerel are taken mostly all inshore, and I would not fit out a vessel to take mackerel unless she fished inshore.

3. Including the codfishermen on the Banks and those in the Bay, there are as many of them as of mackerelmen. I mean the Banks around our coasts. So many Americans take away the fish from us; they lee-bow us. I have often seen them run into Nova Scotian vessels, and so many of them make it dangerous for our fishermen.

4. The American mackerel men take about four hundred barrels of mackerel to each vessel, and generally make three trips. The mackerel men carry from seventeen to twenty-one of a crew, and take the most of their mackerel inshore, within three miles of the shore. The codfish vessels carry from twelve to fourteen men, and take about a thousand quintals, and make from two to three trips. They take this codfish inshore when they can get it, and wherever they can. I have seen as many as eighty American vessels at one time taking mackerel within two and three miles of the shore at once. This I have seen during the past four years.

5. The throwing overboard of offal is injurious to the fishery, as it gluts the fish and drives them away, and the sound bone, which is thrown overboard, is injurious to the fish.

6. The Americans in my experience always fished inshore when they could, whatever the Treaty was. They made off when a cutter appeared, and returned when she went away.

7. The inshore fishery, in my opinion, is of the greatest value. On the Labrador coast we always catch the codfish inshore, often with seines on the shore; and I have seen, during the past sixteen years, large numbers of Americans seining codfish on the Labrador coast, and I have seen them do this every year for the past sixteen, and also last year.

8. I have seen the Americans catching bait within three miles of the shore, around Prince Edward Island. This bait was used for taking codfish. They catch and buy bait all along the coasts and wherever they can get it. They make the bait scarce for our Bankers by gobbling it up before herring and mackerel are plenty.

9. Fish have not increased since 1871, particularly mackerel. This I consider is owing to over-fishing, and the bad methods employed by the Americans in taking fish.

10. The herring fishery is all inshore, and the Americans take them in large quantities on the Labrador coast, mostly by seining from the shore.

11. Without bait, and ice in which to preserve it, the Americans could not carry on the deep-sea fishery, as fresh bait is necessary. This bait the Americans get all around our coasts, and buy it often, because it saves time and expense.

12. I have never known nor heard of any of our fishermen going to fish in American waters, and I consider this right of no value.

13. The Americans hinder our fishermen by taking away the fish, as already stated, and I consider that it would be a great benefit to us if the Americans were excluded from our inshore fisheries, and I know of no benefit that we derive from American fishermen.

Sworn to at Rose Bay, in the County of Lunenburg, this 8th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

JAMES H. WENTZEL,
J. P.

JEFFREY COOK.

No. 88.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Daniel Getson, of Getson's Cove, in the County of Lunenburg, master mariner, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in fisheries for sixteen years. I have fished along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, around Cape Breton, on the eastern coast of New Brunswick, around Prince Edward's Island, the Magdalenes and on the Canadian coast of Labrador, and I have also been personally engaged in Bank fishing and am well acquainted with the inshore fishing in Lunenburg County. I have taken mackerel, herring, and cod fish, and all the kinds of fish found on the above mentioned coasts.

2. I have seen at one time in the North Bay five hundred American mackerelmen at least. I have made calculations along with Nova Scotian and American skippers, and one Fall we concluded there were seven hundred sail in the said Bay. This calculation was made about five years ago. During the last five years I have seen the Americans in the North Bay in very large numbers.

3. Mostly all the mackerel are taken inshore, and it would not pay us to go there unless we could take them within three miles of the shore, nor would I go, as I intend to do in a weeks time, unless I could catch them within three miles of the shore. The Americans often lee-bow us, and I have been run into by American vessel and have suffered from five to six hundred dollars loss.

4. The Americans get bait from Cape Sable to Labrador, all round the Canadian coast, and without this bait it would be impossible for them to catch fish upon the Banks.

5. The Americans take codfish principally by trawling, and very seldom use handlining. Trawling I consider bad for the fishery as it destroys the mother fish.

6. I have seen the Americans use purse seines inshore and off shore, and this purse-seining I consider very injurious to the fishery, as they take the small fish, and many fish are destroyed. I have never seen a Canadian vessel use a purse seine.

Sworn to at Getson's Cove, in the County of Lunenburg, this 8th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

JAMES H. WENTZEL,
J. P.

DANIEL GETSON.

No. 89.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington :

I, Dan. Risser, of Rose Bay, in the County of Lunenburg, fisherman, make oath and say as follows :

1. I have been engaged in fishing for twenty-five years. I have fished in the Bay of Chaleur, around Cape Breton, eastern side of New Brunswick, around Prince Edward Island, the Magdalenes, and on the Labrador coast, and am well acquainted with the inshore fishery in Lunenburg County.

2. I have fished mackerel and codfish. In fishing mackerel we took them mostly inshore, and it would not have paid us to have gone unless we could take them inshore.

3. I have fished for twenty-five years in succession on the Labrador coast, and got codfish close inshore. We got all our codfish close inshore within three miles. I have during the said time seen a number of American vessels taking codfish inshore on the Labrador coast, and this I have seen every year for the past twenty-five years. I have also during the said time seen many Americans catching herring inshore on the Labrador coast. So many Americans diminish the catch for Canadian vessels.

4. The Americans get bait, and ice in which to preserve it, all along our coast, and in my experience codfish cannot be taken without fresh bait.

5. In my opinion it would be a great benefit to Canadian fishermen if Americans were excluded from our inshore fisheries.

Sworn to at Rose Bay, in the County of Lunenburg, this 8th day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,
JAMES H. WENTZEL, J.P. DAN. RISSER.

No. 90.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington :

I, James W. Spearwater, of New Dublin, in the County of Lunenburg, fisherman make oath and say as follows :

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for the past two years and have fished on the eastern and north-eastern side of Cape Breton, on the Western Banks, and on Bank Quacro on the southern side of Cape Breton. I fished codfish.

2. I left here this year, on the tenth of April, and last year about the same time. The vessel in which I went last year carried sixteen hands, and was fitted out to take fourteen hundred quintals. The vessel in which I sailed this year was fitted out to take eighteen hundred quintals. We took six hundred quintals and were out about four months.

3. I have often seen many American vessels there engaged in taking codfish. The American vessels on the Banks take the greater part of their fish by trawling. Trawling is carried on to the bottom and mother fish are taken.

4. This year the vessel in which I was, and which is owned here, procured her bait at Eastern Passage, in Halifax County; at Cape George, in the County of Halifax; at Cape George in the County of Antigonish; at St. Ann's and Aspy Bay in Cape Breton. While at these places I saw American vessels getting bait and ice the same as our own vessels—herring and mackerel we bought; squid we mostly jigged. Without this bait and ice it would be impossible for the Americans or for us to carry on the Bank fishing. The Americans also got ice at these places to preserve their bait. The Americans get bait when it is scarce and their getting bait interferes with our baiting.

Sworn to at New Dublin in the County of Lunenburg, this 9th day of Aug., A.D., 1877, before me.

BENJ. RYNARD, J.P.

JAMES W. SPEARWATER.

No. 91.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

1. William N. Zwicker, of Lunenburg Town, in the County of Lunenburg, merchant, make oath and say as follows: I have been engaged in the buying and selling of fish for about twenty-five years, and have had a number of vessels engaged in the taking of fish for the said time. Those vessels were engaged in taking mackerel, cod-fish and herring around Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, east side of New Brunswick and the Magdalenes, and am acquainted with the inshore fishery in the County of Lunenburg.

2. The fitting out of vessels for the mackerel fishing has been almost discontinued in the County of Lunenburg—mackerel is taken to some extent along the shore of this county in nets, and are taken inshore. There is a larger trade done in herring in Lunenburg during the past six years than any time previous. On the Banks during the past four years the catch of cod-fish has been good.

3. The Americans carry on the cod-fishery principally by trawling, and in my opinion this is a very injurious method of taking fish, and will eventually destroy the fishing grounds. When our men first went out fishing they caught fish with hook and line; now they practice trawling on the Banks in order to compete successfully with the Americans. The throwing over of offal on the grounds I also consider injurious to the fishery.

4. The Americans have fished inshore treaty or no treaty, and when the fishery was protected our mackerel men made better fares. Since the Treaty of Washington the Americans have fished inshore so extensively that they have driven our mackerel men out of the business.

5. In my opinion the inshore fishery are two-thirds the value of the entire fishery.

6. Among the masters of my vessels it was a common complaint that the Americans lee-bowed them and drew away the fish off shore by throwing overboard bait.

7. In my opinion the plan of taking mackerel with purse-seines is improper and injurious to the fishery.

8. The Americans purchase bait all around our coast in the County of Lunenburg, and wherever they can get this privilege of getting bait inshore, is a great injury to the Canadian fishery. As the price of bait is thus made much greater for Canadian vessels, and also more difficult to get. The Americans get this bait and ice in which to pack it, before the mackerel and herring set in, in large quantities. By buying bait the Americans save time and expense.

9. The herring fishery on this coast is all inshore, and our vessels also catch herring inshore on the coasts of Labrador and Newfoundland. The Americans purchase the inshore herring and mackerel for bait.

10. I have purchased American mackerel and found them inferior in quality to Canadian mackerel.

11. Unless the Americans were able to purchase bait or catch it, and ice in which to pack it, it would be impossible for them to carry on the deep sea fishery. Without ice the Americans could not preserve their bait.

12. No vessels have ever gone out of Lunenburg County to fish in American waters, because our own grounds are better and nearer.

13. So many American fishing vessels hinder Canadians by carrying off the fish by lee-bowing them, enticing away the fish, and taking fish by improper means.

14. I have often heard from those engaged in the fisheries around our coast, that they obtained goods from the Americans in exchange for fish, thereby injuring the honest dealer, and defrauding the revenue.

15. Our fisheries are of the greatest value to us, and I know of no equivalent which the Americans can give us, and if they were excluded it would be of great value to us.

W. N. ZWICKER.

Sworn to at Lunenburg, in the County of Lunenburg, this 6th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me,

HENRY S. JOST, J. P.

No. 92.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

1. Isaac Lohmes of Middle Lalfave, in the County of Lunenburg, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for twenty-eight years past every year down to the present time. I have fished all along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, around Prince Edward's Island, on the eastern coast of New Brunswick, around the Magdalenes, and on the Canadian coast of Labrador, and am

well acquainted with the inshore fishery in Lunenburg County. I have taken all the kinds of fish found upon the above mentioned coasts.

2. I left the North Bay a week ago where I was engaged in codfishing and saw from day to day about ten American vessels engaged in taking mackerel with purse seines. About five years ago I along with Canadian and American skippers have made calculations as to the number of American mackerelmen in the North Bay and we concluded there were seven hundred sail.

3. Mackerel in my experience are taken mostly all inshore, and it would not pay to fit out a vessel to take mackerel unless they can be taken inshore within three miles. The American mackerel men carry from seventeen to twenty-four men. They take from two to three hundred barrels to each vessel, on each trip, and generally make three trips each year.

4. The American vessels carry from twelve to fifteen men and take about a thousand quintals to each vessel. They make three such trips including a trip to the Banks. At present I would say that there are upwards of fifty codfish vessels in the North Bay, which are American.

5. Mackerel in my experience has varied, being some years good and others poor. In 1872 the catch of mackerel was good and they were plentiful in the North Bay when I left. From 1871 to 1876 the codfishing has been as good as I ever saw it any time previous. During the past two years it has not been quite so good. Herring has always been plenty except this summer when it has not been so good.

6. The Americans within the last three years have taken mackerel mostly by seining, previous to that time they took them mostly with hook and line. The Americans take all their codfish by trawling. They take herring in seines.

7. In my experience the Americans fished inshore when they could. When they saw the smoke of the steamer or saw a cutter they made off and returned whenever they got out of sight.

8. The inshore fisheries are more than twice the value of the off shore fisheries.

9. The purse seines used by the Americans are very injurious, as they take all kinds of fish in them, herring, squid, &c. All except the good sized mackerel are thrown away. I never saw a Canadian vessel use or have a purse seine.

10. The Americans from Cape Sable, in Nova Scotia, to Labrador, catch and buy bait and ice in which to preserve it in the Bays and harbours of the Dominion of Canada. By buying, they save time and expense, as it would require considerable to fit them out with gear to catch bait.

11. The Americans catch codfish and haddock inshore in Canadian waters. The haddock they catch they throw away; they also catch halibut inshore. The livelihood of thousands of our people depend upon these inshore fish.

12. Since 1871 in my opinion there has been an increase in the inshore fish.

13. The Americans since 1871 have injured the Canadian fisheries by carrying off large quantities of fish by trawling and seining.

14. Herring are taken all inshore and are not caught out beyond three miles. The Americans take them in large quantities around the Magdalenes and on the Labrador coast, by seining on the shore, and make them scarce there for our men.

15. The mackerel make inshore to feed, they spawn inshore and are taken inshore. Their principal places for spawning and breeding is around Prince Edward Island, the Magdalenes and eastern side of Cape Breton.

16. I have often seen the Americans trans-shipping their cargoes at the Strait of Canso, by so doing they save time and take more fish.

17. If the Americans could not get bait in Canadian waters they could not carry on the Bank fishing. They come round the coast here when bait is not plentiful and make it scarce for over a hundred vessels which require bait out of the River LaHave every year.

18. Without ice the Americans could not preserve their bait and they must have bait fresh.

19. I have never known nor heard of any Canadian vessels fishing in American waters, nor do I consider this right of any value to Canadian fishermen that I know of.

20. The Americans injure Canadian fishing by taking such large quantities of fish by employing improper methods in taking fish by lee-bowing and running into our vessel.

ISAAC LOHNES.

Sworn to at Middle LaHave, in the County of Lunenburg, this 8th day of August, A. D., 1877, before me.

JAMES H. WENTZEL, J. P.

No. 92.

Laurence Fortine, aged 57 years, Eskeiman, residing at Toads Cove, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—I have been practically acquainted with the Newfoundland fisheries for forty two years, and know all about them. I have seen many United States vessels in this neighborhood. Five or six of them anchored here twice a week and sometimes three times a week last year—large numbers of them were constantly coming and going. They come for herrings, caplins and squids for bait, and ice to preserve such bait fresh. I did not note the names of these vessels, but am satisfied they belonged to the

United States of America. Our people left their own fisheries to supply them with bait. I have seen them using our people's seines hauling herrings in August, and among our fishermen jigging squids after fifteenth or twentieth of August. Newfoundland fishermen catch cod-fish generally within one mile of the shore. The caplin, herrings, and squids, caught for bait, are all taken inshore in the coves and harbors of our Bays. I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel engaging on a fishing voyage on any of the coasts or shores of the United States of America. United States fishermen have sold nets, Bank lines, ropes, and other fishing gear in this neighborhood, and they have also sold on our shores—cod-fish and oil, particulars of which I cannot give.

The supply of bait to United States fishermen has certainly very much injured the supply to our local fishermen by decreasing the same.

In my opinion it is as true as that the sun is shining, that the operations of United States vessels fishing on the outer Banks off our shores, well supplied with fresh bait, tends very much to reduce the catch of cod-fish by our local fishermen, and that the short catch of cod-fish along our south and west coasts the past year was, in a great measure, caused by their fishing operations as aforesaid.

The average catch per hand for 1874, '75 and '76, in this neighborhood, has not been more than fifteen quintals; previous to these years the average has been fifty-five to sixty-five quintals per hand. This reduction of catch I attribute to United States fishermen, in their operations along our shores for bait, and on the Banks off our shores, lining the ground with fresh bait which codfish will not pass.

In conversations with captains of some of these United States fishing vessels, I learned from them that they consider the fresh bait procured on our shores was the means of greatly advancing their interests, by enabling them to catch much larger voyages.

Generally, there are icebergs in this neighborhood, close to shore, which United States vessels use to preserve bait, and they have said it is all important to their fishery; that they are enabled to run into our harbors—as one of their captains told me—in fifteen hours from the Banks, procure bait to be used fresh on the Banks in from eight to twelve hours after being put on board. This is what was stated to me by a captain of one of their vessels—his name was O'Donnell or McDonell.

My opinion is that the operations of Americans baiting on our shores and fishing on the Banks with fresh bait supplied by our fishermen, is ruinous to our fisheries, and will tend every year more and more to operate against us. The value of what they pay for bait purchased from our people is not a "drop in the bucket" to the permanent benefits which would result from a steady prosecution of the codfishery.

Sworn before me at Toad's Cove, this 13th day April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

LAWRENCE FORTUNE.

No. 94.

Thomas Caren, 67 years, planter, residing at Shores Cove, Cape Broyle, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—

I have been intimately acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland since I was fifteen years of age—as a fisherman. I have observed a large number of United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood: Last year there were upwards of forty of these vessels in this locality, there being twenty-one anchored together within sight of my windows, all after fresh bait, which they procured in one, two, and three days. They came solely for bait and ice or to refit. When they came for caplin, they bargained with our seine owners who furnished seines and gear and part crew; each seine being worked in part by two, three, and four United States fishermen, who take the bait from the seines and carry it on board their vessels. Usually, in such cases, they pay the owner of the seine twenty dollars for whatever bait they procure. Generally, they take from thirty to forty barrels caplin. For squid bait they catch and purchase as they can get them, but are getting into the way of bargaining with our people to catch squids in advance of their arrival so that they may have no delay. They each take from thirty to forty barrels squids per trip. They bought ice from Mr. Cashen, Cape Broyle, until they cleared him out. First part of season they got a supply of ice from bergs that drifted in our Coves. When they can't get ice American captains salt their bait, but they say salt bait is not nearly so good.

There were over two hundred United States fishing schooners frequenting our harbors and coves last season between St. John's and Trepany, all after bait. Newfoundland fishermen, in general, fish for cod within a mile of our shores. The caplin, herrings, and squids used for bait are caught in coves along our coasts close to shore, and never at a distance of three miles from our coast.

I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel engaging in any fishing voyage on any of the shores or coasts of the United States of America.

United States fishermen last year sold codfish and oil in this locality. The Cashens purchased about six tons oil besides codfish. They also sold fishery produce at Bay Bulls, but as to quantity I can say nothing. They sold fish and oil wherever they anchored, to purchase bait, ice and refittings for their vessels, except in cases where they gave orders on the United States Consul, which they did in rare instance only. Their captains also gave orders in several instances on their owners for light dues.

I am of very strong opinion that the supply of bait to United States fishermen decreases the supply

to local fishermen. Last year Americans swept the ground of squids in this locality, leaving our fishermen without bait for six weeks. There is a great difference between the workings of United States fishermen for caplin for bait, and of our own people. They do more damage in a week than we could in a year; their vessels each take more caplin for a trip than our whole fishing population, Cape Broyle included, would require for a season. I therefore am of opinion that United States fishermen in their operations for bait will greatly injure and probably destroy the caplin fishery, as they certainly will the squid fishery.

I cannot believe otherwise than that, the presence of the large number of United States vessels known to be on the Banks each season fishing for codfish, and well supplied with fresh bait, interferes with and tends greatly to reduce the local catch of fish along our shores, and feel certain in my own mind, that their operations were the cause—to great extent—of the short catch of codfish last year on these south and western shores. The average catch of codfish per hand for the years 1874, 1875 and 1876, would not be more than twenty quintals, which is a large estimate. Previous to 1874 the average catch per hand has been from forty to fifty quintals. I cannot understand what affects the fishery or causes this reduction except the operations of United States fishermen on our shores and on the outer Banks facing our shores. I am now old and have not much interest in the fisheries except for the rising generation, but I feel certain these American fishermen will ruin our fishery, and our bait supply. I have had sufficient experience in my life following the fisheries, to convince me that their mode of operations from first to last on our shores and on the Banks, is the very worst for our country and the surest means of destroying our fisheries.

Sworn before me at Shores Cove, Cape Broyle, this 13th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

THOMAS CAREW.

No. 95.

Charles James Barnes, aged 33 years, occupation, fish-curer, residing at St. John's, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith. Deponent has had practical acquaintance with the fisheries of Newfoundland for upwards of fifteen years.

Deponent saw a number of United States fishing vessels in this harbor last year; these vessels came here for bait and ice, and to replenish their ship's stores and refit their vessels for fishing on the Banks.

Deponent sold bait and ice and stores to a number of United States fishing vessels last year.

Deponent bought small codfish and cod oil from United States fishermen last year in payment of bait, ice, and cost of refitting their vessels; in some instances deponent purchased small codfish for which he paid in cash. The total quantity of small codfish purchased by deponent last year from United States fishermen was upwards of three hundred quintals for which he paid prices ranging from eight shillings to eleven shillings per quintal of 112 lbs. green fish.

Deponent also purchased a considerable quantity of cod oil from United States fishermen, particulars of which he has not at hand. He further states he is prepared to purchase any reasonable quantity of small fish and oil from United States fishermen. The United States fishing vessels at this port last year came in for fresh bait and ice which they purchased from our people. In one instance, one of these vessels sailed with a full supply of bait in sixteen hours after arrival, and generally they baited in from three to six days; the price paid for bait averaging about one dollar per barrel. There are to-day two United States fishing schooners in this harbor for bait and to repair damages, their names are the *Speciwell*, Henry A. Cobb, master, and the *Peter D. Smith*, Brown, master. In conversation with Captain H. A. Cobb aforesaid, and his mate Jonathan Sparrow, of Providencetown, Mass., they acknowledged to me that it was of very great advantage to United States fishermen that they were privileged to frequent Newfoundland harbors for fresh bait and ice. The persons named aforesaid stated that the only bait obtainable on the Banks is squids and hagdown, the latter late in the season in limited quantities and being inferior bait. Squids are only obtainable in certain localities along the Banks, and very uncertain, not obtainable more than once in three years in sufficient supply for baiting purposes. The difference between the time occupied in baiting in Newfoundland ports and as United States vessels were accustomed to bait formerly was stated by Sparrow aforesaid, who last year went in his vessel from the Banks to Cape Carro where he spent three days and a half, and was the same time in reaching that place. Not finding bait there, he proceeded to St. Pierre, which took him one and a half days; he remained there five days but not getting bait he proceeded to Conception Bay, N.F., where he got his bait in two and a half days going there, he thus being 18 days in procuring his fare of bait, and he further said that if he had come direct to Newfoundland for bait he would not have occupied one-third the time in obtaining his bait; that he had prosecuted the Bank fishery for fifteen years and knew that the general average of the time taken by vessels to procure their bait elsewhere than on the Newfoundland shore has been twenty days.

Sworn before me at St. John's, Newfoundland, this 5th day of June, A.D., 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

CHARLES JAMES BARNES.

No. 96.

Philip Grouchy, aged 62 years, planter, residing at Pouch Cove, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—

I have become acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland since I was 14 years of age, and know them in all their branches. I have seen many United States fishing schooners on these shores—one only of these schooners visited this harbor, the master's name was Mulloy, but I did not hear the name of his vessel. He came here for fresh bait and got fifty barrels caplin, which he got by hiring my seine and two men, completing the crew from among his own men. For the use of the seine and my man this Captain Mulloy paid four dollars, and one dollar to the second shoreman working the seine. There was no ice-house here last year, but there were plenty icebergs here about when Capt. Mulloy visited this harbor last year, and he said he expected to get what he wanted from that source. I have heard that ice-houses are being put up at Torbay for selling ice to United States fishermen.

Newfoundland fishermen catch fish within three miles of the shore. The Newfoundland cod-fishery is an inshore fishery. The caplin, herring, and squid for bait are all caught inshore, taken in the coves and creeks along shore.

I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel engaging on a fishing voyage on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

United States fishermen regularly sell small codfish and cod oil in our harbors; they did so in Torbay and St. John's.

I am very certain that the supply of fresh bait to United States fishing vessels will decrease the supply to local fishermen. Last year a very heavy supply of herring bait in Conception Bay to United States fishermen must have caused the scarcity we all suffered from, for we depend upon Conception Bay for bait after the caplin, and we found herrings and squids more scarce than formerly. We fishermen judge that this scarcity of bait is owing to the operations of United States fishermen in our bays and harbors.

I think it evident that the large number of United States fishing vessels fishing on the Banks, well supplied with fresh bait, tends to retain fish on the Banks and prevent their passing in towards our shores.

United States fishing vessels baiting on our shores, having no delay, go out upon the Banks in twelve or fifteen hours from time of leaving our harbors. This facility enables them to keep the ground on the Banks constantly baited with fresh bait. The average catch of codfish per hand for fishermen in this neighborhood, last year and year previous, has been fifteen quintals; previous to these years the average catch per hand each year was forty quintals.

We constantly get American hooks in fish taken along this shore, proving that United States fishermen are at work opposite to us. We have large experience that whatever piece of ground is used by our own people with bultows, that there the fish is kept from passing towards the shore, and as long as we keep fresh bait on such bultows codfish are kept in the neighborhood of these bultows.

Sworn before me at Pouch Cove this 17th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

PHILIP GROUCHY.

Albert Grouchy, aged 35 years, planter, residing at Pouch Cove, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—I have followed the fishery in this country since I was fourteen years of age. I was present when Philip Grouchy made the above statement, which I know to be true in every particular.

Sworn before me at Pouch Cove, this 17th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

ALBERT GROUCHY.

No. 97.

List of Fishing Vessels, calling for fresh bait and ice:—

No.	Vessel's Name.	Tonnage.	Master's Name.	Where belonging.
1	J. S. Presson,	70	Not known,	Gloucester.
2	Brick,	68	do	do
3	Harvey C. Mackay,	64	A. McInnis,	do
4	Clytic,	72	Joseph Nolan,	do
5	Carrie P. Morton,	84	Downs,	do
6	Aberdeen,	70	John Viberts,	do
7	Mist,	72	Curron,	do
8	Shiloh,	85	Philip H. John,	do
9	Concord,	74	John Dago,	do
10	Carrie S. Pagle,	74	J. D. Norward.	do

No.	Vessel's Name.	Tonnage.	Master's Name.	Where belonging.
11	W. L. Wetherell,	69	J. M. Innis,	.....
12	Andrew Lighton,	83	Peter Hamplin,	Provincetown.
13	C. L. Morgan,	64	Charles McNeil,	Beverley.
14	Mary Curren,	102	Duncan Matherson,	Provincetown.
15	Camelia,	54	A. McCritehey,	do
16	Star King,	63	J. A. Matherson,	do
17	Benjamin R. Rich,	68	Samuel Lowring,	do
18	Treasurer,	70	Benj. Anderson,	Lunenburg.
19	Naiad Queen,	42	Ed. Thiboh,	Provincetown.
20	C. F. Mayho,	80	Rich. Morrison,	do
21	C. H. Hodgdon,	112	Wm. Foster,	do
22	Frank A. Williams,	64	.....	do
23	Andrew Lادن,	83	.....	Gloucester.
24	Ululunc,	84	W. T. Wiakens,	Nova Scotia.
25	Conductor,	73	G. H. Curtis,	Gloucester.
26	Bunker Hill,	100	J. MacDonald,	do
27	Holward Holdbrook,	97	.....	do
28	Oceana,	71	.....	Provincetown.
29	Isaac Keen,	77	Norman McKenzie,	do
30	Bello Bartlette,	75	John Cummings,	do
31	Arthur Clifford,	84	John McDonald,	do
32	Laura Sayworth,	68	.....	do
33	D. W. Wilson,	90	.....	do
34	Montezuma,	65	.....	Beverley.
35	Charles H. Reid,	74	John Dago,	Provincetown.
36	C. M. Walton,	52	Camel,	do
37	Reporter,	83	Kolley,	Gloucester.
38	G. B. Foster,	64	.....	Beverley, Mass.
39	W. E. Macdonald,	89	Macdonald,	Gloucester.
40	Ellen Parsons,	91	McNeil,	do
41	Hattie L. Norman,	98	W. H. Robinson,	Beverley, Mass.
42	Ripley,	68	James McCarty,	do
43	Jacob Bacon,	84	.....	Gloucester.
44	Hattie Weston,	95	Craig,	do
45	New England,	86	Hynes,	Gloucester.
46	Mattie F. Foster,	96	M. C. Foster,	do
47	Lizzie B. Knight,	67	Thos. Lohan,	do
48	Betsy,	70	Sullon,	Marblehead, Mass.
49	Lucretia Jane,	88	Geo. Larkin,	Gloucester.
50	Marion,	82	Silas Colden,	do
51	W. R. Page,	80	G. W. Helard,	do
52	Nathl. Webster,	77	.....	do
53	Cygnat,	89	J. P. Brown,	Halifax.
54	S. L. Lane,	72	P. McKenzie,	Gloucester.
55	White Foam,	60	Thomas Nicholson,	Bucksport.
56	Ella Mary,	96	E. C. Mayho,	Provincetown.
57	Willie A. Jewell,	70	Alex. MacDonald,	do Mass.
58	Wave,	53	Kelley,	Plymouth, Mass.
59	Hellen,	66	Cambell,	Beverly, Mass.
60	Leading Breeze,	69	.....	Provincetown.
61	Lynx,	59	Goodwin,	Yarmouth, N. S.
62	Hattie S. Clarke,	70	Thompson,	Gloucester.
63	Epsa Tarr,	70	Ludo de Nee,	do
64	Orland,	61	A. C. Hillard,	Beverly, Mass.
65	D. Shurman,	71	J. Nickerson,	Gloucester.
66	Gussey Blaisdale,	89	Orlando F. Hamburg,	do
67	Wide Awake,	70	Morrisey,	Yarmouth, N. S.

I, William Tull, Preventive Officer at Portugal Cove, Newfoundland, hereby declare that I boarded each of the vessels above enumerated; that these vessels belonged to the United States of America, except five said to belong to Nova Scotia, and came into ports and harbors in the vicinity of Portugal Cove aforesaid, Portugal Cove included, for fresh bait, and that in addition to these vessels there were about fifty United States fishing vessels off and in Broad Cove, Torbay, and Portugal Cove aforesaid, the particulars of name and tonnage, of which I did not take a note of, but I know these vessels also belonged to the United States and came for fresh bait, which they, with the vessels first referred to, procured, catching in part and buying in part from local fishermen. The price paid for the first squids was ten cents, afterward it was raised to fifteen cents and then to twenty cents per hundred squids.

WILLIAM TULL.

Sworn before me, at St. John's, this 30th July, A. D. 1877.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Fisheries.

No. 98.

James Picot, aged 78 years, residing at Portugal Cove, Newfoundland, fisherman, maketh oath and saith:—I have followed the fishery of Newfoundland when my mother was obliged to dress me, that is for over sixty-five years. I know all about the fisheries.

I saw a great many United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood last year, off and on between first August and end of October. There were eight here at one time, but also a large number coming and going. These eight hit it very nicely—they came about noon with wind N. E. That evening and next morning they got their bait, all over fifty barrels and some one hundred barrels, and in the evening about two o'clock they all left for the Banks with a fair breeze from the westward, which increased to a fine sailing breeze or as much as they could fly away with, and we all said they were very fortunate as they would be on the Banks in about forty-eight hours from time of starting therefrom. They purchase from our people principally, but they do put out their doreys and go upon the jigging ground themselves.

Newfoundland fishermen generally catch fish within a mile of our shores—hereabouts we fish within a half a mile. The caplin and herrings for bait are taken in shoal water close to shore; squids are taken in up to twenty-five fathoms of water.

I never heard of a Newfoundland fishing vessel prosecuting any fishery on any of the shores or coasts of the United States of America. United States fishing vessels have sold cod oil in this neighbourhood last year and provided themselves with water. When bait happened to be scarce their crews used to come on shore and go scampering over the hills for "harts." They made repeated raids for harts which freshened them up and took the stiff out of their joints.

I think the supply of bait to United States fishermen last year very much shortened the supply to our own people. I do believe the traffic by them with herrings has something to do with the non-appearance of herrings this spring in this locality, which I never knew to be so scarce before with such fine open weather. We have had nets out since St. Patrick's day and have not caught five dozen herrings.

I do believe that the United States fishermen on the Banks off our coasts well supplied with fresh bait, tends greatly to reduce the catch of codfish by local fishermen, and that the short catch along the south-west coast last year was mainly attributable to their operations. The average of the catch of codfish per hand in this harbor for 1875 and 1876 would not exceed forty quintals, previously the catch would run from eighty to one hundred quintals per hand.

There is an ice house here for keeping ice for sale to United States vessels.

The general belief among fishermen is that the traffic of these United States fishermen in our waters will ruin our fishery.

Sworn before me at Portugal Cove, this nineteenth April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

His
JAS. X PICOT.
mark.

Mark Picot aged 37 years, fisherman, residing at Portugal Cove, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—I was present when the above statement was made by James Picot, and excepting as relates to his age and the time he followed the fishery, I know the said statement to be true in every particular.

Sworn before me at Portugal Cove, this nineteenth April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

MARK PICOT.

No. 99.

Daniel Tucker, aged 34 years, fisherman, residing at Broad Cove, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:

I have followed the fisheries of Newfoundland since I was ten years of age. I have seen eight United States fishing schooners in this Cove at one time, and as many as twenty off and on. The "Mary Carlyle" was one of these vessels; "Jo. F. Allan" another; "Henry Wilson" another. Captains McDonald, Greenleaf, and Hines, were among their captains.

The note I show you is from Captain John Campbell of the schooner "Joseph F. Allan," and it says: "Catch all the squid you can, and I will pay for them, and take them cure." United States fishermen caught what bait they could while they were here, but they could not supply themselves quick enough, and so they engaged our people to catch for them, whom they paid from nine pence to two shillings per hundred squids. Each United States vessel would take about forty barrels squids, some as high as fifty, and others twenty-five, but averaging forty when they could get them. They got their bait without delay. Captain Campbell was only a few hours; the last men when bait was scarce were longer. Some of these vessels had pilots from the shore. Squires of this Cove being pilot on board one of them.

These American schooners took from eight hundred to nine hundred barrels squid. The people here very generally gave up cod-fishing to catch squids for these United States vessels, and this greatly to the injury of our people, who would have been better off, however scarce fish might have been, had they stuck to the cod-fishery.

Newfoundland fishermen catch codfish generally within a mile of the shore. The caplin, herrings and squid caught for bait, is taken close to our shores.

I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel prosecuting any fishing voyage on the coast or shores of the United States of America.

United States fishermen sold codfish and oil in this Cove last year; they sold to my knowledge one lot of eighteen cwt. codfish at seven shillings per cwt., and for the five casks oil sold by them, they were paid two shillings and six pence per gallon.

The large supply of bait to United States fishermen decreases the supply to our local fishermen. The herring was never known to be so scarce as this spring. The cod-fishery along shore is injuriously affected by the large supply of fresh bait on the Banks to United States fishermen, which prevented codfish passing towards the shore; and I believe the short catch along our south-west shores last year, was on account of their fishing operations in bait, and on the Banks.

The catch last year was not more than one-half what it was before 1874; to say a fourth would be nearer the correct thing. We believe they wont leave a fish for us to catch. One of the Captains told me that this year we would not see the light through the tickle, they would be so numerous, and we fully expect them.

DANIEL TUCKER.

Sworn before me at Broad Cove, Cramp Bay, Newfoundland, this 19th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

Joseph Tucker, aged 47 years, fisherman, residing at Broad Cove, Cramp Bay, Newfoundland, make oath and saith: I was present when Daniel Tucker made the above statement, and know that it is true in ever particular, having had practical experience in the fisheries, since I was ten years of age.

JOSEPH TUCKER.

Sworn before me at Broad Cove, Conception Bay, Newfoundland, this nineteenth day of April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 100.

Philip Lewis, aged 44 years, fisherman, residing at Holyrood, Conception Bay, Newfoundland. maketh oath and saith:—I have prosecuted the fisheries of Newfoundland for 23 years and upwards. I saw a great many United States vessels in this neighborhood. Last spring there were a large number here—throughout the season there were upwards of twenty of these vessels here, among these I can only name a few of the captains in charge. Captains Morrissey, Keehan, Kane or King, Greenwood, Gray, Collinwood.

A St. John's man in charge of an American fishing schooner who was among those who caught squids on Sunday. Dencif, whose vessel was at Harbor Main; Ryan, the latter was among those jigging squids on Sunday. There were so many and most of them strange names to me I cannot recollect many of them.

These vessels came here to procure fresh bait. They did procure their bait here, purchasing the principal part and jigging a part for themselves. Their vessels anchored within a quarter of a mile from the shore. Each vessel took about twenty-five barrels and upwards from this place, some more. Their full supply of bait would be fifty barrels, but most of them had a part of what they required, which they procured in other harbors. They paid from six pence to two shillings per hundred squids. There was no ice here for sale to them; they supplied themselves with ice elsewhere and when their stock was out they salted their squids. The total quantity of squids taken by them from this place last year would be over 500 barrels.

Newfoundland fishermen catch codfish generally within two and three miles of the shore. The herrings, caplin and squids, caught for bait, are each taken close to shore.

I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel having prosecuted any fishery on any of the coasts or shores of the United States of America.

I have heard that United States fishing crews have sold small fish and cod oil in this neighborhood, and that they did sell such produce here and at Harbor Maine. I purchased oil myself from them in payment of squids. The price of oil as paid by me was two shillings and fourpence per gallon.

The large supply of fresh bait used by United States fishermen on the banks, I fully believe tends to keep codfish from striking towards our shores, and thus affects the catch of local fishermen injuriously.

The punt fishery in this neighborhood has been much reduced the last two years. American captains told me that they did not know anything about Conception Bay for baiting purposes until last

year, but that they found it the most convenient place to procure bait of any other they knew, and that they intended in future largely to avail of it for the purpose of procuring bait. Conception Bay is freer from dangers in approaching it than most Bays, and has comparatively little fog, of which American captains spoke approvingly.

PHILIP LEWIS.

Sworn before me at Holyrood, Newfoundland, this 24th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

John Veitch, aged 39 years, telegraph operator, residing at Holyrood, Nfld., maketh oath and saith: I was present when Philip Lewis made the above statement, and excepting the part referring to the number of vessels at this harbor last year, I know the statement to be true in every particular. I saw five or six United States fishing vessels here, but heard of a large number that I did not see. United States vessels regularly refit in this neighborhood. I sold one of these vessels flour that they were short of.

JOHN VEITCH.

Sworn before me at Holyrood, Nfld., this 24th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 101.

Edward O'Brien, aged 49 years, constable, residing at Cats Cove, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith: I know the fisheries of Newfoundland from following the same since I was a boy until ten years ago.

I have observed a number of United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood last year, and the year previous there were five or six in Salmon Cove.

I saw a large number of these vessels at Holyrood, Belle Isle, Northern Gut, and in the offing in this Bay. The vessels referred to came here for fresh bait, which they purchased and caught as best they could. The supply of bait to United States schooners decreases the supply to our local fishermen. I am of decided opinion that the presence of the large number of United States vessels on the Banks well supplied with fresh bait, tends to keep fish from passing toward our shores and largely decreases the catch of codfish by local fishermen, and that the short fishery last year was mainly attributable to their operations.

The vessels that called here last year for bait were supplied with ice before coming here—they procured their ice on other parts of the shore. There is no ice house in this harbor. American vessels refit in this neighbourhood, and have sold small fish and oil in Harbor Main, Holyrood, and elsewhere in this Bay. All fishermen of this Country believe that the traffic as carried on by United States fishermen in our harbors for fresh bait, and on the Banks off our coasts is hurtful to our fisheries, and has already resulted in great damage to our bait fishery.

ED. O'BRIEN.

Sworn before me, at Cats Cove, Conception Bay, Newfoundland, this 25th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 102.

Edward Wade, aged 56 years, planter and fisherman, residing at Cats Cove, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—I was present when Edward O'Brien made the statement before J. O. Fraser, on this day, marked A, which I know to be true in all particulars, except as relates to the age of said Edward O'Brien.

Sworn before me at Cats Cove, Conception Bay, Newfoundland, this 25th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

His
EDWARD X WADE.
mark.

Edward Meaney, 48 years, planter and fisherman, residing at Salmon Cove, Conception Bay, Newfoundland maketh oath and saith:—I was present when Edward O'Brien made the statement marked A, on this day before J. O. Fraser, Commissioner of Affidavits, and except as relates to the age of Edward O'Brien, I believe said statement to be true in all particulars.

Sworn before me at Cats Cove, Conception Bay, Newfoundland, this 25th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

EDWARD MEANEY.

No. 103.

George Butler, aged 55 years, farmer, residing at Northern Gut, Conception Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith :—

I followed the cod-fishery in Newfoundland for about fifteen years, but during late years, I have followed farming.

I saw a number of United States fishing schooners in this neighborhood the last two years; the number seen by me was from eight to ten. These vessels came here for fresh bait. I saw them jigging squids, and know that they also purchased squids from local fishermen. One of these United States fishing vessels had a caplin seine hung up drying, for which he asked me seventeen pounds, it being a large seine. Several of the vessels referred to above, fitted out at my place with wood and water. I sold them wood, for which they paid in money.

I consider the traffic of these United States fishermen in bait, injures this fishery, and must decrease the supply for local purposes. Fishermen cannot have too much bait, and more care is being observed every year to protect this fishery, to secure fishermen in a necessary supply, but the prospects under the Treaty, giving Americans the privilege to fish in our waters, are not improved.

GEORGE BUTLER.

Sworn before me at Northern Gut, Conception Bay, this 30th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 104.

Stephen Parsons, aged 57 years, planter and fisherman, residing at Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith :

I have followed the fisheries of Newfoundland for forty-five years and have a practical knowledge of the same in all their branches. I saw five United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood last year—there were three of these vessels anchored on the squid jigging ground one day last Fall. They were off and on throughout the season in this and neighbouring harbors. Men and masters of these vessels told me they came for fresh bait, and had been in Bay Bulls and other southern harbors, following the bait wherever it was to be found. It was squid bait they were after here, but they also came upon our shores for caplin and herrings for bait. One of the vessels that called here had made two trips to the United States, one with halibut and another with codfish, and this vessel was on her third trip when she called here; the captain of this vessel told me that he did better than formerly, and was much aided by the facility of procuring bait on our shores to the great saving of time, as they were seldom twenty-four hours in making the Banks and beginning fishing after leaving our shores. Newfoundland fishermen generally catch codfish within one or two miles of our shores, the Newfoundland fishery (cod) is an inshore fishery. The bait fishery—caplin, herring and squid is an inshore fishery, and is never taken two miles from the shore, except in rare instances when squids are caught by craft fishing on Cape Ballard Bank and such places. I never knew or heard of a Newfoundland fishing vessel prosecuting any voyage on any of the shores or coasts of the United States of America. The supply of bait to United States fishing vessels has injuriously affected the supply to local fishermen; it has done so in a year when bait was considered *plentiful*,—in a year of scarcity it would be ruinous. I am certainly of opinion that the operations of United States fishermen on the Banks off our coasts well supplied with fresh bait, interferes with and tends greatly to reduce the catch of local fishermen, and that their whole traffic in connection with the fisheries and bait supply on our shores, must result in permanent injury to our fisheries and in great loss to our people. United States vessels do refit in this neighbourhood when required.

His
STEPHEN X PARSONS.
mark.

Sworn before me, at Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland, this 26th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 105.

John Barret, aged 60 years, planter, resident at Spaniards Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith :—

I know the fisheries of this country by having followed the same for forty-five years.

I saw three United States fishing schooners in this harbor last year, and there were a large number in other parts of the Bay.

These vessels came here for fresh herrings and squids for bait. This bait they procured partly by catching for themselves and partly by purchasing from our people. The quantity taken by each vessel was forty barrels for each trip. These vessels came here from the Banks for bait and left again for the Banks when they had procured their bait. The price paid for bait by United States fishermen was from one shilling to fifteen pence per hundred for squids.

Newfoundland fishermen generally catch codfish within two miles of the shore. The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery. The caplin, herring and squid caught for bait, are all inshore fisheries, taken generally within stones throw of the shore.

I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel engaging in any fishing voyage on any of the shores or coasts of the United States of America. United States fishermen do sell small codfish, oil and fishery produce in this neighbourhood, as I believe they do in most places along our shores where they call. I purchased fifteen cwt. codfish and thirty gallons cod oil from them last year. For the codfish I gave ten shillings per cwt. and for the oil two shillings and sixpence per gallon.

The supply of bait to United States fishermen tends to decrease the supply to local fishermen, and I believe such has already been the result of their bait traffic in this Bay.

I am of decided opinion that the presence of the large number of United States fishing vessels on the Banks well supplied with fresh bait interferes with, and tends greatly to reduce the catch of local fishermen, and firmly believe that the short catch last year was attributable to the operations of United States fishermen as aforesaid. The fishery in this Bay and along these shores last year and year previous was not more than half the average of former years.

There is an ice house at Harbor Grace and Mosquito where ice is stored. Americans here last year got their ice at Mosquito.

Sworn before me at Spaniards Bay, this 27th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

JOHN BARRETT.

Archibald Hutchings, aged 56 years, fisherman, residing at Spaniards Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—I followed the fisheries of this country for forty years. I was present when John Barrett made the above statement and excepting as relates to the age of said John Barrett and his transactions in fish and oil with United States fishermen, I believe the said statement to be true in all particulars.

Sworn before me at Spaniards Bay, Newfoundland, this 27th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

His
ARCHIBALD + HUTCHINGS.
mark.

No. 106.

Alfred Hopkins, aged 52 years, Planter, residing at Heart's Content, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:

I have become acquainted with the Newfoundland fisheries by prosecuting the same in their various branches for upwards of thirty-five years. I have seen United States fishing schooners in this neighborhood; there were four or five in this harbor last year at one time, and as many as twelve in this harbor throughout the summer.

These vessels came here for fresh bait, which they purchased in part, and caught in part themselves. Squids was the bait they were in quest of. These vessels came in from the Banks off our coast for bait, which they procured as aforesaid.

Newfoundland fishermen generally catch codfish within two miles of the shore; the Newfoundland codfishery is an inshore fishery. The caplin, herring and squid fisheries for bait are all inshore fisheries, and are prosecuted close to the shore.

I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel having prosecuted any fishery on any of the coasts or shores of the United States of America.

The supply of bait to United States fishermen, although only commenced, has decreased the supply for local fishermen, and when the former become better acquainted with our harbors and the facilities for procuring the bait they require, it cannot be doubted but that great injury will result to the interests of local fishermen in decreasing their supply of bait. The bait fisheries above others should be protected by all possible means. The operations of United States fishermen in supplying themselves with bait on our shores and in our harbors, tends to injure this fishery much more than as prosecuted by Newfoundland fishermen, who only require a comparatively small supply, and this is taken each day in limited quantities, or, when taken for "a catch" off shore, is still in moderate quantity compared with the supply required by United States fishermen, and the procuring of the lesser quantity is not attended by the noise and bustle attending the larger supply taken by United States fishing craft. I do not think the caplin, the herring, or the squid fisheries would, or could hold out many years if subjected to the operations of any

considerable number of United States fishermen, judging from what I have seen of them and their traffic for bait last year.

There is no doubt on my mind as to certain effects resulting from the fishing operations of United States fishermen on the Banks off our coasts well supplied with fresh bait, and that one effect of their fishing operations as aforesaid has been and must continue to be the attraction of codfish to the Banks and to the bait there supplied, preventing fish passing in toward our shores, as would otherwise be the case. The shore fishery along our coasts is injuriously affected by United States fishermen on the Banks, and in my opinion the short catch last year along our South and West coasts was greatly owing to the presence of the large number of United States fishermen on the Banks off our coasts well supplied with fresh bait. The average catch of codfish per man in this neighborhood the last two years has not been more than one-half what the average has been in previous years.

There is an ice house in this harbor where one hundred and fifty tons of ice is secured for sale to United States fishermen this year, a large number of their vessels being expected at this harbor this year for bait and ice.

his
ALFRED. X HOPKINS.
mark.

Sworn before me at Heart's Content, Newfoundland, this 28th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

Charles Rendell, aged 44 years, fisherman, residing at Heart's Content, in Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—I was present when Alfred Hopkins made the statement before J. O. Fraser, Commissioner of Affidavits, on this day, and which statement is marked B. I believe the said statement to be true in every particular, and judge it to be true and reasonable from an experience of thirty years, during which time I prosecuted the fisheries of this country almost continuously.

CHARLES RENDELL.

Sworn before me at Heart's Content, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, this 28th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 107.

Thomas L. Newhook, planter, residing at New Harbor, Newfoundland; maketh oath and saith: I am forty-four years of age. My knowledge of the fisheries of this country is derived from practical connection with the same for thirty years. I saw four United States fishing vessels in this harbor last year, there were a number of them also in other near harbors that I did not see, but believe they were—as reported—in other harbors looking for fresh bait. I don't recollect the names of these vessels, but know they hailed from Gloucester, U. S. A. These vessels came here for fresh bait which they purchased from our people, except what they jigged themselves. Each vessel took from thirty-five to forty barrels squids for a trip to the Banks, and the price paid for said bait was from one shilling to eightpence per 100.

Newfoundland fishermen catch codfish generally within a mile of the shore. The Newfoundland codfishery is an inshore fishery. The bait fishery—caplin, squids and herrings—is an inshore fishery. I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel fishing on any of the coasts or shores of the United States of America.

The supply of fresh bait to United States fishermen cannot fail to reduce the supply for local purposes.

The large quantity of fresh bait used on the Banks off our coasts by United States fishermen, certainly tends to attract codfish and prevent their passing in towards our shores. Last years catch of codfish along these shores was not nearly an average catch.

THOMAS L. NEWHOOK.

Sworn before me at New Harbor, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, this 27th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

Moses Parsons, aged 42 years, school teacher, at New Harbor, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:

I followed the Newfoundland fisheries for ten years. I was present when Thomas Newhook made the above statement which I believe to be true in every particular.

MOSES PARSONS.

Sworn before me at New Harbor, Trinity Bay, 27th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,
Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 108.

Edward Morse, aged 52 years, planter and fisherman, residing at Dildo, in Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—

I saw nine or ten United States fishing schooners in this harbor last year; they came in from the Banks for fresh bait and ice. Captain Newhook was master of one of those schooners; they all hailed from Gloucester, U. S. A., their tonnage ran from sixty to seventy-five tons. I boarded two of them to see how they were fitted out. One of these schooners was at Renteen, in this Bay, for caplin; the others seen by me came for squids, which they jigged in part, and in part purchased from local fishermen. The price given for squids for what they purchased, was from one shilling to two shillings per hundred. They thought to haul squids with seines, but our people would not allow that, because such a plan would destroy the fishery for local fishermen. Seining would enclose all the squids in the harbor—as both on entering and leaving the harbor, squids strike into the North or the South Cove, where one seine would enclose the whole school, and then local fishermen who only need from fifty to one hundred squids each per day could not be supplied. Should United States fishermen begin seining squids, as they wished to do last year, and as they have threatened to do, it will destroy the squid bait fishery, as far as local fishermen are concerned.

My sons sold about one hundred squids to the United States fishermen referred to. Newfoundland fishermen catch codfish generally within two miles of the shore. The codfishery is an inshore fishery. The bait fishery—including squids, herrings and caplin—is an inshore fishery. The supply of bait to United States fishermen decreases the supply for our local fishermen.

I am of very strong opinion that the presence of the large number of United States vessels, fishing on the Banks with fresh bait, and constantly supplied with such bait, must injuriously affect our shore fishery, and to this cause I attribute the short catch last year along our south and west coasts. The catch hereabouts last year was not over half a fair average of years previous to 1874.

American Captains told me that it was a great advantage to them to call in to our harbors and get bait; they wanted to engage with me to build an ice house, promising that a large number would buy bait and ice from me. They told me they bought their ice for half a dollar per ton, and I thought that would not leave me much profit and so did not trouble with it. There is an ice house at Heart's Content where a large quantity of ice has been preserved this winter for sale to United States vessels, who have engaged to buy the same, and a large number are expected there this year for bait and ice. Some of these schooners had spirits on board, which they sold to our people without paying duty.

his
EDWARD X MORSE
mark.

Sworn before me at Dildo, Trinity Bay, this 27th April, 1877.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

Albert George, 33 years, planter and fisherman, residing at Dildo, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith: I have been practically acquainted with the fisheries of this Country for fourteen years. I was present when Edward Morse made the above statement, which, excepting as relates to the age of said Edward Morse, and his conversations and transactions with captains of United States fishing vessels, I know to be true in every particular according to my belief.

Sworn before me at Dildo, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, this 27th April, 1877.

ALBERT GEORGE.

J. O. FRASER.

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 109.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Alexander McKay, of North Sydney, in the County of Cape Breton, in the Province of Nova Scotia, formerly of Cape North, in the County of Victoria, in the said province, make oath and say as follows:

1. I was engaged at Cape North, in said County, from eighteen hundred and forty-six till eighteen hundred and sixty-four, in the buying and selling of fish, and was and still am well acquainted with many Canadian and American fishermen, also with the kinds and habits of fish taken in British waters.

2. During the period in which I was engaged in the fish business, I had excellent means of knowing the amount of fish taken by individual vessels, and say that if the fishing is fair, mackerel men average six hundred barrels on a trip, and American fishermen generally made three such trips each

year. Codfishmen made two trips and fish from April to the last of October, along from Scaterie to the Magdalene Islands, and take on an average about five hundred quintals—some get as many as a thousand quintals.

3. From letters which I have in my possession, and statements which I have from people at Cape North and around Aspy Bay, the codfishing has not been so good for twenty years as this season up to this date. At present mackerel are taken in large quantities at Ingonish.

4. Within my knowledge and experience the mackerel fishing has always fluctuated, being good for a number of years and poor again for some time.

5. During the eighteen years in which I was engaged in the fishing business, caplin only set in three years and fish always came with them and always do; this year caplin have set in in abundance, as also squid, and the mackerel are quite abundant.

6. To my knowledge, during the time engaged in the fish trade, American fishermen always trawled deeper than Canadian fishermen, thus catching the larger fish, which are the mother fish, and thus destroy millions of spawn. When the Americans came and trawled outside, I always found the fish less plentiful afterwards, this I attributed to their destruction of spawn, and the Americans themselves tell me they do so to the present day.

7. The American fishermen are always in the habit of throwing overboard the offals of the fish, and the sound bone which is thrown overboard destroys great numbers of large fish, this our fishermen never practice. The offal frightens away the fish and destroys the fishing grounds for some time.

8. Before, and up to eighteen hundred and fifty-four, the American fishermen always fished inshore for mackerel because the mackerel come inshore to feed and inshore is the best place to catch them. The mackerel are on their way south, and when on our coast from August till the last of November are at their best, and the Americans have always taken them inshore, treaty or no treaty. They stopped fishing when a cutter hove in sight and returned when she disappeared.

9. The inshore fisheries are of much greater value than the outside fishery for mackerel, and scarcely any mackerel are taken outside.

10. From the month of August till November, which is the best time for mackerel fishing, the American fishermen every year until they had the right of fishing inshore, practiced throwing bait overboard to draw the fish out shore,—and this is a very effective plan for drawing out the fish.

11. During the years in which I was engaged in the fish business, no American fishermen took fish with seines. They now use purse seines for taking mackerel in deep water, which destroys the schools of mackerel and frightens them away.

12. The Americans take within three miles of the shore in our bays, harbors, creeks, and rivers, herring, mackerel, squid and caplin for bait, this they do in every bay and harbor on the coast.

13. The herring fishery is inshore and they catch them for bait all around our coast.

14. I know that Canadian mackerel are better than American, having gone into the American market with our mackerel and I found that I could get double the price, and while carrying on the fish business at Cape North I lived for some time in Boston and sold our mackerel in the American market, and have compared mackerel taken in American waters with ours, and always found ours much superior, being worth more than twice that of the American.

15. Mackerel come inshore to feed on shrimps, which is an inshore fish, and for a kind of grub found inshore, of which they are fond and can be found in the mackerel after they have come inshore. The principal breeding place of the mackerel is at the Magdalene Islands.

16. Fresh squid and fresh mackerel being the best bait for codfish, if the Americans were deprived of the privilege of getting this bait, that fishery would be valueless to them, nor could they profitably carry on the cod and other deep sea fisheries without this privilege of getting bait and ice in which to pack it.

17. The ice they bring from home is melted by the time they arrive here, and without ice they could not preserve their bait. Their outfits they are furnished with before they leave home.

18. None of our fishermen fish in American waters because our own grounds are so much better, and this fact I have had corroborated by American fishermen. And if the Americans were excluded from our grounds fish would be more plenty and more regular on the inshore grounds.

19. American fishermen smuggle goods, and I have been informed of seizures being made for this practice.

20. I have known fifty or sixty sail of American fishermen at one time fishing off Sydney harbor, all of whom anchored in the harbor at night and ran out in the morning, catching mackerel, within the last five years; and it is my opinion that if the American fishermen were excluded from our fishing grounds that our own people would go into the fishing much more, and more profitably.

21. None of the codfish vessels, to my knowledge, go through the Strait of Canso. They come around the southern and eastern coasts of Cape Breton, and many mackerelmen do the same. Mackerelmen fish around by Scaterie, and it is therefore shorter for them to come round by the southern and eastern sides of the island of Cape Breton.

A. McKAY.

Sworn to at North Sydney, in the County of Cape Breton, this 19th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOHN FORBES,

Justice Peace in and for the County of Cape Breton.

No. 110.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, James McLeod, formerly of Gabarus, in the County of Cape Breton, Province of Nova Scotia: for the last five years now past, of North Sydney, in the said County, and Province, master mariner, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been master mariner for about six years, and am well acquainted with the fisheries on the coasts of Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, the Magdalene Islands, the eastern coast of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador.

2. I was personally engaged in the fisheries for about eight years. I fished on the shores of Cape Breton, particularly on the eastern side, on the eastern more than on the other sides. Around the Magdalene Islands, Prince Edward Island, and on the eastern coast of New Brunswick, I have also been engaged in bank fishing.

3. During this time, I fished in company with American fishing vessels. Around the Magdalene Islands they were almost all American fishermen, also on the eastern coast of New Brunswick, and I have seen great numbers of American fishing vessels in these two last mentioned localities. Last summer I fished from Cape North to Scaterie, during the cod season, and saw at that season great numbers of American fishermen there, engaged in fishing. Within the last two years I have seen many American fishermen, from Cape North to Scaterie, engaged in mackerel fishing, and have seen at one time between twenty and thirty American fishermen so engaged, within sight, and think that there would be in that vicinity, at one time, about one hundred.

4. The presence of so many American fishermen lessens the catch of fish.

5. When fishing around the Magdalene Islands, Prince Edward Island, and eastern coast of New Brunswick, about eight or nine years ago, the Americans took mackerel with hook and line; since that time American fishermen have used purse seines, and last summer an American skipper told me that he had caught mackerel in this way during the said summer. These purse seines are bad for the fisheries. They kill a great many of the fish, mashing them up, and when the seine is tripped these mashed fish sink and frighten away the live fish; and injure the fishing grounds.

7. I have never seen nor heard of Canadian fishermen using purse seines.

8. I think that more than half the mackerel are taken inshore within the three-mile limit, and the inshore fishing is far the most valuable, because the mackerel strike in towards the shore, and the American vessels follow them in to the shore; and I do not believe it would pay the Americans to come here to fish, unless they followed the fish inshore within three miles. And when in the Island of Cape Breton, during the mackerel season, I have seen many of them fishing within three miles of the shore.

9. It would be impossible for the Americans to successfully carry on the cod and halibut fishing without getting bait from us, and ice in which to pack it, and the only place in which they can get this bait is in our bays, creeks, and harbors, also up our rivers, and always within three miles of the shore.

10. All the American fishermen engaged in the cod and halibut fishery come round the southern and eastern coasts of Cape Breton, and many American mackerel fishermen do the same.

11. American fishermen throw over-board fish under a certain number of inches; and in halibut fishing throw away all the codfish, of which they take large numbers, except the very large ones, thus wasting fish and injuring the grounds. This practice our Canadian fishermen never participate in.

12. It is my opinion, it would be much better for our fishermen if the Americans were kept off the inshore grounds and away from the fisheries, as the fish would be much more plenty for our men.

13. I do not think that the American fishermen are a benefit in any way to our fishermen, but a great injury, lessening the catch and injuring the fishing grounds by leaving dead fish and "gurry" on the grounds.

14. I have seen this present summer American fishermen within a mile of the shore fishing, and engaged in the taking of cod, halibut, hake, and pollock, which must be of great value to them.

15. The Americans come here in the early spring; fish along from Cape North in Cape Breton, north of Bird Rock, St. Paul's Island, and Magdalenes, and cut off many fish from going up the St. Lawrence to our fishermen.

Sworn to at North Sydney, in the County of Cape Breton, this 19th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me,

JAMES McLEOD.

JOHN VOOGHT, J. P.,
For and in the Co. of Cape Breton.

No. 111.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, William Nearing, of Main-a-Dieu, in the County of Cape Breton, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been upwards of forty years engaged in the inshore fisheries, and have taken mackerel, herring, codfish and halibut—all the kinds of fish found around here. I fished in a whale boat and schooner around Cow Bay, Scaterie, Miri Bay, Main a Dieu and Lorraines, and have also gone out fishing from this port with two American fishing schooners.

2. During the number of years mentioned I have seen many American vessels engaged in fishing in the places in which I fished, and during the past five or six years up to this date I have seen them fishing in and off shore in this vicinity. I have seen over a hundred American fishing schooners at one time inside and outside of Scaterie Island at one time. All the codfish and halibut fishermen come round the southern and eastern coasts of Cape Breton, and do not run through the Strait of Canso. During the past five or six years I have seen on an average upwards of one hundred American fishing vessels each year around in this vicinity.

3. The Americans take about here mackerel, codfish and halibut. About eight years ago I was in an American halibut vessel, and in twenty-four hours we took one hundred and sixty halibut north-north-east and near Scaterie Light, inside of the three mile limit. These halibut would weigh from forty to three hundred pounds each. Since the Americans resorted here halibut have become very scarce; previous to that time we could catch as many as we wanted.

4. The Americans trawled here last spring twelve months for halibut within the three mile limit. They trawl off on the banks, and their plan of trawling injures the inshore fishery. They trawl on the bottom and take the mother fish. They throw over the gurry, which is very injurious to the fishery. I have myself often caught codfish with sound bones in them.

5. The Americans have fished all round here inshore for mackerel, and the large quantities taken by them injured the inshore fisheries.

6. The Americans fish mackerel for bait, and buy mackerel and herring for the same purpose whenever they can get it.

7. In my opinion it would be much better for us if the Americans were kept away from our shores.

his
WILLIAM + NEARING.
mark.

Sworn to, before me, at Main-a-Dieu, Cape Breton, the 27th day of July, 1877.

GEO. RIGBY, J. P.

No. 112.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Thomas Lahey, of Main-a-Dieu, in the County of Cape Breton; fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in the inshore fisheries for the last fifty years and have taken mackerel, herring, codfish, halibut and all the kinds of fish found in this vicinity. I fished in a whale boat around Cow Bay, Scaterie, Miri Bay, Main-a-Dieu and Lorraine, and have taken on an average about six hundred dollars worth of fish for the last fifty years each year.

2. During the before mentioned period I have seen many American vessels engaged in fishing in the places aforesaid. I have seen in one day from fifty to sixty of these American vessels. These American vessels came round the southern coast of Cape Breton and did not run through the Strait of Canso. During the past five or six years I have seen on an average during the fishing season over a hundred American fishing vessels in and near the waters where I fished, and I have often found it difficult to keep out of their way. Those American vessels take all kinds of fish,—mackerel, codfish and halibut. On board these vessels there are from sixteen down to ten men on each.

3. The Americans take fish around where I fish,—mackerel by jigging, and codfish with trawls. The Americans take all the large fish by trawling and throw away any small fish taken, which poisons the rest of the fish in the water.

4. The Americans in my experience always come in close for mackerel and set their trawls inside of Scaterie Island for halibut and codfish.

5. The Americans injure the inshore fishery upon which I and hundreds more around here depend. The Americans about five or six years ago used to throw overboard bait and draw off the mackerel,—this they made a general practice of, and I have often, along with other boats, been injured in this way.

6. I have seen the Americans take large quantities of bait inshore within three miles of the shore. This bait they took with hook and line between Flint Island and Scaterie, also haddock for halibut bait.

7. The mackerel, codfish and halibut have in my experience decreased somewhat, this is owing to the American fishermen and their plans of taking fish.

Sworn to before me at Main-a-Dieu, in the County of Cape Breton, the 27th day of July, 1877.

GEO. RIGBY, J. P.

His
THOMAS † LAHEY,
mark.

No. 113.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Daniel Goodwin, of Cape Canso, in the County of Guysborough, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fishery business for twenty-one years. Ten of these I was with the Americans cod-fishing. About eight hundred American sail fish for cod each season. We used to fish on Grand Bank, Western Bank and LaHave Bank. One year we fished off Cape North, Island of Cape Breton. The average tonnage of each vessel would be 65 tons at least, and the crews of each from ten to twelve men. At first we used to fish with salt bait and what we could get on the Banks. During the last five or six years we got our bait in the British provinces. By using the fresh bait we could catch fish much better. In fact little or no fishing can be done with salt bait. It is no use to use salt bait when fresh bait is being used. If I could not get fresh bait I would not attempt to fish on the Banks with salt bait. If the Americans had to go home after their bait, it would spoil before they reached the fishing grounds. Besides this it would be a great loss of time to them and prevent them from catching the fish in such quantities as they now can. By having the privileges granted by the Treaty of Washington, they can carry on the fishing, without them they cannot prosecute them and make them pay.

2. Each vessel makes from two to three trips each season, and catch each on an average one hundred thousand pounds of green fish. This would make seven hundred quintals of dry fish. I mean they average that much each trip. This I consider a fair statement.

3. All fish under twenty-one inches when the head is cut off is thrown away by the Americans. This I consider very destructive to the fisheries. Those small fish are similar to those caught inshore by Canadian fishermen.

4. Before I was fishing with the Americans I was engaged in the mackerel fishing. The Americans used to fish inshore with the Canadian fishermen at that time. I have seen as many as five hundred sail engaged in the mackerel fishery during one season. They fished everywhere like the Canadian fishermen. This was during the Reciprocity Treaty.

5. The Americans buy ice and bait because it pays them best. They save a third in quantity of the ice used. Each vessel would average twenty-five tons per season.

6. I never heard or saw any Canadian vessel fishing in American waters. The right to fish in American waters is worth nothing.

DANIEL GOODWIN.

Sworn to at Canso, in the County of Guysborough, this 25th day of July, A.D., 1877, before me,

JAMES A. TORY,

J. P. for the County of Guysborough.

No. 114.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, William Kelly, of Lingan, in the County of Cape Breton, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in fishing for more than fifty years, mostly in the inshore fishery for fourteen of those years, I owned a fishing vessel and fished all along the coast from Cape North to Scaterie. In this vessel there were five hands besides myself.

2. In this vessel I have taken all kinds of fish,—mackerel, codfish, halibut, herring and dogfish.

3. The mackerel were taken all inshore by me, and during the last twenty years I have seen as many as from twenty to thirty American fishing vessels engaged in fishing mackerel at one time within three miles of the coast. There were many vessels around which I hadn't sight of.

4. About nine years ago I used to take large quantities of codfish and halibut. In one week I have taken from thirty to forty quintals of codfish and two hundred halibut. The halibut measured from

three to seven and a half feet in length. Herring I always took in shore, and never knew them to be taken beyond three miles from the shore. During the past nine years I have not taken so many fish. The reason for the decrease I think is the throwing over of "gurry" and the large number of vessels engaged in fishing with trawls.

5. The mackerel in my experience have been some years plenty and some scarce, and this fall may be very plenty.

6. In my experience the Americans take mackerel in shore, and I think if they were not allowed to take them inshore it would not be worth their while to come here to fish mackerel.

Sworn to at Lingan, in the County of Cape Breton, this 23rd day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

WALTER YOUNG, J. P.

His
WILLIAM X KELLY,
mark.

No. 115.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Isaac Archibald, of Cow Bay, in the County of Cape Breton, merchant, make oath and say, as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in the buying and selling of fish, and of fishermen's supplies during the past twelve years. I have bought and sold mackerel, codfish, and herring, and am well acquainted with the fishing business as carried on here.

2. American fishing vessels have resorted to this harbour for bait and ice, and have to some extent purchased provisions. The bait and ice, they stated, was indispensable to their voyage, for without it they could catch no fish. They also purchased herring for bait from our inshore fishermen in order to save time, as it was more convenient to do so than to remain and catch it, time being thus saved, and they have also purchased mackerel for bait.

3. Some years during the past twelve and down as late as eighteen hundred and seventy-three and four, as many as ten American fishing vessels have been supplied each season with ice; each vessel took from five to ten tons.

4. Our fishermen have and still complain to me that the Americans trawl so deep that they catch the mother fish which are full of spawn, and clean their fish on the fishing ground and thus injure the ground.

5. The Americans before and during the Reciprocity Treaty of eighteen hundred and fifty-four always fished inshore unless when a cutter was in sight. When the cutter disappeared they returned to fish. This plan they always adopted within my recollection.

6. I would say that here at least three-fourths of all kinds of fish are taken inshore. All our mackerel, herring, large quantities of codfish and halibut. The halibut are mostly taken in the Spring of the year. Considerable quantities of haddock are also taken here in the Spring of the year and are all taken inshore.

7. The Americans in this Bay have often practiced throwing bait overboard, and thus enticing the mackerel off-shore. This they do because the mackerel are found inshore, and this practice has been followed by them except when they had the right of fishing inshore.

8. American fishermen catch bait within three miles of the shore in this bay, mostly herring and mackerel. The herring they take in nets, the mackerel by both nets and hook and line. This they do all round the coast here with which I am acquainted.

9. Since eighteen hundred and seventy-one there has been a decrease in the amount of codfish taken by our inshore fishermen. The mackerel in my experience have varied, being some years good and others poor. The causes of this are, as already stated, deep trawling, throwing offal overboard, and over-fishing.

10. All our herring are taken inshore, and in this bay there are about four hundred barrels taken yearly. The Americans catch and buy them for bait all around the coast.

11. The Canadian mackerel I know are better than those taken in American waters, because in the summer of eighteen hundred and seventy-one I went into the American markets and made it my business to make inquiries, and found American fish dealers very eager to get our mackerel.

12. The Americans, in my opinion, would be unable to carry on the cod and halibut fishing successfully unless they were allowed to frequent our bays, harbors and creeks for bait and ice in which to pack it, and without it would be unable to secure a cargo.

13. The American fishermen buy but very few articles, being supplied before leaving home, and only buy articles when they run short, and their trade in this respect I consider only an accommodation to themselves.

14. As far as I know, the privilege of fishing in American waters is of no benefit to Canadians, nor have I ever heard of any benefit being derived by Canadians from this privilege.

15. I have heard of a considerable amount of smuggling being done by American vessels in kerosene oil.

16. The Americans, to my knowledge, get a large number of their fishermen from Cape Breton, who go into American vessels and thus build up the American fishing establishment at the expense of our own; and I believe that it would be much better for us if the Americans were totally excluded and our markets left to ourselves.

ISAAC ARCHIBALD.

Sworn to at Cow Bay, in the County of Cape Breton, this 24th day of July, A.D. 1877, before me,
JOSEPH McPHERSON, J. P.

No. 116.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Joseph Dobson, of South Sydney, in the County of Cape Breton, miller and millowner, make oath and say as follows :

1. Within the last three years I have supplied American fishing schooners with ice in which to pack their bait, from two and one half to three tons each vessel, and I have supplied as many as eight during the past three years, and within the last fortnight I have thus supplied two American fishing vessels.

2. Within the last fortnight there have been at least a dozen American fishing vessels around here close to the shore fishing for bait—squid, perch, smelts and all kinds of small fish suitable for bait. This bait they pack in ice to keep fresh. They are supplied with ice by other dealers besides me in this harbor. The Americans told me the bait was plentiful and good, and that it would be impossible for them to do without ice.

3. Bait has been more plentiful in this harbor during this month than I have known it to be within the last twenty years, and I consider it of great value to the Americans to get this bait and ice, for when the Americans secure ice and bait they say they have every chance for a successful voyage, and they always tell me, no bait no fish.

Sworn to at Sydney, in the County of Cape Breton, this 23rd day of July, A.D., 1877, before me,

C. H. HARRINGTON,
Justice of Peace.

JOSEPH DOBSON.

No. 117.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John Peach, of Cow Bay, in the County of Cape Breton, fisherman, make oath and say as follows :—

1. I have been engaged in the taking of fish for twenty-eight years, all in the inshore fishery. I have caught mackerel, herring, codfish and halibut from Cape North to Scaterie, and in and around Cow Bay in the County aforesaid.

2. I have caught mackerel with hook and net and always inshore. I never went beyond three miles from the shores for mackerel, because we could catch no mackerel beyond three miles.

3. About fifteen years ago I used to take large quantities of mackerel in shore with nets. I have taken myself in one morning as many as ten barrels in one haul. Since that time I have not taken so many mackerel in nets. The reason of my not taking so many mackerel now with nets is because the Americans have broken and destroyed the schools, so many of them fishing on the coast.

4. The Americans fish from three miles off shore close up to the land for mackerel, and come in among us inshore fishermen and take the fish away from us. They come in and throw their pogie bait overboard, and draw the fish away from us.

5. Last summer I have seen as many as ten at least at one time amongst us around where we fished, and they took large quantities of mackerel. These mackerel we consider taken away from us.

6. The Americans heave such large quantities of bait that they spoil our catch.

7. These American mackerel men take from five to six hundred barrels apiece, and in the fall season I have known them often to make two such trips. These American vessels have on board from twelve to fourteen men each.

8. The American codfishmen go into the bays and harbours and get bait and ice, and when a storm comes they run into our bays and harbours. Without bait and ice in which to keep it they could catch no fish.

9. The American codfishermen take from ten to fifteen hundred quintals of codfish each trip. In taking codfish the Americans trawl on the bottom and injure the fishing by taking the mother fish in which there are great numbers of spawn.

10. The Americans throw overboard the offal and sound bone which is of great hurt to the fishing ground,—this our inshore fishermen never make a practice of.

11. In Cow Bay, last season, the amount of codfish taken, to the best of my knowledge, would amount to a thousand quintals. I have known a great many more some seasons. Some seasons it is better, some worse. The amount of herring taken last spring in this Bay was about six hundred barrels. The amount of mackerel taken last summer was from three to four hundred barrels. These numbers vary, being some years much better.

12. Herring are taken all inshore, and also mackerel.

13. Off this bay I have known a boat's crew of three men to catch from fifty to sixty halibut in one day, about fifteen years ago. These halibut measured from three to seven feet each. At the present time this fishery has almost failed, and this I attribute solely to American trawlers, and I believe if the Americans were stopped from trawling we would have the halibut as plenty again.

14. If the Americans were shut off our coast from our fisheries, I believe they would in the course of time be as good as ever.

JOHN PEACH.

Sworn to at Cow Bay, in the County of Cape Breton, this 24th day of July, A.D. 1877, before me.

JOSEPH McPHERSON,

J. P. for and in the County of Cape Breton.

No. 118.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, James Fraser, of South Bar, in the County of Cape Breton, in the Province of Nova Scotia, master mariner, make oath and say as follows :

1. I have been master mariner for twenty-eight years and am well acquainted with the coast of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, eastern side of New Brunswick, Lower St. Lawrence, and Newfoundland, and am well acquainted with all the bays and harbors on those coasts, and was acquainted during that period with the fishing on those coasts, and saw large numbers of American fishing vessels engaged in fishing inshore and offshore, and laying at anchor in our bays and harbors. During the last twelve years I have been engaged in the inshore fisheries, and as a trader, and have frequently supplied American fishing vessels with ice and bait.

2. I have seen in one summer upwards of two thousand American fishing vessels on the coasts of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, the eastern coast of New Brunswick and the coast of Newfoundland, engaged in taking the various kinds of fish found in the waters around those coasts. This number varied being some years greater and some less. This I have seen year after year down till 1865, when I discontinued the coasting trade.

3. During the past twelve years I have supplied frequently American fishing vessels with ice and bait.

4. During the past six years I think on an average fifty sail, have been supplied with ice and bait in Sydney Harbor, and I do not think the trawl fishing could be carried on without ice and fresh bait profitably.

5. The inshore fishery is of more value in my opinion than the offshore fishery, and the Americans injure the inshore fishery by drawing off the fish offshore.

6. The Americans, as I am informed, use purse seines, and I have seen those seines on board their vessels.

7. During the past ten years I have seen one hundred and sixty American vessels fish in Sydney harbor for mackerel in one day, and large fleets of American fishing vessels visit our harbor daily for the purpose of catching mackerel during the mackerel season year after year.

8. The mackerel come inshore to feed and are taken by our fishermen close inshore, and also by the Americans.

9. Large numbers of our population go on board American fishing vessels and are engaged in carrying on the American fishing trade which ought to be encouraged at home.

Sworn to at South Bar, in the County of Cape Breton, this 21st day of July, A.D., 1877, before me,

PATRICK MULLINS,

Justice of Peace in and for the County of Cape Breton.

JAMES FRASER.

No. 119.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John Ferguson, of Cow Bay, in the County of Cape Breton, in the Province of Nova Scotia, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in fishing during the past thirty-five years, most of that time out of Cow Bay. For two summers I fished out of Chatham, in the State of Massachusetts, in American vessels engaged in mackerel fishing in American waters.

2. The mackerel taken in American waters were far inferior to those taken in our waters. In fact we would not have fished in American waters at all if the Americans had not been afraid of coming into British waters to fish. This was in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-three.

3. In this Bay I have fished for twenty summers and have taken mackerel, herring, codfish, halibut and halibut.

4. The mackerel are taken inshore, and the best grounds for fishing mackerel are inside the heads in this Bay. In my experience I never saw mackerel taken off shore out beyond three miles. The Americans come here summer after summer in large numbers, and last summer they came among us, commenced taking mackerel, throwing over bait, and drew the mackerel away from our boats.

5. I have seen in Cow Bay about twelve years ago, over one hundred American vessels taking mackerel. They fished in close to the shore and up to our wharves, and it would not be of any use for the Americans to come here to fish unless they were allowed to come in close to the shore.

6. In my experience mackerel have varied, being sometimes for a number of years good and for another number of years poor. This is more or less the case with all our fish.

7. I have fished around Scaterie Island, Main-a-Dieu and out of Mira Bay, about sixteen years ago, and I there at that time saw many American fishing vessels engaged in fishing codfish and halibut. I fished around the last mentioned places for about five years and none of the American vessels which I saw there went through the Strait of Canso, and I have seen from forty to fifty American vessels pass through the "Kittle" between Scaterie and Main-a-Dieu in one day.

8. On aboard these American vessels there are from about twelve to fourteen men, and I have been on board one on which there was eighteen hands.

9. The American mackerel men come around this coast and fish from about the first of August till late in the Fall, and take from about six hundred to a thousand barrels to each vessel. The American codfishermen average about one thousand quintals to each vessel and make about two trips each summer. They commence fishing at Scaterie and fish all around here all along the shore in and out up to Cape North, and last summer I have seen as many as from eight to ten American vessels fishing at one time in sight.

10. The American plan of trawling I consider hurtful to the fishing ground, and the Americans take away a great many fish from our fishermen.

11. The inshore fishery includes every kind of fish except the codfish, and many of these are taken inshore, and I consider the inshore fishery of far the greatest value.

Sworn to at Cow Bay, in the County of Cape Breton, this 25th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOSEPH McPHERSON.

J. P. for and in the County of Cape Breton.

JOHN FERGUSON.

No. 120.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John Murphy, of Lingan, in the County of Cape Breton, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged twenty years in the taking of fish, part of the time inshore and part of the time outshore, and have caught mackerel, herring, codfish and halibut.

2. The mackerel we always took inshore within three miles. During the past five or six years I have caught mackerel inshore around Lingan Harbour, and last year I have seen from ten to fifteen sail of American vessels engaged in taking mackerel. These I have seen at one time together, and many around which I did not see. These American vessels were inshore within two miles of the shore in Lingan Harbour. So many mackerelmen diminish the catch of fish for our fishermen, and are injurious to the mackerel for they keep them flying about on the top of the water and thus have no time to spawn. During the past five or six years I have seen as many American mackerelmen fishing here.

3. These American mackerelmen take from five to six hundred barrels apiece, and in the fall season from September along till and in October I have known many of them to make two such cargoes.

4. The American mackerelmen who fish around here come around the southern and eastern coasts of Cape Breton, and all the codfish and halibut fishermen come around the same way.

5. On board the American mackerelmen there are about from twelve to fourteen men on each vessel, and on board the codfish and halibut vessels there are the same number.

6. The American codfishermen come into our Bays and harbours and get bait and ice without which they could not fish. Then go out and trawl to the bottom. This deep trawling is very bad, as they catch the mother fish which are full of spawn. In deep trawling only the large fish bite.

7. Herring are taken all inshore, also mackerel, and great quantities of codfish and halibut.

8. The Americans heave their "gurry" overboard. This I have frequently seen them do, and I consider this bad for the fishing grounds.

9. Around the southern and eastern coasts of Cape Breton there are as many American vessels engaged in taking codfish and halibut, as in the taking of mackerel, and they take from eight to ten hundred quintals of codfish each.

10. The halibut they ice in ice which they can get in Sydney and Louisburg, and ice which they to some extent bring with them.

11. Squid and caplin have set in very plentifully this year, and the fish always follow them; and mackerel are expected to be very plenty this Fall.

12. I was at St. Ann's, in the County of Victoria, a week ago, and saw many mackerel schools and herring schools, and the people all said it was a very plentiful year for mackerel.

His
JOHN X MURPHY.
mark.

Sworn to at Lingan, in the County of Cape Breton, this 24th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me,
WALTER YOUNG, J. P.

No. 121.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, Angus Matheson, of South Sydney, in the County of Cape Breton, Province of Nova Scotia, fishermen, make oath and say as follows :

1. About twelve years ago I fished for two seasons in company, and in American fishing vessels. These vessels came from Gloucester, and were engaged in mackerel fishing. I fished around the Eastern coast of Cape Breton, and Eastern part of Prince Edward Island, and the Magdalen Islands. Since then I have been engaged more or less in the inshore fisheries this summer, from the twenty-sixth of April till the middle of July. I hove off Low Point Light House, in the County of Cape Breton, in boats, fished codfish, haddock, halibut and herring.

2. During the past twelve years I have seen many American fishing vessels fishing mackerel near shore. They fished in shore sometimes close to the shore because the mackerel come inshore, and I have fished hundreds of barrels of mackerel, and have never yet taken them more than three quarters of a mile from the shore, and I have caught them in Sydney Harbour, until the bottom of the boat touched the ground. The Americans always come inshore for the mackerel and when they did not fish them inshore they baited them off to beyond the three miles, and most any kind of fish can be baited off in this way.

3. I have seen within the past twelve years over two hundred fishing near Low Point. Each season from Scaterie all round the shore up to Cape North, there are hundreds of these American fishing vessels, and they fish here from year to year, and at the present time.

4. I have never known codfish and halibut vessels to go through the Gut of Canso, and I have known of many American mackerel fishing vessels go around the Southern and Eastern coasts of Cape Breton, and fish along those coasts.

5. These Americans catch immense quantities of mackerel, from one hundred to a thousand barrels; and I can safely say, average from five hundred to six hundred barrels each vessel, on each trip. These vessels take from two to three cargoes each year.

6. The mackerel during the past six years have been an average catch, and this year, and during the present summer bait has struck in more plentiful than I have ever known, and fish always follow the bait. The mackerel are at present striking inshore plentifully, and I believe will be as good as ever they have been.

7. The Americans, to my knowledge, trawl much deeper than our fishermen. They catch the mother fish by thus trawling so deep, and destroy great quantities of spawn. They throw overboard the offal from the fish, which is very injurious to the fishing ground, especially the heads and maw-bones. I have myself this summer caught codfish with the heads of fish in their maws—these heads must have been thrown from vessels offshore, because we take our fish inshore to dress, and the farmers come and take all the offal away to their farms, which they say is the very best manure they can find. These heads and sound-bones which are thrown over kill the fish.

8. During the twelve years of my experience the Americans always fished within shore, and wherever they could get fish, and the inshore fishery is of much the greatest value. The Americans diminish the quantities of fish, especially when they employ improper means for taking them. By improper means I refer to deep trawling. The quantities of offal thrown overboard sickens and destroys the fish, and thus injures the inshore catch. During this summer, I, for a short time, and for the first time, tried two jigs, I only caught two codfish with them, and am sure that I destroyed more than one hundred, and whoever employs this method of taking fish must destroy vast numbers.

9. The herring is taken inshore by Nova Scotian fishermen, and the Americans buy them fresh for bait when they can get them. They also buy ice all around the coast wherever they can get it, in which to pack their bait. This privilege is of great importance to them, for without bait and ice in which to keep it, they could catch no fish.

10. It is my opinion that unless Americans are excluded that the fishing will be much lessened. These fisheries I consider to be of untold wealth, both to the Americans and to our own people, and would be of very much more value to our Nova Scotian people if the Americans were excluded.

Sworn to at South Sydney, in the County of Cape Breton, this 23rd day of July, A.D., 1877, before me.

ANGUS MATHESON.

A. HARRY BOURINOT, J. P.,
In and for the County of Cape Breton.

No. 122.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, William H. Sweet, of Fall River, in the State of Massachusetts, United States of America but, now of Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in the fishing vessels fitted out by the Americans for the past five years and have been engaged during that time in fishing in all parts of the Gulf on the coast of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and P. E. Island and on the shores of the Magdalen Island.

2. A large number of American vessels have been engaged in fishing in these waters for some years past, taking chiefly mackerel and codfish. The average cargo of an American vessel is about 450 barrels of mackerel during one trip, though I have known some vessels to take a much larger number. The average cargo of codfish is from 600 to 1000 quintals per trip. On an average these vessels make two or three trips per season.

3. The American fishermen are in the habit of throwing offal overboard while they are fishing on the coast and this practice has been injurious to the fishing grounds and glutted the fish in the neighborhood, and it is found necessary to move away after a while from the places where the offal has been thrown.

4. American fishing vessels are sometimes accustomed to use the purse seines in fishing for mackerel, and the effect of this I consider very injurious to the fishing grounds. I have known our fishermen to take as many as a thousand barrels of mackerel in one haul, and they cannot cure all these, and consequently have to let a good portion of them go adrift and many of the fish are killed. This practice must do serious damage.

5. Mackerel chiefly feed and breed inshore. They have to go inshore for food because the smaller fish on which they feed live wholly or chiefly in shoal water.

6. Very large quantities of mackerel are taken by our fishermen inshore on Canadian fishing grounds, but I cannot say what proportion of the whole catch. In September and October a large part of the mackerel fishing is done inshore.

7. The present system of trawling practiced by the American fishermen in codfishing is most dangerous to Canadian fishing grounds. It destroys the mother-fish and being followed up the whole season it takes fish during the spawning season. Being anxious to get cargoes of large fish the Americans throw the small fish overboard. I believe if this trawling system is pursued much longer, it will very greatly damage the Canadian fishing grounds, if not ruin them.

8. It is a very great advantage to American fishermen to be able to procure bait and ice in Canadian ports along the coast, and to catch it near the shore. It is considered by the Americans more advantageous to buy the bait for the codfishery than to catch it themselves. If the American fishing vessels could not procure bait on the Canadian shores, they would almost have to abandon the codfishery. Bait will only last about three weeks in ice, and if the Americans could not get the ice here we could only preserve our bait by salting it, which injures it. It would be impossible for us to carry on the codfishery profitably if we had to return to American waters and ports to procure all our bait.

Sworn to at Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, this 20th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

D. CAMPBELL, J. P.

WM. H. SWEET.

No. 123.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, James Archibald of Boston, in the State of Massachusetts, United States of America, at present of Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fishing business for 20 years past, and during seven years past I have been fishing in American vessels, in American and Canadian waters. I have been engaged in various kinds of fishing on the coasts of Nova Scotia, and Cape Breton, in the Gulf, and about the Magdalen Islands, and P. E. Island. I came into this port in an American fishing vessel and have been engaged in fishing here during the present season.

2. Since I have been fishing in these parts I have known of a large number of American fishing vessels frequenting these coasts, chiefly engaged in taking codfish and mackerel. Each vessel carries about 450 barrels of mackerel at a cargo, and makes two or three trips during the season. The average cargo of codfish is from 600 to 1000 quintals each vessel. The vessels average about 60 or 70 tons, and I have known some vessels to take larger cargoes.

3. I know that our fishermen are in the habit of throwing offal overboard after catching the fish, and I think this must be injurious to the fishing ground, and the vessels have to move away from the places where they throw over the offal every little while.

4. I have known American fishing vessels to use the purse seines in fishing mackerel quite often, and I know it must do great injury to the fishing grounds. They make such large hauls in these seines that they cannot cure all the fish unless they have other vessels near, and so they have to send many fish adrift and some are killed in the operation. This practice will do great harm to the grounds.

5. Very large quantities of mackerel are taken by our fishermen now inshore, but I would not like to say what proportion of the whole mackerel catch. Late in the autumn a great deal of the fishing is done inshore. According to the best of my knowledge and experience mackerel breed and feed for the most part inshore. They feed on smaller fish which are found almost entirely in shoal water.

6. The system of trawling for codfish is practiced now quite largely by American fishermen in these parts, and I believe it will be very injurious to the fishing grounds. It destroys the mother fish, and as the fish are taken all through the season they must be caught while spawning. American fishermen for the sake of getting large cod throw the small fish overboard which tends to damage the grounds very seriously.

7. It is considered by American fishermen a very great advantage to be able to procure bait and ice in the Canadian ports adjacent to the grounds either by buying it or catching it near the shore. It is more profitable to our fishermen to buy it than to catch it as a rule. If the Americans could not procure bait on the Canadian shores I do not see how they could carry on the codfishery. Bait only lasts about three weeks in ice, and if we could not get ice here we could only preserve our bait by salting which is always considered an injury to bait. We could not carry on codfishing with any profit on these shores if we had to return to American waters and ports to get bait all the season.

JAMES ^{his} X ARCHIBALD.
mark.

Sworn to at Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, this 20th day of July, A. D., 1877 (being first read and explained.)

D. CAMPBELL, J.P.

No. 124.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Richard Thomas, of Booths Bay, in the State of Maine, United States of America, at present of Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged on board of American fishing vessels for the past twenty-four years, and have been engaged in fishing on all parts of the coasts of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, P. E. Island and the Magdalen Islands, and am familiar with the whole fishing business in these parts. I entered this port only a few days ago in an American fishing vessel, and have been fishing in these waters during the present season.

2. I have read over the affidavit of James Archibald, of Boston, made herein on this date, the 20th of July, A. D. 1877, and I say that the statements contained in said affidavit in reference to the fishing business on this coast, are, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, correct and true in every particular.

RICHARD THOMAS.

Sworn at Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, this 20th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

D. CAMPBELL, J.P.

No. 125.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, John R. Hamilton, of New Carlisle, County of Bonaventure, Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:

1. Have been engaged in the fisheries for the last seventeen years. Having had establishments on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, at Seven Islands, on the Bull Island, River Moisie, St. John's River, and Long Point near Mingan.

2. I consider that the fishery by the Americans in Canadian waters has been very extensive between 1854 and 1866; I have seen as many as 100 schooners in Paspebiac Harbor, and as many at Seven Islands. At least 200 schooners have visited our shores for mackerel during part of the Reciprocity Treaty that I have mentioned yearly. The average tonnage of these vessels is 80 tons, each vessel having from 12 to 15 men for a crew.

3. The principal places where I have seen them fish for mackerel were Bay Chaleurs and Seven Islands on the north shore.

4. During the Reciprocity Treaty the American schooners generally made good voyages and sometimes two, averaging 400 barrels each voyage.

5. I have seen American schooners frequently fishing for cod and halibut, at Seven Islands inshore.

6. The codfishery fluctuates, but the fishery now is equal to, if not superior to that of fifteen years ago. The herring about the same. Mackerel are not as plenty here as they were twenty years ago, but it might be accidental.

7. The Americans take mackerel with hand lines, purse and hauling seines.

8. The Americans mostly fish inshore at Seven Islands, and half of the time at Bay Chaleurs.

9. I have seen American vessels leave Seven Islands loaded with mackerel caught inshore. I have also seen them hauling the seines ashore, I should say with over a hundred barrels of mackerel.

10. The inshore fishery is of greater value than the outside. All the herring, caplin, launce, two-thirds of the codfish, and most of the halibut are taken inshore.

11. I have seen the Americans throw bait and entice the mackerel to their vessels, and the boats belonging to our coast could not take many.

12. A good part of the mackerel are taken by the Americans with seines. Most of those that I have seen seining were fishing inshore.

13. The bait the Americans take on these shores for the cod and halibut fisheries is taken inshore. I have seen them several times taking bait with nets and seines.

14. I think the codfishing has not changed since 1871.

15. The Americans take all the herring inshore; they take them for bait.

16. Mackerel feed along the shores of the Bay Chaleur, Seven Islands, Moisie and Mingan, and in fact all the places that I have visited. In the Gulf of St. Lawrence and on the North Shore and Bay Chaleur, they feed inshore on small fish, etc.

17. I consider it a great advantage to the Americans to be able to land, dry their nets and cure their fish.

18. I consider it a great advantage to Americans to be able to trans-ship their cargoes because it enables them to continue fishing, instead of going to the United States or elsewhere with their cargoes.

19. It is an advantage to the American fishermen to be able to procure bait in our waters, either to buy or catch it. If they buy it, it is because they find it more profitable than to catch it themselves in order to save time.

20. It would be impossible for the Americans to carry on the cod and halibut fishery without being able to procure bait in our inshore, that is to say profitably.

21. It is of no advantage to us to be able to fish in American waters.

22. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes is worth a load; and the privilege of getting bait in our inshores for cod and halibut is equal to their fishery.

23. I believe that the privilege of fishing by the Americans in our waters injures the fishery very materially.

JOHN R. HAMILTON.

Sworn, to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief, at New Carlisle, County of Bonaventure, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 24th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me:

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec,

No. 126.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington :

I, Baptiste Couture, of Grand River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, fisherman, make oath and says as follows :

1. I have been engaged in all the fisheries on this coast for forty years.
2. The fishing by the American fishermen was very extensive on this shore between Newport and Cape Despair, a distance of 27 miles, from 1854 to 1866. On this shore during the Reciprocity Treaty, from 1854 to 1866, fully sixty schooners have been engaged in the mackerel fishery yearly, each of these vessels being about 70 tons, having a crew of fifteen men.
3. On an average these schooners have made good voyages of four hundred barrels each.
4. The cod-fishery seems to be on the increase, and considerably. Herring are about the same, and mackerel seem to be in as great abundance on our shores here as in former years. Our Canadian fishermen take them as plentifully now as in the best years.
5. The Americans take mackerel with hand lines and seines.
6. During the Reciprocity Treaty, between 1854 and 1866, the American fishermen that have resorted to these shores for mackerel have caught the most of them inshore, and sometimes very close to the shore. I have seen them fish with hand lines only, and they have got their load in a few days. Every year I have been alongside of them and have seen them fishing.
7. Our inshore fisheries are of much greater value than the outside. Herring, caplin, lance are caught inshore, and two-thirds of the mackerel also.
8. It is the common practice of the Americans to come in among the boats, and, by throwing bait, entice the mackerel away with them. They have done the same to me many times. And if a school of mackerel were to come into any of our coves and the Americans to come in after them, they would catch them all before we could get one.
9. I have seen the Americans several times come into our inshores and catch caplin with seines, and herring with nets, for bait.
10. Since 1871 all the fisheries—that is to say, mackerel, herring and codfish—have increased, and there is as much bait as ever; and I am sure this increase is due to the withdrawing of American fishermen from our waters.
11. Mackerel feed inshore. Their food is lance and other small fish which live inshore.
12. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be allowed to trans-ship their cargoes in our inshores; it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds and to double their fares.
13. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to catch bait in our inshores, or to buy it. If they buy it, it is because they find it more profitable.
14. The Americans could not carry on the cod and halibut fishery profitably if they could not procure bait in our inshores.
15. It is of no advantage to Canadians to be able to fish in American waters, and I never knew of any vessel from here going there to do so.
16. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes enjoyed by the Americans is worth a load, and the privilege of getting bait in our inshores for cod and halibut is worth these fisheries.
17. The privilege enjoyed by the Americans to fish in our waters, injures our Canadian fishermen a great deal. Their vessels and gear are so much better, we cannot compete with them at all, and our fishing grounds cannot stand the heavy drafts. Our past experience is there to prove the fact.

BAPTISTE COUTURE.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Grand River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 25th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of Peace, Province of Quebec

No. 127.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington :

I, Edward G. Hall, of New Carlisle, County of Bonaventure, Province of Quebec, farmer and fisherman, make oath and say as follows :

1. Have been engaged in the fisheries off and on for about 30 years. Have fished with the Americans.
2. Between 1854 and 1866 the mackerel fishing by the Americans was very extensive. The average number of vessels visiting these shores have been about 150 yearly. The average tonnage of these vessels being about 70 tons, having from 12 to 15 men for a crew. I have seen vessels fishing in Bay Chaleur for mackerel, and I have fished myself with them, and inshore for a season between 1854 and 1866.

3. The American vessels that have visited our shores have always done well during the period mentioned. Each voyage amounting yearly to 350 barrels each. And the captain of the American vessel in which I was engaged, told me that several of these schooners make two or three trips yearly.
4. In the Bay Chaleur the codfishery is better now than formerly. Herring about the same. Mackerel as plenty as ever on the south shore of the Bay Chaleur. I have seen large schools not later than last Saturday off my place, and very close to the shore.
5. The Americans catch mackerel with hand lines and seines. I have seen the seines in their boats, and I saw about 40 barrels of mackerel that they had taken with the seines in one hour.
6. In Bay Chaleur American fishermen fish inshore with hand lines two thirds of the time, and all the hauling of the seines are inshore.
7. The inshore fishery on this shore is of greater value than the outside.
8. All the herring, caplin and lance are taken inshore, and all the codfish also. Two thirds of the mackerel are also taken inshore.
9. The use of the seines by the Americans is injurious to the fishery, because it takes every kind of fish, a part of which is lost, because they don't want it, and they throw them away.
10. The Americans take bait in our inshores.
11. Since 1871 the fishery has not changed in the Bay Chaleur, except for Mackerel, but there is a great increase this year.
12. The Americans catch herring in our inshores for bait only.
13. I have seen in the Bay Chaleur mackerel not longer than 3 or 4 inches, and I take it from that, that they breed here.
14. Mackerel feed on lance and shrimps.
15. I consider it a great advantage to Americans to be able to land, dry their nets and cure their fish.
16. It is a great advantage to Americans to be able to trans-ship cargoes, because it enables them to keep the fishing grounds, and to make extra trips.
17. I consider it a great advantage to the Americans to be able to procure bait in our inshores.
18. I consider that the Americans could not carry on the cod and halibut fishery profitably without being able to procure bait in our inshores.
19. I consider it a great advantage to Americans to be able to procure ice in our inshores to preserve their bait.
20. It is of no advantage to Canadian fishermen to be able to fish in American waters, and I don't know of any vessel from here ever going there to fish.
21. The privilege granted to Americans to tranship cargoes is worth a load, and the privilege of procuring bait in our inshores for fishing cod and halibut is equal to these fisheries.
22. I consider that fishing by Americans in our waters injures us greatly, because they take our fish and impoverish our coast.

EDWARD G. HALL.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief at New Carlisle, County of Bonaventure, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 24th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 128.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, William Edward Gardner, of Louisburg, in the County of Cape Breton, and Province of Nova Scotia, merchant, make oath and say as follows:—

1. For the twelve years last past, I have been engaged in the buying and selling of fish, and for two years previous engaged in fishing in the inshore boat fishing, and am well acquainted with the inshore fishing in and around Louisburg harbor and with many Canadian and American fishermen.

2. I have seen in this harbor within the last six years from twelve to sixteen American fishing vessels at one time, and think that about seventy-five have come in here yearly during the past six years. The American vessels which come here do not pass through the Strait of Canso. These American vessels are mostly engaged in trawl fishing, and fish wherever they can get fish.

3. On board these American vessels there are from ten to fifteen men. They take on an average from ten to twelve hundred quintals of codfish to each vessel, and make yearly from two to three trips. These codfish are of the best kind, for many of them throw overboard the small fish. American skippers have themselves informed me of this. Thus large quantities of small fish are wasted, for the fish are dead when taken off the trawl or at least before culled.

4. Around and in Louisburg harbour during the past six years there has on an average been from eight hundred to a thousand barrels of mackerel taken each year. In Louisburg harbor there are about

one hundred boats engaged in the inshore fishery, and these boats take from one hundred to one hundred and fifty quintals of codfish each, yearly. During the past six years there has been taken yearly on an average about three thousand barrels of herring. About ten years ago larger quantities of mackerel were taken.

6. The Americans take fish by trawling and trawl so deep that they take the large fish which are the mother-fish, and thus large quantities of spawn are destroyed. The Americans take mackerel with hook and line. They jig them, and they have told us last summer that they had purse seines on board.

7. The inshore fisheries are of very great value to our people, and it is of great importance that they should be protected and fostered, and all the inhabitants here depend upon the fishing.

8. American fishing vessels purchase bait here in large quantities, mostly herring and mackerel, because it saves time, and without bait the Americans can catch no fish. From twenty to thirty American vessels purchase bait in this harbour yearly. These American vessels all purchase ice in which to pack their bait, from three to ten tons each, and when ice and bait run out they return for more. This ice is indispensable for their bait, for they tell me they cannot profitably catch fish without fresh bait.

9. I am not aware of any Canadian vessel fishing in American waters, nor have I ever heard of any. The privilege of fishing in American waters I consider of no value, while the Americans take vast quantities of fish out of our waters.

10. The amount of ice and bait taken by American fishing vessels is worth in cash from seventy-five to one hundred and twenty-dollars. Their supplies are brought from home with them, and they only purchase from us when they run short, and the amount purchased except ice and bait is very small.

11. In my opinion if American fishermen were excluded from Canadian waters and our markets left to ourselves, it would be much better for our fishermen.

Sworn to at Louisburg, this 27th day of July, A. D. 1877, in the County of Cape Breton, before me.

PATRICK O'TOOLE.

J. E. GARDNER,

J. P. for the County of Cape Breton.

No. 129.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Philip Lemontais, of Arichat, in the County of Richmond and Province of Nova Scotia, agent for the firm of Robin & Company, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have had a good knowledge of our fisheries on the coasts of Canada during the past twenty five years, for twenty years of which I have been agent of the firm of Robin & Company, who do an extensive fishing business in various parts of the world, the principal house being situated in Jersey, one of the Channel Islands, with branches at various points, and among others at Arichat, Cheticamp, Passebiac, Perce, Caraquet, Grand River, and other places in Canada.

2. I am quite confident that the number of American fishing vessels in the Gulf of St. Lawrence ranges from six hundred to eight hundred vessels yearly. I am perfectly confident that is below the mark, and I have good means of knowing it, as I have been agent of Robin & Company at Cheticamp, on the northwestern shore of Cape Breton, for the greater part of twenty years. The harbor of Cheticamp is much frequented by American fishing vessels, and I have seen at one time along the shore between six hundred and eight hundred fishing vessels, most of which were American. These vessels were fishing for mackerel along the shore of Cape Breton.

3. I consider that five hundred barrels of mackerel per vessel each season is about the average catch of the American mackerelers in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. These mackerel are worth on an average, ten dollars per barrel.

4. The mackerel fishery is variable, being occasionally poor for a year or two, and afterwards becoming excellent again. The mackerel fishery was very good from 1871 to 1874, but poor in 1875 and 1876. I have known these fish to be scarce for a year or two, as they were in 1875 and 1876, and afterwards come in plenty again; and I believe, and my experience teaches me that the mackerel will be again abundant on our coasts.

5. The Americans catch the mackerel with hook and line, and within the last two or three years they are using purse seines, which, in my opinion, are very injurious to the mackerel fishery. The codfish are caught by the Americans with trawls, which are also very destructive to the fishery.

6. Since the year 1871 the Americans have fished almost altogether within three miles of the shore for mackerel. I believe that the outside fisheries are not to be compared in value to the inshore fisheries on our coasts. The Americans must catch at least one-half the mackerel they get within three miles of the shore.

7. There is no doubt whatever that our inshore boat fishery is greatly injured by the Americans fishing in our waters, as the latter come in and throw bait and draw away the mackerel from the boat fishermen.

8. Since 1871 the Americans have been injuring our fisheries very much more than formerly, as they have been allowed to come inshore among our own fishermen.

9. The herring fishery on our coasts is altogether an inshore fishery.

10. The food of mackerel is found chiefly inshore, and it is probably close to the shore where they spawn and breed.

11. It is a very great advantage to American fishermen to be allowed to trans-ship their cargoes on our shores. This privilege saves them about two or three weeks on each trip they make to the Gulf of St. Lawrence for mackerel, and this in the best part of the fishing season.

12. The privilege of procuring bait in Canadian waters is, of course, a very great advantage to American cod-fishermen. The greater part of their bait is purchased from our fishermen, and it is cheaper for them to obtain it in that way than to spend the time in catching it themselves. I don't believe that the Americans can profitably carry on the cod-fishery of the deep sea without resorting to the shores of Canada or Newfoundland for bait. It is also a great advantage to the American codfishermen to be allowed to procure ice on our shores to keep their bait fresh while on their way to the fishing grounds.

13. The privilege of fishing in American waters is, in my opinion, utterly valueless to Canadians; and I have never, in my experience of a quarter of a century, heard of any Canadian vessel fishing in the waters of the United States.

14. I consider that the privilege of trans-shipping cargoes is worth to American fishermen about fifty per cent. of their catch. The privilege of baiting is also worth a large proportion, probably more than fifty per cent. of the whole catch to the American cod-fishermen.

PHILIP LeMONTAIS.

The said Philip Lemontais was sworn to the truth of this affidavit at Arichat, in the County of Richmond, on the 3d day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

E. P. FLYNN,
A Justice of the Peace.

No. 130.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, Christopher Smyth, of Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, merchant, make oath, and say as follows:

1. I have been for the past twenty years engaged in the supplying business, as a clerk in a supplying establishment, and latterly as a merchant, and have had pretty good opportunities of becoming familiar with the general trade of this coast. I have dealt in all kinds of pickled and dry fish to the extent of five thousand dollars annually.

2. During the Reciprocity Treaty I have known over four hundred American vessels fishing in the waters of this coast annually, and no doubt many more fished on other parts of the British American coast that I did not know of. The vessels engaged in the fishing business are of about 60 tons, and the crew numbers about fifteen men. The chief fish taken by the American fishermen are mackerel and cod-fish.

3. The American vessels usually make about two or three trips during the season, and the cargo of each of these would average something less than three hundred barrels per trip, so far as I am aware. The price of mackerel during and after the Reciprocity Treaty was about \$15.00 per barrel American currency.

4. I have seen American fishermen fishing within three miles of the shore during the Reciprocity Treaty, and during the Washington Treaty, but I would not like to state what proportion was caught during the Treaty inshore, as I have no accurate means of knowing.

5. American fishing vessels usually begin to arrive here about May, and procure bait for the cod-fishing. In July they come here to begin the mackerel fisheries, and continue until November each year.

6. Port Hood, during the Reciprocity Treaty, was a favorite or general place of resort for American fishing vessels. They came here for bait, supplies, outfits, and men. I have seen two hundred sail in this port at one time.

7. The catch of mackerel has fallen off somewhat during the past two or three years in this part of the coast, but this has not been owing to any diminution in the number of mackerel actually frequenting our shores; I don't believe there has been any falling off in the quantity of mackerel on our shores; and I believe, according to the best of my judgment, that there will be as productive yield of mackerel during the coming eight years as for eight years past.

8. It is a great advantage to American fishermen coming to Canadian waters to be allowed to land and dry their nets, and cure their fish; and if they had not this privilege, it would largely diminish the profits of their business.

9. I consider the opportunity given to the American fishermen of trans-shipping cargoes by the Treaty of Washington a great advantage to them. This is not done to any extent at Port Hood, but I am informed that it is done at the Strait of Canso, and I believe that this privilege may become before long a source of great profit to American fishermen, as the fish can be preserved in ice, and forwarded direct to American markets fresh.

10. The American fishermen procure bait for their fisheries in Canadian ports. Latterly, they

purchase this, rather than catch it, but the only reason they have for doing this is because it is more convenient and profitable for them to do so. There is nothing to hinder them from taking herring and squid from our inshores if they prefer to do so.

11. In my opinion the Americans could not carry on the cod and other deep sea fisheries profitably around our coasts if they had not the privilege of procuring bait at our ports. It would put them to great inconvenience, and lessen the number of their trips each year.

12. I would not undertake to estimate the cash value to each American fishing vessel to enjoy the privilege of our inshore fisheries, and of procuring bait and supplies and trans-shipping cargoes, but it is very great. And if all these privileges were taken away, I cannot see how American fishermen could continue to prosecute the fisheries around this coast.

13. The privilege of fishing in American waters is of no value whatever to Canadian fishermen. I never heard of any Canadian availing himself of this privilege, nor is there any prospect of such a thing.

CHRISTOPHER SMYTH.

Sworn to at Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, this 20th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,
D. CAMPBELL, J. P.

No. 131.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John Ingham Brand, of Pubnico, in the County of Yarmouth, Esquire, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries twenty-two years; several years on board of American vessels in Canadian waters.

2. About six hundred American vessels, from all ports, are engaged in fishing in Canadian waters, the average number of men is about fourteen; this is within my knowledge the past fifteen years. They fish for mackerel, codfish, and halibut, from Bay de Chaleur, to Cape Forchu.

3. As I never was master of a fishing vessel, I cannot give the average quantity taken by American vessels in Canadian waters.

4. The mackerel on our Nova Scotia shores are improving; herring not so good as in the past. The cod fishing is improved on account of the facilities for bait and ice to keep it fresh.

5. Codfishing and halibut are chiefly taken by the American fishermen with trawls. Mackerel by hook and line.

6. The practice of throwing fish offals by American fishermen is general, and the practice is very injurious to our fishery grounds, by bringing in a large quantity of useless fish, such as sharks, dog fish, &c., and destroys the bait or young fish on which the codfish feed.

7. American vessels have fished close to the shore, before and during the Treaty of Washington for mackerel, halibut and codfish.

8. The inshore fisheries are much more valuable than the outside, on account of the privilege of bait.

9. Cannot give any estimate of inshore and outside catch.

10. Know that American fishermen throw large quantities of clams and pogies, ground, to entice the mackerel about their vessels; have assisted myself in doing it. Cannot say how much injury this may do the fishery.

11. Do not know of the American fishermen using seines in Canadian waters.

12. Not in my knowledge that the American fishermen use purse seines in Canadian waters.

13. American fishermen catch bait in nets within three miles of our shores and bays.

14. Halibut and codfish are caught by American fishermen in the inshore waters of Canada. Halibut, codfish, haddock, hake, and pollock, are caught inshore by Canadian fishermen.

15. There is a large increase in the quantity of fish taken since 1871, owing to the protection to the River fishery, which causes large quantities of small fish for bait, which brings them to the inshores.

16. Americans having free access to our fisheries, will cause the fish taken by our fishermen, to bring a much less price than if they, the Americans, were not allowed the privilege of our shores.

17. The herring fishery in Canadian waters is greater inshore than outside. American fishermen catch herring for bait only, they purchase them for sale, most at Newfoundland, a few in Nova Scotia.

18. The Bay de Chaleur mackerel are better than those caught in American waters, and will always command a higher price in the American markets.

19. The food of mackerel is mostly inshore, and is a small species of shrimp called brit, and their principal feeding and breeding places are inshore.

20. It is a great advantage for Americans to land their mackerel, which enables them to make two fares—do not know of any use made of our shores to land and dry nets.

21. It is a great advantage to the Americans to have the privilege of trans-shipping cargoes of fish in Canadian waters, and enables them to make more trips, and catch more fish during the fishing season.

22. It is certainly a great advantage to American fishermen to be able to procure bait in the Canadian inshores, they prefer to buy it when they can, and only fish for it when they cannot buy it.

23. The American fishermen could not carry on their fishery with any profit without having the privilege of Canadian inshores to procure bait.

24. It is a great advantage to the Americans to resort to Canadian inshores for ice to preserve bait and other supplies for their vessels.

25. The privilege of fishing in American waters is of no practical value or advantage to Canadian fishermen.

26. American fishermen could not prosecute their fishery to any advantage without the privilege of procuring bait in Canadian inshore waters, the value for this privilege would be at least one thousand dollars for each vessel yearly.

27. Do not know that fishing by American vessels hinders the fishing operations of Canadian fishermen.

28. The United States fishermen employ a large number of our men for their crews—the supplies for these men's families are brought by the American vessels, and landed at their homes on our shores, on which there is no duty paid.

JOHN INGHAM BRAND.

The foregoing statement is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Sworn before me at Pubnico, the Second day of August, A. D., 1877,

ENOS GARDNER, J. P.,

For County of Yarmouth.

No. 132.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Edward Hurtle, of Lunenburg Town, in the County of Lunenburg, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for thirty-five years, every year up to the present. I have fished all along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, around Cape Breton, on the eastern side of New Brunswick, around Prince Edward's Island, around the Magdalenes and on the Labrador coast. I have been personally engaged in the bank fishery. I am also well acquainted with the inshore fishery in Lunenburg County. I have taken all the kinds of fish found on the above-mentioned coasts.

2. When in the North Bay I have seen many American vessels there engaged in taking mackerel. There were there from four to five hundred at least every year. These American vessels carried from twelve to eighteen men. They took, on an average, during each trip, three hundred barrels of mackerel at least. They made from two to three trips. The most of the mackerel were taken inshore, and, in my opinion, it would not pay to go for mackerel unless they can be taken within three miles of the shore.

3. When in the North Bay, I have seen often from fifteen to twenty American vessels at one time engaged in taking codfish. These vessels carry from ten to thirteen men, and take, on an average, one thousand quintals in a season. The American vessels in the Bay take most of their fish with trawls, and I have seen them taking fish around Scaterie by trawling within two miles of the shore.

4. I have seen the Americans, year after year, on the Labrador coast, engaged in taking herring. I have there seen at one time from six to eight American vessels. These vessels take about twenty-four men each, and average at least twenty men. They take both herring and codfish by seining on the shore. These vessels average about two thousand quintals to a vessel.

5. In my experience the mackerel always varied, being some years good and others poor. I have heard that they are very plentiful in the Bay this year. The herring fishery has always been good. Three years ago I was half owner of a schooner which fished out of this port. Three years ago she took twenty-one hundred quintals, the year before last twenty-two hundred and fifty, last year a thousand. This vessel was out each year about five months and a half, and carried twelve hands each year.

6. About nine years ago the Americans took mackerel mostly with hook and line. They also took some with purse seines. The Americans, ever since I have known them, took codfish with trawls, except on the Labrador coast, and I have known the way in which they carried on the cod-fishery for thirty-five years. I have often on the Banks, in a clear day, counted from twenty-five to thirty vessels, most of whom were Americans, engaged trawling. These vessels carried from six to seven thousand hooks each, and threw the "gurry" of their fish overboard, which is very injurious to the grounds. They also, by trawling, take the mother fish, which is not done to any great extent in hand-lining. It is only within four years that our vessels commenced trawling. They have done so in order to compete with the Americans, and know it is injurious to the fishery. There are at least from thirty to forty vessels engaged in trawling out of Lunenburg County. The Americans take herring inshore with seines.

7. In my experience the Americans took fish wherever they could catch them, whatever the terms of the Treaty were. They made off from the shore when a cutter was in sight and returned when she disappeared. I was in the North Bay when the fisheries were protected by a Captain Campbell, in the "Devastation," and we then took better fares.

8. In my opinion, the inshore catch of fish is of much greater value than that of those taken outside.

9. I have seen the Americans when they had not the right of fishing inshore throw bait overboard to entice away the fish; when they got the fish outside they commenced taking them.

10. I have seen the Americans catch squid at Canso, Crow Harbor, Cheticamp, and other places within three miles of the shore, for codfish bait. They take this bait in the bays and harbors all along the Canadian coast. The Americans buy herring and mackerel for bait from the Magdalenes to Cape Sable in the bays and harbors of Canada. They buy this bait because it saves time, trouble and expense. This privilege of getting bait interferes with Canadian bankers.

11. There are large quantities of codfish, halibut, haddock, hake and pollock taken within three miles of the shore by Canadian fishermen, and thousands of our people depend upon these fish for a livelihood in Canada.

12. The herring fishery in Canadian waters is all inshore. The Americans purchase them early in the season for bait, as already stated.

13. When in the American markets, about twenty years ago, I found that Canadian Fall mackerel were much superior to American.

14. The privilege of trans-shipping cargo is of great advantage to Americans, as by this plan they save time and catch more fish. It is worth at least two thousand dollars to each vessel which does so.

15. The Americans get bait in Canadian waters inshore, and without this bait and ice, which they also get from Canadians, they could not carry on the deep-sea fishery around our coast. The bait must be fresh, and ice is necessary to keep it thus.

16. I have never known nor heard of any Canadian vessels fishing in American waters, and I consider this right of no value.

17. I consider that it would be a great benefit to Canadian fishermen if the Americans were excluded from our inshore waters, and I know of no benefit whatever that we derive from American fishermen.

EDWARD HIRTLE.

Sworn to at Lunenburg, in the County of Lunenburg, this 10th day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

J. W. LOCKHART,
Justice of the Peace.

No. 133.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Rufus Riser, of Rose Bay, in the County of Lunenburg, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have fished for sixteen years, and have fished around Cape Breton, eastern side of New Brunswick, around Prince Edward's Island, the Magdalenes, and on the coast of Labrador. I have fished mackerel, and took them principally inshore, within three miles of the shore, and it would not have paid us to fish mackerel unless we could get them within three miles of the shore.

2. I have fished codfish on the Labrador coast for the last sixteen years with the exception of a few years. We took the codfish inshore within three miles of the shore mostly with hook and line. I have during this time seen American vessels every year on the said coast taking codfish inshore. The Americans take the codfish on the Labrador coast by seining, and throw away the small ones. They take the codfish with seines from the shore, and close up on the shore. I have seen during the past sixteen years every year that I was on the Labrador coast, of which I was there twelve years, and also this year, and every year for the last six, except last year, the Americans in large numbers taking herring. They take the herring with seines from the shore, and the Americans might as well stay at home if they were not allowed to take the fish inshore.

3. The Americans get bait all along the coast of Nova Scotia in our bays and harbours, and on the Labrador coast—without this bait they could not carry on the deep sea fishery.

4. The Americans have introduced trawling, and we were compelled to adopt this plan of fishing, in order to compete with the Americans. Trawling, I consider a great injury to the fishery, as it destroys the mother fish.

5. It would, in my opinion, be a great benefit to Canadian fishermen if the Americans were excluded from our inshore fisheries.

RUFUS RISER.

Sworn to at Rose Bay, in the County of Lunenburg, this 8th day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

JAMES H. WENTZEL, J. P.

No. 134.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington :

I, John Morien, of Port Medway, in the County of Queens, fisherman, make oath and say as follows :

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for the past forty years, down to the present time. I have fished along the southern coast of Nova Scotia around Cape Breton, on the eastern side of New Brunswick, around Prince Edward Island, around the Magdalenes, on the Canadian coast of Labrador, and am well acquainted with the inshore fisheries along the southern coast of Nova Scotia.
2. When in the North Bay, about eight or nine years ago, I saw large numbers of American mackerelmen. From calculations then made by Nova Scotia fishermen, we concluded that there were upwards of three hundred American vessels in the North Bay. I was in the North Bay in the Fall of eighteen hundred and seventy-two, and the mackerel were very plentiful. I was about a fortnight ago engaged in fishing on the eastern side of Cape Breton. I was at Gabarus, Louisburg, St. Ann's, Ingonish, Bras D'Or and Smoky Cape, and around Cape North, and I found the fish there very plentiful—the mackerel more plentiful than the oldest inhabitant has any recollection of. The mackerel are of most excellent quality, being very large. Those mackerel are found inshore, within three miles of the shore, and it would not pay any vessel to go to the North Bay unless they could catch mackerel within three miles of the shore.
3. The American vessels make, on an average, two trips when engaged in taking mackerel. The Americans in a good season take, on an average, about three hundred barrels of mackerel to each vessel on each trip. These mackerel vessels carry from ten to twenty hands to each vessel. The American vessels which run into the North Bay take from five hundred to a thousand quintals to each vessel. When on the Cape Breton coast last year, I saw an American vessel which took from six to seven hundred quintals of codfish seven miles from Sydney Light, and only changed her ground three times, as I was informed by the American skipper. The Americans take the most of the codfish in the North Bay by trawling. This trawling I consider injurious to the fishery, as it takes all the mother fish. In hand-lining very few mother fish are taken. When on the Canadian coast of Labrador, I saw the Americans take large quantities of codfish inshore, within three miles of the shore.
4. In my experience, the mackerel fishery has always varied, being good for a number of years and again poor. In the Falls of seventy-one, seventy-two and seventy-three, the mackerel were very plentiful. The cod-fishery has generally been good, except when bait is scarce.
5. The Americans formerly carried on the mackerel fishery with hook and line. They now use purse-seines, which I consider very injurious to the mackerel fishery. I saw, four years ago, two large American schooners engaged in taking mackerel at Cape Canso with purse-seines, within a half a mile of the shore. These vessels carried about eight hundred barrels of mackerel each. The Americans now take all their codfish by trawling. The Americans around the Magdalenes and on the Labrador coasts take herring by seining on the shore.
6. The throwing overboard of offal, in my opinion, is injurious to the fishery, as it pollutes the water, gluts the fish, and drives them away.
7. In my experience, the Americans fished inshore whenever they could. They made offshore when a cutter appeared and returned when she disappeared. They lee-bowed us Nova Scotian vessels, weather-bowed us, ran into us, and did nearly what they pleased, and have almost entirely, since 1871, driven our vessels out of the mackerel fishing. When the fishery was protected, and the Americans had not the right of fishing into the shore, our vessels made better fares.
8. In my opinion, the inshore fish are double the value of the offshore catch in Canadian waters.
9. The Americans get bait and ice all along our coast in the bays and harbors. They jig squid in any harbor, cove and creek, and wherever they can find them. They buy herring and mackerel. They do so because it saves time and the expense of fitting out their vessels with net. The Americans being allowed to get bait, interfere with our vessels, as they come at a time when herring and mackerel are scarce. Last year an American vessel loaded with halibut inside of the Kettle, between Scaterie and the main land, and trawl around there for halibut.
10. Since seventy-three the mackerel fell off until this year, when they are very plenty again. On the banks the codfish during the past six years have fallen off to some extent. This the fishermen attribute to too much trawling.
11. The herring fishery is all inshore in Canadian waters, and the Americans catch them for bait, as already stated.
12. I have often heard the Americans say that our Fall mackerel is much superior to theirs.
13. The mackerel make inshore to feed. They trim the shore, are taken inshore, and I consider them an inshore fish.
14. I have often seen the Americans trans-ship their cargoes at the Strait of Canso, and in a good season they would save from two to three thousand dollars to each vessel by so doing. By this privilege they save time, expense, and catch more fish. They are enabled to refit and remain constantly on the ground.
15. The Americans get bait and ice in this county in large quantities, and without this bait and

ice in which to keep it fresh, it would be impossible for the Americans to carry on the deep sea fishery. When the Americans come on to our coast they make every effort to get bait, and ice in which to keep it fresh, because they say that without this bait and ice they could catch no fish.

16. I have never known nor heard of any Canadian vessel fishing in American waters, and I consider this right to be of no value to Canadian fishermen.

17. Such large numbers of Americans carry off great quantities of fish and make them scarce for our fishermen. They injure our grounds by throwing overboard large quantities of offal, and by trawling. They interfere with our supply of ice and bait.

18. It would be a great benefit, in my opinion, if the Americans were excluded from our fishing grounds, particularly our inshore fisheries.

JOHN MOBIEN.

Sworn to at Port Medway. in the County of Queens, this 14th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.
E. C. SEELY, J. P.

No. 135.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John Smeltzer, of Lunenburg Town, in the County of Lunenburg, master mariner, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for about thirty-five years, for twenty-seven years I have fished as master in a vessel of my own with eleven hands. I have fished along the coast of Nova Scotia, eastern side of Cape Breton, around Prince Edward Island, and in the Bay of Chaleurs, on the east coast of New Brunswick, and have been bank fishing, and am at present well acquainted with the inshore fishery in Lunenburg County. I have fished mackerel, herring, codfish, halibut, lake, haddock and pollock.

2. About eleven years ago when in the Bay of Chaleurs, I saw in Malpeque Harbor, Prince Edward Island, about seventy sail at one time, all American fishing vessels. Last Fall I saw around Port Hood about seventy sail of American vessels, at one time. American mackerelmen average about fifteen men. I have seen as many as thirty men in one American mackerelman. American codfishmen carry from twelve to twenty men, mostly all the mackerel is taken inshore, and I would not give a pin for all taken outside of three miles.

3. The Americans averaged about from five to six hundred barrels of mackerel in the season to each vessel. American codfishermen take from one to three thousand quintals to each vessel. American mackerelmen make about three trips, codfishermen the same.

4. Mackerel, in my experience, have often varied; about fifteen years ago they were very scarce, since that time they have often been plenty. Some years they strike in very plenty, other years they are scarce, and this is my experience for forty years. Herring fishery remains about the same. Codfish can always be had if bait is plenty.

5. Americans take mackerel inshore mostly with hook and line, and I have seen Americans within three miles of the shore at Cascumpec, Prince Edward Island, use purse seines, about eleven years ago. The Americans carry on cod and halibut fishing mostly by trawling, some with hook and line.

6. The Americans throw overboard the offal of the fish when codfishing, and particularly the sound bone which is very injurious to the fish and fishing ground, and I have myself caught large codfish with the sound bone in them, and they were reduced to mere skeletons.

7. The Americans, in my experience, always fished inshore when they could for mackerel. I have seen them fish in so close to the shore that their vessels grounded, when a cutter hove in sight they got away as quickly as they could, and came inshore again whenever the cutter was out of sight. Out of Lunenburg County, about fifteen years ago, there were from thirty to forty vessels engaged in mackerel fishing, and when this fishery was protected by cutters, our vessels made good fares. Since the Americans have been admitted to the inshore fishery, our vessels have done very poorly.

8. The inshore fisheries are of much greater value than the outside fisheries. The inshore fisheries are worth four times that of the outside fisheries.

9. About fifteen years ago I have seen American vessels fishing mackerel in the back harbour of Lunenburg, and I have baited an American vessel in this harbour about five years ago. Other parties have often baited American vessels in the harbour. The Americans mostly purchase the bait they get in order to save time.

10. In the North Bay I have seen Americans catch codfish inshore, and large quantities of codfish are taken inshore by Canadian fishermen, and also halibut.

11. Since 1871 fish have fallen off somewhat, this, I think, is owing to the large number of Americans who visit our shores to take fish.

12. The herring fishery is all inshore and the Americans buy them from our fishermen in order to save time, as also do the vessels which we fit out ourselves in order to save time.

13. The run of mackerel is sometimes of better quality than at others; when our run of mackerel is

good it cannot be beaten, and three Falls ago I was in Boston market with our mackerel, and it was much superior to any mackerel which I there saw.

14. Mackerel follow the shrimp inshore and spawn inshore in the bays and harbours around our coasts.

15. About Canso I have often seen Americans land and dry their nets, this privilege I consider of great value to them as it enables them to carry on the inshore net fishery.

16. I have seen Americans trans-ship their cargo at Canso and by so doing they save a great deal of time and catch more fish. They save from two to three weeks in the best of the season.

17. If the Americans could not procure bait inshore from Canadian fishermen, and ice in which to pack it they could not carry on, in my opinion, the Bank fishing with success, and they buy bait as already stated, in order to save time. They could not preserve their bait without ice, and they get ice along the coast near where they get bait.

18. I do not know nor have I ever heard of any Canadian vessel fishing in American waters, and I consider this privilege of no value.

19. In fitting out vessels, which I have often done, the Americans make bait and ice scarce because of the larger quantities of herring and mackerel they take away before these fish become plenty, and thus hinder our fishing vessels. They make the fish scarce for our inshore fishermen.

20. In my opinion our fisheries would be more than double their present value to us if the Americans were excluded.

JOHN SMELTZER.

Sworn to, at Lunenburg, in the County of Lunenburg, this 4th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOSEPH W. LOCKHART, J. P.

No. 136.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Elias Richards, of Getson's Cove, in the County of Lunenburg, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been fishing for the last thirty years continuously. I have fished along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, around Prince Edward's Island, around the Magdalenes and along the Canadian coast of Labrador. I have taken all the kinds of fish found on the above-mentioned coasts. I am also well acquainted with the inshore fishery in Lunenburg County. I have also been engaged in banking fishing to a large extent.

2. For twenty-four Falls I fished in the North Bay successively, except one or two Falls, down to the Fall of seventy-five, inclusive, for mackerel. I have seen in the North Bay, at one time together, over four hundred American mackerel vessels in Malpeque, and in Port Hood in Malpeque, there were so many that I could not anchor, and ran ashore. During the past five or six years I was in the North Bay I have seen from 200 to 300 American mackerelmen, and every Fall I was there it was quite common to count from one hundred to one hundred and fifty American vessels from the deck of our schooner. There were many there which I did not see. These vessels took the most of their mackerel within three miles of the shore, sometimes close into the shore, and it would not pay vessels to go into the North Bay to fish mackerel unless they could take them within three miles of the shore.

3. These American mackerelmen carry from twelve to twenty-two hands to each vessel. In a good season one of the larger vessels usually takes from five to six hundred barrels. These vessels make from two to three trips.

4. Every year down to seventy-seven I have seen many American codfish vessels in the North Bay taking codfish. They have increased every year, and this year I have seen more than ever before. These codfish vessels carry from ten to fourteen men. These vessels take from five to six hundred quintals of fish to each vessel, and make about two trips. These American vessels fished in among the boats and wherever they could catch fish.

5. On the Labrador coast I have seen Americans seine codfish close in on the shore, and have seen engaged there four at one time.

6. Around the Magdalenes I have seen the Americans take herring all inshore. I have seen there at one time from sixty to seventy vessels at one time. These vessels carry from eight to ten men each, and take from nine hundred to ten hundred barrels each.

7. In my experience, mackerel have varied, being some years plenty and others scarce. The herring fishery seldom varies, being mostly always good. The codfish has fallen off some.

8. In former years the Americans took mackerel with hook and line; they now take large quantities with purse-seines. They take nearly all the codfish by trawling. Most of the American codfish vessels carry seven thousand hooks each.

9. The Americans throw overboard the "gurry," which is an injury to the fishery, as it gluts the fish and drives them away. Trawling I consider injurious to the fishery, as it takes the mother fish, which are full of spawn. In hand-lining few mother fish are taken. The Americans have made a habit of

throwing overboard the small fish, and an American skipper told me last summer that of forty-five quintals or upwards which he took upon his trawls, he only saved from fifteen to eighteen quintals; the remainder he threw away.

10. In my experience the Americans fished inshore whenever they could, whatever the conditions of the Treaty were. They made off when a cutter appeared and returned when she disappeared.

11. The value of the inshore catch in Canadian waters is more, in my opinion, than double the offshore catch in value.

12. Nearly all the Americans carry purse-seines, which I consider a very bad way of taking mackerel. I have never seen nor heard of any Canadian vessel using a purse-seine.

13. I have seen the Americans catch squid for bait in the Canadian bays and harbors, within three miles of the shore. I have seen them catch these squid at the Strait of Canso and at Crow Harbor and other places. The Americans buy herring and mackerel all along our coast from Cape Sable to Labrador, wherever they can get it, and ice in which to keep it fresh. This privilege of getting ice and bait accorded to the Americans interferes with Canadian bankers, making bait and ice dearer and scarcer.

14. The Americans buy bait in order to save time and expense, and without this bait, and ice in which to keep it fresh, they could not carry on the deep sea fishery.

15. The Americans, since 1871, have injured the Canadian fisheries by taking great quantities of fish, by improper methods of fishing, and by interfering with the supply of ice and bait.

16. Mackerel feed, to a considerable extent, on shrimps found inshore, they spawn inshore, and are an inshore fish.

17. The privilege accorded to the Americans of taking fish and trans-shipping them, saves them time and expense, and enables them to take more fish.

18. I have never known nor heard of any Canadian vessel fishing in American waters, and I consider this right of no value.

19. I consider that it would be a great benefit to Canadian fishermen if the Americans were excluded from our inshore fisheries, and I know of no benefit which we derive from the American fishermen.

ELIAS RICHARDS.

Sworn to at Getson's Cove, in the County of Lunenburg, this 11th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOSEPH W. LOCKHART, J. P.

No. 137.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, James Getson, of Getson's Cove, in the County of Lunenburg, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have fished from twelve to fourteen years along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, around Cape Breton, eastern side of New Brunswick, around Prince Edward's Island, around the Magdalenes, on the Canadian coast of the Labrador, and on the banks, and am well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in Lunenburg County. I have taken all the kinds of fish found on the above mentioned coasts.

2. I have fished this summer and last around Prince Edward's Island and the Magdalenes, and on bank Bradley, and I saw there many American vessels, some engaged in taking mackerel, and others engaged in taking codfish. Last summer I saw as many as fifteen at one time fishing together day after day. I saw during last summer as many as two hundred. These I saw before the middle of August. These American mackerelmen carry from fourteen to twenty men to each vessel. Four years ago when fishing in the North Bay, I have seen over four hundred American mackerel vessels in a fortnight, and I have, along with other fishermen put the number of American vessels down at from five to six hundred. These vessels catch the most of their mackerel inshore, within three miles of the shore; and in my opinion it would not pay to fish mackerel unless they were taken within three miles of the shore.

3. Last summer, and this summer, I saw large numbers of American codfish vessels around Prince Edward's Island and the Magdalenes. I saw last summer—often from twenty to twenty-five in a day engaged in taking codfish. The Americans take all their fish in the North Bay by trawling. Very few Canadian vessels take fish in the North Bay by trawling, they use mostly hook and line. I consider trawling a very injurious method of taking fish, as it destroys the mother fish. The Americans carry from eight to ten thousand hooks on their trawls to each vessel. By trawling the bait lies on the bottom, and the big fish take it, this is not the case in hand-lining.

4. The American codfish vessels carry about fourteen men on each vessel, and take about six hundred quintals on each trip. They make three trips.

5. I fished in the North Bay for mackerel when the fisheries were protected, and our vessels did better than when they were not protected, and took more fish. The Americans fished inshore at that time to a large extent, they made off when a cutter appeared, and returned when she disappeared. I saw several American vessels seized when I was there during the protection time. The Americans made

a practice of running into us, and their vessels were stronger and more numerous than ours, being built of oak.

6. The Americans get bait and ice along the coast from Cape Sable to Labrador, and without this they could not carry on successfully the Bank fishery.

JAMES GETSON.

Sworn to at Getson's Cove, in the County of Lunenburg, this 9th day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

JOSEPH W. LOCKHART, J. P.

No. 138.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, James Publicover, of New Dublin, in the County of Lunenburg, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in the fishing for thirty-five years down to 1871 inclusive. I have fished all along the southern side of Nova Scotia, around Cape Breton, on the eastern side of New Brunswick, around Prince Edward's Island, around the Magdalenes and on the Labrador coast. I have taken all the fish found on the above mentioned coasts.

2. Between eight and ten years ago I have seen in Port Hood Harbour, at one time, eight hundred sail, of which number over seven hundred were Americans. I would be safe in saying that there were over a thousand sail engaged in taking mackerel in one season in the North Bay. Some years I have seen more and some less. These vessels took mostly all the mackerel inshore.

3. These American vessels carry from twelve to twenty-two hands. They took from four to five hundred barrels of mackerel to each vessel, on each trip. Ran into the Strait of Canso, landed their fish, refitted and went out again. Then came in again and took a full cargo for home,—often fifteen hundred barrels. They generally made two trips, sometimes three. When in the codfishery in the North Bay, I have seen many Americans also taking codfish. These codfish vessels carried from ten to twelve men, and took from six to eight hundred quintals.

4. When in the North Bay the fisheries were protected by cutters for some time. The Americans fished inshore when the cutters were out of sight, and made off when a cutter appeared. This was always my experience. I have seen two American vessels made prizes of by a cutter.

5. The inshore fisheries in Canadian waters, within three miles of the shore, are of more value than the off shore fishery. I would say more than double.

6. Our Canadian fishermen catch codfish in large quantities around the coast within three miles, also halibut. I have seen many American vessels take codfish on the Labrador coast within three mile of the shore by seining.

7. For twelve to fifteen years I have taken mackerel in the North Bay, and in my experience they varied in quantity and quality, being some years good and others poor. Mackerel schools have struck into this harbour this year pretty plentifully.

8. The herring fishery in Canadian waters is all inshore, and they are taken all inshore. The Americans buy these herring for bait all along the coast, by buying they save time and expense.

9. I have never known nor heard of any Canadian vessels going into American waters to take fish, nor do I know of any benefit to Canadians from this right.

10. I have seen Americans running into harbours in Cape Breton and Prince Edward's Island to cure fish. When a gale of wind comes on they do this.

11. I have often seen the Americans trans-shipping their cargoes at the Strait of Canso; by so doing, the save time and expense and take more fish.

12. It is a great advantage to the Americans to get bait and ice along the Canadian coast, and this they do from Cape Sable to Labrador and wherever they can. Without this bait, and ice in which to preserve it, they could catch no fish.

13. When in the North Bay I have often been lee-bowed by American vessels, and I have seen them running into Nova Scotian vessels.

14. If the Americans were shut out from our inshore fisheries it would be of great benefit to Canadian fishermen, and I know of no benefit that we derive from American fishermen.

Sworn to at New Dublin, in the County of Lunenburg, this 9th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

BENJ. RYNARD, J. P.

JAMES PUBLICOVER.

No. 139.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Donald McDougall, of Main-a-Dieu, in the County of Cape Breton, merchant, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in the buying and selling of fish for twenty-five years, and am well acquainted with the fisheries as carried on here, and am well acquainted with the fishermen from Big Lorraine to Miri Bay, and have done business with American fishermen.

2. The fish taken in this vicinity during the past twenty-five years has been codfish, mackerel, herring, halibut and salmon. Formerly halibut was very plentiful, so much so that our inshore fishermen could always catch a fare, but since the Americans came here trawling for them, they have almost disappeared. The best halibut grounds are within three miles of the shore, and on these grounds the Americans trawled. Our fishermen never trawled for halibut.

3. In this vicinity there are taken annually from five to six hundred barrels of mackerel, and are not quite so plentiful as they have been ten or fifteen years ago. There are taken in this vicinity about a thousand barrels of herring. On average there is taken about from seven to eight thousand quintals of codfish. The most of the people in this vicinity depend upon the fishing, which they carry on in small boats inshore.

4. The Americans have always been on this coast, year after year, fishing mackerel. The Americans come inshore and fish mackerel, and diminish the catch for our inshore fishermen. The Americans purchase herring for bait very generally, and then go out on the banks to fish codfish. The Americans around here have fished inshore for codfish and halibut.

5. The Americans trawl on Scaterie Bank for codfish. They trawl to the bottom and catch the mother fish, which are full of spawn. They dress their fish on the fishing grounds, throwing overboard the offal, which is very injurious to the fish, the sound bone killing many large fish.

6. The practices of the Americans tend to injure the inshore fishery very much.

7. Mackerel run inshore to feed and spawn, and our fishermen take them inshore. Americans have taken mackerel all round our coast, and have at one time trans-shipped mackerel in this port. This privilege saves fish and enables them to make a larger catch.

8. The Americans get ice and bait in harbors round our shores, and without ice and bait they would be unable to make successful voyages.

9. I have never known nor heard of any Canadian vessel fishing in American waters, and know of no benefit they can derive from so doing.

10. The large number of American vessels fishing in Canadian waters must diminish the catch.

11. If Americans were excluded from our waters, I have no doubt but it would be a general benefit to Canadian fishermen.

DONALD McDOUGALL.

Sworn to at Main-a-Dieu, in the County of Cape Breton, this 28th day of July, before me.

GEO. RIGBY, J. P.

No. 140.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John Bagnall, of Gabarus, in the County of Cape Breton, at present of Louisburg, in the County aforesaid, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged for about fifty years in the inshore fisheries, in and around Gabarus Bay, in the County aforesaid, and have taken mackerel, codfish, herring, and halibut, and am well acquainted with the manner in which the inshore fishery is there conducted.

2. About six or seven years ago there were some American fishing vessels in Gabarus Bay. During the past five or six years, they have purchased bait in small quantities in Gabarus Bay.

3. Mackerel and halibut are taken in Gabarus Bay. Codfish and herring are taken in large quantities. Three years ago about three hundred barrels of mackerel were taken in this Bay, and there are about one hundred boats fishing around the Bay, and this summer these boats have taken from eight to sixty barrels in each boat. In Gabarus Bay there are from six to seven thousand quintals of codfish taken yearly. All this fish is taken in boats. To the people around Gabarus Bay these fisheries are of great value.

4. The mackerel and herring are inshore fish, and are mostly all taken inshore, three-fourths of the mackerel and herring is inshore.

I am to-day at Louisburg, but reside and fish at Gabarus.

JOHN BAGNALL,

Sworn to at Louisburg, this 26th day of July, in the County of Cape Breton, before me,

PATRICK O'TOOLE, J. P.

For and in the County of Cape Breton.

No. 141.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Peter Bosdet, of West Arichat, in the County of Richmond and Province of Nova Scotia, merchant, make oath and say as follows:

1. During the past thirty-two years I have been engaged in the fishing trade, and my acquaintance with the fisheries on our coasts extends over that period.
2. The herring fishery is about the same as it has been in the past. The mackerel vary from year to year. From 1871 to 1874 the mackerel were plenty, but they were scarce in 1875 and 1876. I believe that the scarcity of 1875 and 1876 will not, however, be permanent.
3. The use of trawls and the throwing overboard of offal are both very injurious to the codfishery. Both these practices tend to drive away the fish from their usual haunts.
4. The herring fishery is altogether inshore, that is within three miles of the shore, and the greater part of the mackerel are caught within the same distance. I consider that the inshore fisheries are of much greater value than those outside.
5. I am strongly of opinion that the inshore boat fishery on our coasts has been greatly injured by the Americans baiting the fish and drawing them away from the boats. I refer only to the mackerel in making this statement in this paragraph.
6. I consider that it is a great benefit to the Americans to be allowed to land and dry their nets and cure their fish on our coasts. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes is also a great advantage to American mackerelers, and they can of course make more trips and catch more fish than they otherwise could, and by this means, I believe, that they can make three trips to the fishing grounds in the same time in which they could otherwise make two. The privilege of getting bait on our shores is also a vast advantage to American codfishermen who indeed could not profitably carry on the codfishery without this privilege. The procuring of ice on our shores is also essential to the codfishermen, as without this they cannot keep their bait fresh.
7. The privilege of fishing in American waters is of no practical advantage whatever to Canadians, and I never heard of Canadians availing themselves at any time of such privilege.
8. I consider that the Canadian boat fishermen could carry on their fishery more profitably and successfully if the Americans were excluded from within the three-mile limit.

P. BOSDET.

The said Peter Bosdet was sworn to the truth of this affidavit, at West Arichat, in the County of Richmond, this 2d day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

E. P. FLYNN,

A Justice of the Peace.

No. 142.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Francis Marmean, of Arichat, in the County of Richmond and Province of Nova Scotia, merchant, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have resided here for about sixty years, and have a good knowledge of the fishing business, and of the fisheries on this coast.
2. The American codfishermen in my opinion cannot profitably carry on the codfishery without procuring bait on the shores of Canada or Newfoundland, and I believe that the privilege of procuring ice on our shores is also an advantage to the American codfishermen.
3. I do not think that the privilege of fishing in United States waters is of any advantage to Canadians, and I never heard of Canadians fishing in American waters.
4. I believe that our fishermen could carry on the inshore fishery on our coasts, especially the mackerel fishery, very much more successfully if the Americans were excluded from our inshore waters.

F. MARMEAN.

The said Francis Marmean was sworn to the truth of this affidavit at Arichat, in the County of Richmond, on the 4th day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

ISIDORE LEBLANC,

A Justice of the Peace.

No. 143.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, David Grouchy, of Descousse, in the County of Richmond, and Province of Nova Scotia, merchant, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fish trade during the past thirty-three years, and have dealt in cod-fish, haddock, mackerel and herrings.
2. I consider the inshore mackerel and herring fisheries to be of very much greater value than those outside. The herring fishery is almost altogether inshore, and I believe that the greater portion of the mackerel are caught within three miles of the shore.
3. From my experience in the fishing business I have no hesitation whatever in saying that it would be far better for Canadians to have their inshore fisheries kept to themselves. Even if the American Government should put heavy duties on our fish, I do not believe that the Americans can give us any adequate compensation for our fisheries, and I believe that it is almost impossible to estimate too highly the value of Canadian fisheries.
4. The mackerel caught in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, are in my opinion equal to any in the world. I believe that the reason why American mackerel bring better prices is that they are better handled and put up.
5. Around this coast the food of the mackerel is principally inshore.
6. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes is of great advantage to the American fishermen as they are thereby enabled to make more trips and consequently catch more fish than they otherwise could.
7. The privilege of procuring bait on our shores is of great value to the American cod-fishermen, who could not profitably carry on the codfishery of the deep sea without this privilege. They also procure ice on our shores to preserve their bait fresh, and without this means of preserving the bait it could not be kept fresh for more than two or three days.
8. It is of no value whatever to Canadians to be allowed to fish in American waters. I have never heard of Canadians availing themselves of the privilege of so doing.
9. I consider the privilege of trans-shipping cargoes and procuring bait on our shores is worth at least 50 per cent. of their catch to American fishermen.

D. GROUCHY.

The said David Grouchy was sworn to the truth of this affidavit, at Descousse, in the County of Richmond, on the 1st day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

E. P. FLYNN.

A Justice of the Peace.

No. 144.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Isidore LeBlanc, of Arichat, in the County of Richmond and Province of Nova Scotia, merchant, make oath and say as follows:—

1. During the past two years I have been engaged in the fish trade, and for twenty years previous thereto I was a master mariner, and I have a good knowledge of the fisheries around the coasts of Canada.
2. Formerly the mackerel were caught altogether with hook and line, but of late years the Americans are using purse seines in this fishery. The codfish are principally caught with trawls, and the herring with nets and seines. I believe that the codfishery is being injured by the use of trawls and by the throwing overboard of offal.
3. The American fishermen have fished inside of the three mile limit whenever they could get the chance. I myself have seen the Americans fishing inside of the three mile limit after the Reciprocity Treaty, and whenever the Government cutters were not in sight.
4. The inshore mackerel and herring fisheries are worth more than the outside fisheries, in my opinion. The greater portion of the mackerel is caught within three miles of the shore, and almost all the herring within that distance. The inshore mackerel fishery is greatly injured by the Americans coming in and throwing bait, and enticing the fish away from the shore fishermen.
5. Both Canadian and American fishermen catch codfish, haddock, hake and halibut to some extent on our shores.
6. I believe that the mackerel caught in Canadian waters are better than those caught in United States waters.
7. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be allowed to land and dry their nets and cure their fish on our shores. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes is also of very great value to the American fishermen, as it enables them to catch more fish by making more trips than they otherwise could. When the mackerel are plenty the Americans can, by means of trans-shipping cargoes, make two trips to the Gulf of St. Lawrence in the time it would otherwise take them to make one.

8. The American cod fishermen cannot profitably carry on the deep sea codfishery, without procuring bait on the shores of Canada or Newfoundland.

9. The privilege of fishing in American waters is, in my opinion, of no value whatever to Canadians, and I never heard of any Canadian vessel making a voyage for fishing purposes to American waters.

10. The fishing operations of Canadians are considerably hindered by the Americans fishing in our inshore waters, as they entice away the fish and lessen the inshore catch of our fishermen.

11. The greater part of the bait that the Americans procure on our shores they purchase from our fishermen, but they catch part of it in our inshore waters. This summer I saw an American vessel setting nets for herring in Arichat Harbor.

ISIDORE LEBLANC.

The said Isidore LeBlanc was sworn to the truth of this affidavit at Arichat, in the County of Richmond, on the fourth day of August, A. D. 1877, before me,

E. P. FLYNN.

A Justice of the Peace.

No. 145.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Bryan Murphy, of Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, fisherman and trader, make oath and say as follows:

1. For thirty-five years past I have been actively engaged in the fishing business as a practical fisherman, and during that time I have made trips on board American fishing vessels, and I have generally been familiar with the fishing business on this coast for all that time.

2. I have known some years as many as seven hundred American vessels fishing in the Gulf and the shores around Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, and the Magdalene Islands. I have seen during the Reciprocity Treaty as many as four or five hundred American fishing vessels in the harbor of Port Hood at one time.

3. The American fishermen catch codfish and mackerel principally in great numbers, and herring, haddock, hake and halibut in smaller quantities. The American fleet begins to arrive on our grounds about the first of May for the codfishing. Then in July they begin the mackerel fishing, and they keep up their fishing operations till into November. They average three trips a season under the Reciprocity Treaty, and each vessel took on an average three hundred barrels mackerel worth \$15.00 per barrel. The average cargo of codfish was about one thousand quintals, although I have been engaged on board of an American vessel which took fifteen hundred quintals for a cargo. The cargo was worth from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per quintal.

4. After the Reciprocity Treaty the American fishing fleet fell off very much, and the catch was less, and the trips fewer for the season, and the profits were very much less. Since the Washington Treaty the American vessels and fishermen are beginning to come back here, and I believe if the Americans do not ruin the grounds and destroy the fisheries that there will soon be as many of them here as during the Reciprocity Treaty. I know of as many as seventy or eighty American vessels that have baited here this season already.

5. During the Reciprocity Treaty, I believe that at least two-thirds of all the fish taken by the Americans on the coast of British North America were taken inshore. The inshore grounds are always considered the most valuable for fishing in, and often enough have I heard the American fishermen say so. Since the Treaty of Washington and now, the Americans catch two thirds of their fish within three miles of the shore. All bait is got inshore, and in autumn particularly the mackerel cluster near the shore, and it is there they are chiefly caught.

6. I am aware of American fishermen using purse seines in the mackerel fishery, and there is no doubt it is very destructive to our grounds. Great hauls are made, more than can be saved, and they are killed and allowed to run out. I have seen acres of the grounds filled with dead fish, which being small the Americans throw overboard. And it is to this practice of the Americans that I attribute the falling off during the past year or two of the mackerel catch. There are as many fish as ever, but they are glutted, and will not bite as formerly they did.

7. I do not know as I could fix the value of the advantage derived by each American fishing vessel in being allowed to fish inshore, and get bait and supplies from our ports, but I do not believe they could carry on fishing at all with any kind of profit without these privileges. If they could not bait in Canadian waters it would be impossible for them to carry on codfishing on this coast.

8. I know of no advantage which Canadian fishermen derive from the privilege of fishing in American waters. The privilege is absolutely worthless. No Canadian fishermen avails himself of the privilege. I never heard of such a thing. Our fisheries are much richer and more productive than the American grounds, and the Americans are always saying so.

9. If our fishermen had exclusive use of our own grounds, and were not interfered with by American fishermen, we could double of catch every year, and make much greater profits out of our efforts.

We should also be able to preserve our grounds which are being injured every year by American fishermen, not by destroying the fish, which are as abundant as ever, but by preventing the catch by their system of baiting and throwing offal overboard.

His
BRYAN X MURPHY.
mark.

Sworn to at Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, this 23rd day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,
having first read and explained,

A. MACDONALD. J. P.

No. 146.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Simon Ferris, of West Arichat, in the County of Richmond and Province of Nova Scotia, merchant, make oath and says as follows:—

1. I have been a practical fisherman for nine years of my life and during the past three years I have been engaged in the fish trade so that my experience of the fishery extends over a period of twelve years.

2. I estimate that about one hundred and fifty American vessels yearly touch at the Island of Madame for bait and other supplies.

3. I believe that the American fishermen have injured our fishery since 1871 by the use of purse seines, which in my opinion are very injurious to the fishery, as they tend to break up the schools and drive the fish away.

4. The herring are all caught within three miles of the shore, and on this coast all the mackerel are caught within the same distance from the shore.

5. The best mackerel in the market are caught in Canadian waters in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. All the best of the mackerel called "American mackerel" are in reality caught in Canadian waters.

6. The privilege of landing and drying nets and curing fish on our shores is in my opinion a great advantage to the American fishermen, as is also the privilege of trans-shipping cargoes of mackerel.

7. The American codfishermen cannot possibly carry on the codfishery successfully or profitably without procuring bait on Canadian or Newfoundland shores. It is also essential to their fishery for them to procure ice on our shores.

8. The privilege of fishing in American waters is in my opinion worth not a cent to Canadians, and I never heard of Canadian vessels fishing in American waters.

9. The American codfishermen call about twice each season on our shores for bait, and each trip they take about twenty-five barrels of bait by purchase from our fishermen. They find it cheaper to buy it than to catch it themselves.

The said Simon Ferris was sworn to the truth of this affidavit, at West Arichat, in the County of Richmond, this 2nd day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

E. P. FLYNN,
A Justice of the Peace.

SIMON FERRIS.

No. 147.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, William Crichton, of West Arichat, in the County of Richmond and Province of Nova Scotia, gentleman, makes oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in the fishery business for about fifty years up to about 1870, and I have a good acquaintance with the fisheries on our coasts up to the present time.

2. I am of opinion that the inshore fisheries are of much greater value than those outside. The herring fishery on our coasts is altogether an inshore fishery. I believe that on our coasts the greater portion of the mackerel are taken inshore.

3. I believe that our inshore boat fishery is greatly injured by the Americans coming in and baiting the mackerel, and drawing them offshore. I am of opinion also that the mackerel fishery will be seriously injured by the practice of seining followed by Americans, if this practice is allowed to be carried on.

4. I am of opinion that the mackerel caught in Canadian waters, are, at least, as good as those caught in United States waters, and that any difference of price in favor of American mackerel is owing to the American mackerel being better handled and put up than Canadian mackerel and put into the market fresher.

5. I consider it a very great advantage to American fishermen to be allowed to land and dry their nets, and cure their fish. The trans-shipment of cargoes is also a great advantage to the American mackerelers who are by this means enabled to make more trips and catch more fish than they could otherwise do.

6. It is my belief that the American codfishermen cannot profitably carry on the codfishery without the privilege of procuring bait on the shores of Canada and Newfoundland. It is also a great advantage to them to be allowed to procure ice on our shores to keep their bait fresh. They purchase the greater part of their bait from our fishermen as it is very much cheaper for them to do so than to spend the time in catching it themselves.

7. The privilege of fishing in American waters is of no practical advantage whatever to Canadians, and I never heard of Canadian vessels fishing in American waters.

8. The catch of our inshore boat fishermen is no doubt much lessened by the Americans fishing within our waters, and I believe that our shore fishermen could carry on their fishery much more successfully if the Americans were excluded from our waters. I believe that it would be better for our fishermen to have the Americans excluded from the three mile limit even if the American Government should put a duty on our fish.

WILLIAM CRICHTON.

The said William Crichton was sworn to the truth of this affidavit at West Arichat, in the County of Richmond, this ——— day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

E. P. FLYNN.

A Justice of the Peace.

No. 148.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Isaac Levesconte, of Arichat, in the County of Richmond and Province of Nova Scotia, merchant, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have dealt more or less in fish for thirty-five years of my life, up to about the year 1869.

2. Our herring and mackerel fisheries are mostly carried on inshore, and the inshore fishery of herring and mackerel on our coasts is of far greater value than those fisheries outside the three miles from the shore. The herring fishery is almost altogether inshore, and I believe that the greater portion of the mackerel is caught inshore.

3. The opportunity of trans-shipping cargoes enjoyed by American fishermen, is of course a great advantage to them. It enables them to make at least one extra trip each season, and by means of this privilege they can of course make a greater number of trips and catch more fish than they could otherwise do.

4. The privilege of procuring bait on the shores of Canada and Newfoundland is very valuable to the American cod fishermen, and I do not know how they could profitably carry on the deep sea cod fishery without this privilege. It is also a great advantage to their cod fishermen to procure ice on our coasts for the purpose of keeping their bait fresh.

5. I do not believe that the privilege of fishing in American waters is of any value whatever to Canadian fishermen, nor have I ever heard of Canadian vessels fishing in United States waters.

6. There is no doubt whatever that Canadian fishermen would be very much more successful if the Americans were excluded effectually from our inshore waters. I remember that shortly before the Reciprocity Treaty our fishery was pretty effectually protected for one year by British and Provincial Government vessels, and our inshore fishermen did better that year than they had done for some time before, and better than they have ever done since.

The said Isaac Levesconte was sworn to the truth of this affidavit at Arichat, in the County of Richmond, this 4th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

E. P. FLYNN,

A Justice of the Peace.

ISAAC LEVESCONTE.

No. 149.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, William Wentzel, of Moose Harbour, in the County of Queens, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for about forty years. For the last ten years solely in the inshore fisheries in Queens County.

2. In my experience large numbers of American vessels run into this harbor for bait; about two

hundred a year, and have done so for about ten years, each year. They get ice in this harbor in which to preserve this bait. The Americans say it is a great benefit to them to get this bait and ice, and they could not carry on successfully the Bank fishing without it.

3. _____, of _____, McIntosh, skipper, came in here and baited, and in one fortnight got his trip of halibut, landed the same in Boston, and was back here for his second baiting all in one fortnight, and left here last night on another trip, which is his third trip this season.

Sworn to at Moose Harbor, in the County of Queens, this 16th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

S. T. N. SELLON,
Justice of the Peace.

WILLIAM WENTZEL.

No. 150.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Pardon Gardner, of Port Mouton, in the County of Queens, fisherman, make oath, and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for thirty-six years, all in the inshore fisheries, and am well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in Queen's County for the said time.

2. During the past twelve years many American vessels have been here for bait, and they have got ice here in which to preserve it. During the last six years as many as between twenty and thirty vessels ran here for bait yearly. They run here from March till November. The Americans say it is of great benefit to them to be able to procure bait, for without this bait it would be impossible for them to catch fish. These vessels take from eighteen to twenty-five barrels of bait each. The Americans buy this bait in order to save time and expense.

3. The codfish vessels run out, and come in again about every two or three weeks, and this they do about three times until they get a full fare on the banks off this coast from fifteen to twenty miles. The Americans take the codfish principally by trawling.

PARDON GARDNER-

Sworn to at Port Mouton, in the County of Queen's, this 17th day of August, A. D., 1877, before me.

S. T. N. SELLON, J. P.

No. 151.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, George McLeod, of Brooklyn, in the County of Queens, master mariner, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged and connected with the fisheries for the past fifty years, and have a vessel now engaged in fishing on the Labrador coast of seventy-two tons register, and manned by seventeen hands.

2. Eight years ago I was on the Labrador coast with two of my own vessels, each of them was eighty-four tons, and carried seventeen hands each, and in three months we brought home sixteen hundred quintals of codfish. We considered that year a very poor one, before that they had brought home eleven hundred a piece. We caught the most of these fish on the Canadian coast of the Labrador. We took these fish within three miles of the shore. When there I saw several American vessels taking fish and bait, the same as we were. They fished inshore within three miles, in not more than six fathom of water.

3. About twenty years ago, when fishing on the Labrador coast, I saw upwards of forty American vessels of a large class on the Canadian part of Labrador, at "Old Fort Islands" "Dog Islands," "Bon Experiance," "Five League;" at these places the Americans took codfish with hook and line all inshore within a mile of the shore. At Salmon River I have seen five American sail taking codfish by seining on the shore.

4. The Americans get bait and ice in this harbour, and there are five American vessels here to-day for bait and ice, and it has been the practice of the Americans for the past thirty years to come here for bait, and this I know well, for I have often supplied them with bait. I have seen an American vessel six years ago throw her seine in this harbor on a Sunday for mackerel, and every year for the past thirty they set their nets in this harbour for bait when they had the right to do so, and when they had not the right. When they had not the right, the Americans were more sly, and often set their nets about dark, and took them up early in the morning. Since eighteen hundred and seventy-one they have set them more freely, and with less trouble.

5. The Americans must get their bait on this coast, and they can get this bait no where else but on the Nova Scotian and other parts of the Canadian coast. This the Americans themselves say is so, and

without this bait and ice they cannot carry on the bank fishing. They get a supply of ice and bait, and go out and fish, then return for a fresh supply.

6. So many American vessels running here for bait and ice interferes with the supply for our bankers.

7. When the Americans get bait and ice in this harbour, they run out about nine miles, and fish from nine to twenty miles off this harbour, and fish from Seal Island to the western bank, and this year the coast along has been lined with them.

8. They carry on the codfishery on the inside bank, along the coast of Nova Scotia, by trawling, which I consider a most injurious method of taking fish, as the mother fish are destroyed, and unless stopped will ruin the fishery; and unless the Americans got their bait inshore, they could not carry on this trawling on the banks along our shore.

GEORGE McLEOD.

Sworn to at Brooklyn, in the County of Queens, this 16th day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,
S. T. N. SELLO, J. P.

No. 152.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John Lloyd, of Port Mouton, in the County of Queens, master mariner, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries as master for twenty-seven years. I have fished from Cape Sable along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, around Cape Breton, on the eastern side of New Brunswick, around Prince Edward Island, around the Magdalenes and on the Labrador coast, as far as the North side of Gross Water Bay. I have been engaged a trip every year on the banks.

2. In my experience the American always enjoyed the same privileges as I did myself. In the North Bay the Americans always fished inshore for mackerel, and close into the shore, and it would not pay to go into the North Bay to fish unless they could fish inshore.

3. I have been on the southern coast of Nova Scotia, from Halifax to Cape Negro, for fifteen years now past, and have often told the Americans where they could procure ice and bait. In the harbours along from Halifax to Cape Negro, the Americans procure ice and bait wherever they can get it. Without this bait and ice it would be impossible for the Americans to carry on the bank fishing, and this they have often themselves told me. I to-day told an American schooner that he could get bait in this harbor, and he is anchored here now.

JOHN LLOYD.

Sworn to at Port Mouton, in the County of Queens, this 17th day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

S. T. N. SELLO, J. P.

No. 153.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, Robert J. McDonald, of Port Jollie, in the County of Queens, fishermen, maketh oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for twenty years. I have fished along the American coast from near Philadelphia to Gross Water Bay, on the Labrador coast, and am well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in Queens county.

2. Some years, while fishing in the North Bay, I found that Canadian mackerel was better than American, and some years the American was better.

3. Many Canadian vessels get clams in this harbor for bait, from forty to fifty vessels every year. I always found the clams obtained in this harbor as good as American clams. We used the clams here for taking codfish with hand lines, and still use them for this purpose. We also use the clams for taking mackerel. In trawling very few clams are used. These vessels take from thirty to fifty barrels of clams to each vessel.

Sworn to at Port Jollie, in the County of Queens, this 18th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

S. T. N. SELLO,

R. J. McDONALD.

Justice of the Peace.

No. 154.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, William Frehil, of Arichat, in the County of Richmond, and Province of Nova Scotia, Merchant, make oath and say as follows:

1. I was a practical fisherman for about five years, between 1840 and 1850, and since that period I have been in the fish trade, and have dealt in codfish, herring and mackerel.
2. In my opinion the Americans cannot profitably carry on the cod and other deep-sea fisheries without resorting to the shores of Canada or Newfoundland to procure bait. They visit our shores every year for bait, which they purchase from our fishermen. It is a great advantage also to the cod fishermen to be enabled to procure ice on our shores, as without it they could not keep their bait fresh for more than two or three days; and fresh bait is essential to a profitable prosecution of the codfishery.
3. I consider the privilege of fishing in American waters to be of no practical advantage whatever to Canadians, and I am not aware that Canadians have ever availed themselves of such privilege.

WILLIAM FREHIL.

The said William Frehil was sworn to the truth of this affidavit at Arichat, in the County of Richmond, this 31st day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

JOHN FREHILL,
A Justice of the Peace.

No. 155.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Philip Diggdon, of Port Medway, in the County of Queens, and Province of Nova Scotia, but at present of Port Mulgrave, in the County of Guysborough, in said Province, master mariner, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged during the past fifteen years in fishing, principally on the shores of Canada. During ten years of that time I have been fishing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, during two of which years I fished in American vessels. I have fished for both mackerel and cod.
2. I have been fishing for codfish on the north-east coast of Prince Edward Island this season. The mackerel have come in quite plenty on the shores of Prince Edward Island this year, and close inshore, and I saw several American mackerelers catching them with seines. Some of them seemed to be getting good catches.
3. I am very well acquainted with the codfishery, and I am of opinion that the Americans could not carry on the codfishery profitably without resorting to our shores for bait.
4. The system of trawling followed by the American codfishermen is most destructive to the fishery. A great many fish are uselessly destroyed by this system of fishing.
5. The mackerel fishery on our shores is likely to be greatly injured by the practice of seining used by the United States fishermen. Quantities of small mackerel and herring are destroyed in this way.
6. In 1873 I fished for mackerel in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in an American vessel, from the 20th of July to the 20th of October. We got five hundred barrels.

PHILIP DIGGDON.

The said Philip Diggdon was sworn to the truth of this affidavit at Port Mulgrave, in the County of Guysborough, this 30th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

JAMES PURCELL,
A Justice of the Peace.

No. 156.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Michael McDonald, of Whitehaven, in the County of Guysborough, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in fishing for thirty years, and during three of these years I fished with the American fishermen in American vessels.
2. We never carried any fresh bait from the United States, but always bought it in the British Provinces. Even if we took it from the United States it would not be fit to use when we got to the fishing grounds.

3. The American fishermen with whom I was engaged fished for mackerel and cod. Trawls were used for the cod fishing.

4. I have seen as many as three hundred American mackerel fishing vessels in North Bay in the one season. Each vessel would average fourteen men. They would make from two to four trips per season. They were able to make this number of trips by having the privilege of landing their fares of fish and getting refitted. Without this privilege they could not make more than from one to two trips per season; oftener one than two. I have known one vessel to catch two thousand barrels of mackerel per season. It would be considered a very poor season if each vessel did not get 700 or 800 barrels.

5. I never knew of any American vessels landing for the benefit of the inhabitants. They always do it for their own advantage, and not that of the people with whom they deal. They buy and trade because they save time; buy cheaper than they can in their own markets, and be thus able to fish longer and watch the best chances. The American vessels by buying ice in Canada save one-fifth in quantity, and get the ice from one to two dollars cheaper per ton than they can in the United States. The way the one-fifth in quantity is saved is, that if the ice is got in the United States one-fifth of it would melt during the passage down.

6. If the Americans could not land, &c, and enjoy the privileges granted by the Washington Treaty they could not get one-fourth of the fish they now do. In fact I do not think they would fish at all in our waters without these rights.

Sworn to at Whitehaven, in the County of Guysborough, this 24th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me, first having been read and explained.

JAMES A. TORY,
J. P. for the County of Guysborough.

His
MICHAEL + McDONALD,
mark.

No. 157.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, George Murphy, of Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, Fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the occupation of fishing in these parts for fifteen years past, and have taken some trips in American fishing vessels on this coast, and have fished in a fleet of American vessels numbering between 100 and 200 sail, in the Gulf and around the coast of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton; Sydney, Louisburg and the Magdalen Islands, and have had large opportunities of judging of the general character of the fishing business on this coast.

2. I have seen as high as five hundred American vessels in this harbor of Port Hood, and have known as many as seven hundred American vessels fishing in the Gulf in one season. These vessels average about 60 or 70 tons burthen, and have a crew of about fifteen men; but I have known many American vessels of larger tonnage, and sometimes with a crew of twenty men. The average cargo of mackerel was three hundred barrels each vessel, and of codfish generally about five or six hundred quintals. They average about three trips per season. Mackerel brought about \$15.00 per barrel, and codfish from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per quintal. This was when I was working with the American fleet. I cannot speak positively as to numbers for the last year or two.

3. The codfishery about here is about as good as usual now; not aware of any falling off in the quantity or catch. The mackerel fishery has fallen off somewhat during the past two or three years; but this has only been in bite, not in numbers. There are as many mackerel in our waters now as ever there were. The only reason I know of for the falling off in the catch of mackerel lately is the use of the seines by the American fishermen, and the practice of throwing bait overboard, which has made the mackerel less sharp to bite. If our grounds are properly taken care of, I know no reason why our mackerel grounds should not be as productive during the next ten years as ever before.

4. I have seen American fishermen within the last three years catching mackerel in these waters with purse seines, and they would sometimes take as many as one thousand barrels at one haul. They could only save half of these, and had to let the rest go, some being killed in the operation. This kind of fishing is very destructive to our fishing grounds. I never knew a Canadian fisherman to use purse seines, and most of the mackerel caught by them are taken in boats.

5. I have seen American fishermen since the Washington Treaty catching fish in this harbor within one mile of the shore, and less. During the past two or three years the best fishing has been within three miles of the shore, and most fish are taken within that limit. When on board American fishing vessels we took nearly all the cargo of mackerel inshore.

6. The Americans catch bait within three miles of the shore—both herring and squid. All bait is caught inshore. They chiefly buy now, and their reason for this is because it pays them better than catching it. Our fishermen catch bait better than the Americans. To my knowledge, as many as fifty or sixty American vessels have baited here this season, in this vicinity.

7. Our herring fisheries are very valuable to Canadian fishermen. It is the most profitable busi-

ness we have now. I have known our own fishermen to take from 150 to 200 barrels of herring in two days, in one boat. If the American fishermen should take hold of this herring fishing and begin to seine herring, it would be a great injury to us and a loss to our business.

8. The main body of the mackerel feed around our shores in the shoal water. Their food is small fish, which only frequent the inshores. In the autumn season the mackerel particularly keep close inshore.

9. It is a great advantage for American fishermen to be allowed to land and dry their nets and cure their fish; and also to trans-ship their cargoes. They are in the habit of doing this constantly since the Treaty of Washington, and their fishermen always consider it an advantage to them as enabling them to refit for a new voyage without going back to their home ports. They can thus catch more fish and make more trips during the season.

10. The privilege of being able to catch or procure bait in our waters and ports is one of the most important advantages which the Americans derive from the Treaty of Washington. This is so great an advantage that if the Americans were not allowed to procure bait from Canadians, or catch it in Canadian waters, I believe they would have to abandon their codfishing in the Gulf and around our coast altogether. The bait which they use will only last about three weeks when preserved on ice, and it would be impossible for Americans to carry on the codfishing business to any profitable extent if they had to be dependent on American ports and waters for all the bait they used.

11. The American fishermen also find it a great advantage to them to procure ice from our ports. It is in this way they are able to preserve their bait, otherwise they would have to salt it, which is considered a great injury to the bait.

12. I know of no advantage whatever which Canadian fishermen derive from the privilege of fishing in American waters. Americans say that our fishing grounds are their best and most valuable. I never heard of any Canadian vessels going into American waters to fish, and see no likelihood of any doing so.

13. I could not undertake to name any certain money value to each American vessel of the privileges which they now have of fishing and getting supplies in our waters; but I don't see how they could carry on their fisheries in these parts with any kind of profit or success if they did not enjoy them. They would not be able to take as many trips, nor could they get on with the same ease, and their codfishing would be next thing to ruined if they could not get bait here.

14. I believe if there were no American fishermen in our waters, and our own fishermen had exclusive use of British-American waters, that we would be able to catch more fish and derive greater profits, and that our fishing grounds would be better preserved. Canadian fishermen carry on their business with greater care than Americans, and instead of throwing the offal overboard to glut the fish, they carry it to the shore.

GEORGE MURPHY.

Sworn to at Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, this 20th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOHN McKAY, J. P.

No. 158.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, James Phelan, of Arichat, in the County of Richmond, and Province of Nova Scotia, merchant, make oath, and say as follows:

1. During the past twelve years I have been employed or engaged in the fish trade in this place, and I have a good general knowledge of the fisheries on our coasts.

2. I believe that our inshore fisheries within three miles of the shore are of much greater value than those outside that distance, and almost all the herring, and the greater part of the mackerel are caught within that distance.

3. The opportunity of trans-shipping cargoes enjoyed by American fishermen since the Treaty of Washington in 1871 is a great advantage to them, as by means of this they save about fifteen days on every trip to the fishing grounds. When mackerel are plenty, a vessel could get a fare of them in little more than the time it would take to go to her home port in the United States and return. This privilege of course enables them to make more trips, and catch more fish than they otherwise could.

4. I believe that it would be impossible for the American codfishermen to prosecute their calling successfully or profitably without obtaining bait on the shores of Canada or Newfoundland, and to keep this bait fresh, it is necessary for them also to procure ice on our coasts. Every season American codfishing vessels visit this Island (Isle Madame) for bait and ice in great numbers. The Americans purchase most of the bait they obtain from our fishermen, as it is cheaper for them to do so than to consume part of the fishing season in catching it themselves.

5. The privilege of fishing in American waters is of no advantage whatever to Canadians, and no Canadian vessel has to my knowledge availed itself of such privilege.

6. I believe that the practice of trawling followed by the American codfishermen is injurious to the fishery, and that our fishermen could carry on the fishery around our coast more successfully if the Americans were excluded from our waters.

JAMES PHELAN.

The said James Phelan was sworn to the truth of this affidavit at Arichat, in the County of Richmond, on the 3rd day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

E. P. FLYNN,
A Justice of the Peace.

No. 159.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, H. Robertson, of Griffin's Cove, County of Gaspe, Province of Quebec, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

Am acquainted with all the fisheries carried on, on the coast of Gaspe for 30 years past.

1. During the Reciprocity Treaty, and before, that is from 1845 to 1866, the Americans have made an extensive fishery of mackerel at Griffins and neighboring coves. About 100 American vessels have visited our shores for mackerel yearly. I have seen the American fishermen from the shore fishing. I have been on board their vessels whilst they were catching mackerel with handlines, and always inshore.

2. These vessels average 65 tons, having about 15 men for a crew, and they have always made good voyages, getting all their load inshore, amounting to 400 barrels.

3. The Americans catch mackerel with hand-lines and seines, principally with the former.

4. The Americans have always fished for mackerel inshore on this coast, and very close the shore.

5. The inshore fishery is of much greater value than the outside. All the fish are taken inshore here.

6. The Americans have often come amongst our boats whilst we were fishing for mackerel, and by throwing bait draw the fish outside, thereby causing us great damage. They have done that to me nearly every year during the period mentioned above. They often threatened to stone us if we went near their vessels to fish.

7. Since 1871 the codfish have increased considerably, owing to the retirement of Americans from our waters.

8. The principal food of mackerel is lance and sea fleas. This is what keeps the mackerel inshore on our coast.

9. Fishing by Americans in our waters hinder the fishing operations of our Canadian fishermen to a great extent, because we cannot compete with them.

A. D. JOHNSTONE, (Witness)

HILAIRE ^{his} X ROBERTSON.
mark.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Griffin's Cove, County of Gaspe, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 28th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,
Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 160.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Donald West, of Grand Greve, County of Gaspe, Province of Quebec, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

Am acquainted with all the fisheries on the coasts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, having practiced them for forty years.

1. In the Bay of Gaspe and neighboring shores mackerel fishing by the Americans has been practiced on an extensive scale, especially during the period extending from 1845 to 1866.

2. During the period just mentioned over 100 American schooners have visited the Bay of Gaspe yearly for mackerel fishing. The mackerel at that time were very abundant in our waters, and each of the vessels that have been here during that time for mackerel fishing have made good voyages yearly. I have seen them loading, and have heard the Americans say so themselves, and I have heard them also say that most of these schooners were making two trips yearly of 400 barrels of mackerel. These schooners were about 60 tons each on an average, with a crew of 16 men. I have seen them fishing and catching mackerel. I have seen them also at Cape Rozier fishing mackerel inshore and very near the rocks. I have seen them also seining many times in the Bay of Gaspe, at Sandy Beach. The seines

were drawn from the shore, in fact all the mackerel that have been caught by the American schooners that I have seen have been taken inshore.

3. The codfishery is about the same now as it was formerly.
4. The mackerel are taken by means of hand lines and seines by the Americans. I have seen them fishing with hand lines inshore, and I have seen them seining with hauling-seines from the shore, and with purse-seines in deep water, but inside three miles.
5. The practice of throwing fish offal overboard by the Americans is a great injury to the fisheries, because it poisons the water, drives away the large fish and kills the eggs.
6. The inshore fishery is of much greater value than the outside. All the fish are caught inshore.
7. It is the common practice of the Americans to come in among the boats and by throwing bait entice the mackerel away with them, so that we could not take mackerel without going alongside of their vessels, which they did not like at all.
8. Seining, as practiced by the Americans, is injurious to the fisheries, because it takes large and small fish, all the small fish are thrown away and left to perish on the strand.
9. During the last years of the Reciprocity Treaty nearly all the Americans were supplied with both the purse and hauling seines.
10. The fisheries have increased greatly since 1871, that is the codfishery, and up to date the mackerel fishing is better than last year, and the increase in the codfishery is due, in my opinion, to the fact that the Americans have retired.
11. Mackerel feed inshore on lance, shrimp, and other small fish.
12. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to trans-ship cargoes, because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds and to double their fares.
13. The Americans could not profitably carry on the cod and halibut fisheries if they were not allowed to come in our inshores either to catch or buy bait.
14. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes to the Americans is worth a load, and the privilege of getting bait in our inshores for their cod and halibut fishery is worth these fisheries.
15. Fishing by Americans in our waters hinders the fishing operations of our fishermen to a great extent, because we cannot compete with them, and they take all our fish.

DONALD WEST.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief at Grand Greve, County of Gaspe, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 28th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 161.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Michael McInnis, of Port Daniel, County of Bonaventure, Province of Quebec, farmer and fisherman, and merchant, make oath and say as follows:

1. Am acquainted with all the fisheries from Point Macquereau to Paspébiac, I have followed these fisheries for 15 years.
2. Am 31 years of age, and since I can remember, the mackerel fishing by Americans has been carried on, on an extensive scale on this shore.
3. To the best of my knowledge, 100 schooners have visited these shores, (I always speak of between Point Macquereau and Paspébiac), yearly. The average tonnage of these vessels is about 70 tons, each vessel having from 10 to 15 men for a crew. I am acquainted with the mackerel fishery only.
4. I don't remember of any of these vessels ever missing their voyage.
5. I have been many times on board of American fishing vessels fishing on this shore, and have heard them say many times that most of the schooners have made two trips in a season.
6. The herring fishery is the same as it has been for the past 15 years, and codfish also.
7. Mackerel are taken by the Americans with hand-lines and seines.
8. The practice of throwing fish offals is injurious to the fisheries, because it gluts the large fish, and kills the small ones.
9. Every year since I can remember, till 1870, I have seen the Americans fishing inshore often at our net moorings, and catching mackerel as hard as they could with hand-lines.
10. The inshore fishery is of much greater value than the outside.
11. All the bait, herring, smelt, caplin, and lance are caught inshore. Two-thirds of the codfish, and two-thirds of the mackerel have been caught inshore.
12. I have seen the Americans many times come in among our boats, and entice the mackerel away by throwing bait. They have done the same to me many times, thereby causing me great damage, because there were no more fish left to get. They do this whenever they get the chance.
13. I have seen the Americans from my boat, and from the shore many times going around looking for a place to throw their seines.

14. I have seen many times the American trawlers come in Port Daniel for bait.
15. About 20 different trawlers come here every season for their bait. I heard the Americans say often that they require 60 bbls of bait (herring) to make their voyage.
16. The fishery has not diminished since 1871.
17. The Americans take herring here for bait only.
18. On questioning the Americans on board their own vessels, they frequently told me that our mackerel was of greater value than their own.
19. Mackerel breed and feed inshore. Our inshores are one of their breeding grounds.
20. I have seen the Americans frequently ever since I can remember, land to dry and repair their nets, and it is a great advantage to them.
21. I consider it a great advantage to Americans to be able to trans-ship their cargoes, because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds, and to make an extra voyage.
22. It is also a great advantage to them to be able to procure bait in our inshores.
23. The Americans could not carry on the cod and halibut fisheries without the privilege of resorting to our inshores to procure bait.
24. It is a great advantage to the American fishermen to be able to land to procure ice and snow to preserve their bait.
25. It is of no advantage to us to be able to fish in American waters. I never knew of any of our vessels ever going there to fish.
26. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes is of great advantage to the Americans, because they can double their fares; in fact it is worth a load to them. And the privilege to trawlers to get bait in our inshores is worth their fisheries.
27. The privilege granted to Americans to fish in our waters injures us to a great extent by bringing us in competition with men who are a great deal better equipped to take fish than we are, and because this extra number of men destroys fish. I have often heard the Americans say that they could not carry on the fisheries in our waters without catching bait here.

MICHAEL McINNIS.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Port Daniel, in the County of Bonaventure, Province of Quebec, this the 23d day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 162.

NEWFOUNDLAND, TO WIT:

The Honorable James Johnstone Rogerson, of Saint John's, Receiver-General and Collector of the Customs for the Island of Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith that the annexed statement, marked A, is a correct and true statement of the matter and things to which it refers, the same having been compiled from the Customs Returns and other authentic records of the said Island of Newfoundland.

JAMES J. ROGERSON,

Receiver General and Customs Collector.

Sworn before me, at Saint John's aforesaid, this eighth day of June, A. D., 1877,

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

STATEMENT A. (Referred to in annexed affidavit.)

STATEMENT of the Quantities and Values of the undermentioned articles, the Produce of the Fisheries, Exported from the Colony of Newfoundland to the United States of America, during the three years ending 31st December, 1876, showing the average Quantities and Values Exported during that period, and the Rates and Amounts of Duties by the United States Tariff, and which are now exempt from the Duties by the Washington Treaty.

ARTICLES EXPORTED.	1874.		1875.		1876.		Average of three years.		Rate of Duty by United States Tariff.	Amount of Duties.
	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.		
Dry Codfish..... cwt.	18,004	\$ 85,489 00	10,008	\$ 50,177 00	4,905	\$ 27,958 00	1,228,900 lbs.	\$ 54,541 00	50 cts. per 100 lbs.	6,144 50
Cured do. "	300	510 00	.....	.....	225	450 00	350 bbls.	320 00	\$1.50 per bbl.	525 00
Salmon..... tierces.	1,643	24,618 00	1,931	27,034 00	1,062	16,992 00	2,318 bbls.	22,881 00	\$3 per tierce.	6,954 00
Herring, Pickled..... "	18,401	55,203 00	30,758	92,274 00	28,875	96,647 00	26,011 bbls.	81,374 00	\$1 per bbl.	26,011 00
Tongues, Sounds..... "	54	108 00	82	164 00	40	80 00	6,570 lbs.	117 00	50 cts. per 100 lbs.	32 85
Hallbut..... cwt.	822	1,644 00	147	294 00	190	380 00	43,269 lbs.	772 00	50 cts. per 100 lbs.	216 34
Trout bbls.	1,478	11,824 00	1,353	8,118 00	435	3,332 00	1,089 bbls.	7,758 00	\$1.50 per bbl.	1,633 50
Cod Roes..... "	.....	.....	76	229 00	73	292 00	9,933 lbs.	174 00	50 cts. per 100 lbs.	49 66
Cod Oil..... tons.	477	76,400 00	36	6,292 00	24	3,840 00	179 tons.	28,844 00	20 p. c. on value.	5,768 80
Refined Cod Liver Oil .. "	83	19,123 00	15	3,264 00	18	4,608 00	39	8,998 00	40 p. c. on value.	3,599 20
Blubber..... tons.	1	16 00	4	68 00	.....	.....	1 2/3	28 00	20 p. c. on value.	5 60
										50,940 45

No. 163.

Isaac Mercer, aged 31 years, residing at Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland, Fisherman, maketh oath and saith:

I am acquainted with the fisheries of this country, by having followed the same for eighteen years. I saw three United States fishing schooners in Spaniards Bay and two in this harbor, last year. I heard of a large number of these vessels being in this bay last year, but I only saw five as above. They came to the bay for fresh bait; the schooners seen by me came for fresh squids, and, as I believe, the other United States vessels that visited this neighborhood last year, all came for fresh bait. They came in from the banks, where they had been fishing, for fresh bait. They purchased bait from our people and jigged squids jointly with our people to supply their wants. Newfoundland fishermen catch codfish generally within a mile or two of the shore. The Newfoundland fishery (cod) is an inshore fishery, as is the bait fishery, including caplin, herrings and squids. I never knew of a Newfoundland vessel fishing on any of the shores or coasts of the United States of America.

I believe the supply of bait to United States fishermen will act injuriously upon the supply for local fishermen, and that it will certainly decrease the supply for the latter.

I believe that the operations of United States fishermen on the banks off our coast, well supplied with fresh bait, tends to reduce the catch of codfish by local fishermen, and that the short catch last year was owing to United States fishermen as aforesaid. The catch of local fishermen in this neighborhood last year was not over one-half what it used to be on the average before 1874.

ISAAC MERCER.

Sworn before at Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland, this 26th April, 1877,

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 164.

Samuel Fiander, of Coomb's Cove, in Fortune Bay, maketh oath and saith: Is 44 years of age, and a fisherman. I have become acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland from being engaged in their prosecution since I was twelve years of age.

I have observed a large number of American fishermen in Fortune Bay during the present year, about fifty vessels. The "Grace L. Fears", commanded by a Captain McDonald, was one of such vessels; the "Edmund Parsons", commanded by Captain Saunders, was another of such vessels, both hailing from Gloucester. I did not particularly remark the names of the other vessels referred to. The two vessels named were about 70 tons each, and the others first named were from about 70 to about 100 tons. These vessels came to buy bait from British fishermen, and they did purchase bait as aforesaid.

I have sold bait to American fishing vessels. I have baited eight such vessels this present year—about fifty barrels each vessel—the rate paid for baiting being from twenty to thirty dollars for each vessel.

The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery. The caplin and herrings used for bait are all taken inshore. Squids occasionally are taken a mile from the coasts, but generally they are taken a few hundred yards from the shore.

I do not know of any Newfoundland fishing vessel taking fish or trying to take fish on any of the coasts of the United States of America. About twenty-five sail of American vessels have frequented Fortune Bay for the purchase of frozen herrings; they do not catch for themselves, finding it cheaper to buy from Newfoundland fishermen,

Formerly American fishermen used to catch large quantities of halibut about Pass Island in this Bay. Captain McDonald got a load there. A British war ship the "Raccoon" stopped their fishing for halibut, and they have not since renewed it. American fishermen frequent this neighbourhood regularly in passing to and fro. Newfoundland fishermen did catch a large quantity of halibut about Pass Island.

I am aware that the supply of bait to American fishermen acts injuriously upon Newfoundland by attracting fish outside and preventing it coming in towards the shore.

I think the short catch of fish on the South-West Coast of Newfoundland is caused by the Americans fishing on the outer banks.

This neighbourhood offers great facilities for the preservation of ice, which I am aware has been largely supplied to American fishermen for the preservation of bait purchased from Newfoundland fishermen as aforesaid.

his
SAMUEL X FIANDER.
mark.

Sworn before me, at Harbor Breton, this 3d day Nov., 1876.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 165.

George Bishop, aged 50 years, trader, residing at Burin, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—
I have become acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by over thirty years' experience.

I have observed United States fishing vessels in this neighborhood. The past season I have observed about twenty of these vessels. I can only name a few:—"Gleaner," Capt. Lyons.

These vessels came to this neighborhood to purchase fresh bait and ice, which they procured by purchasing from our people. The Captain of the "Gleaner" purchased bait to the value of \$20.

Newfoundland fishermen catch fish, generally, within two miles of the shore, there being exceptional instances only when codfish is taken from six to nine miles off the coasts.

The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery. The caplin, herring, and squid fisheries used for bait are altogether inshore fisheries.

I never heard of a Newfoundland fishing vessel having prosecuted any fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

American fishermen have not, to my knowledge, sold any small fish or other fishery produce in this neighbourhood. American vessels have fished for codfish on our grounds off Cape St. Mary's. American masters partially refit their vessels occasionally at this port, but have not here trans-shipped their cargoes.

I undoubtedly think that the supply of bait to United States fishermen decreases the supply of bait to our local fishermen. They employ our people to *sweep* the coves, who have done so leaving no bait after them.

I do think that the presence of the large number of United States vessels fishing with fresh bait on the Banks off our coasts, greatly interferes with and reduces the local catch of codfish. I am of opinion that the scarcity of codfish the past Summer along our south and west coasts is attributable to the presence of the French and of the Americans fishing on the outer Banks; but chiefly to the United States fishermen, who are well supplied with fresh bait, whereas French fishermen principally use salted bait.

The catch of codfish the last season by fishermen of this neighbourhood will only come to twenty quintals per man; in former years the average was from eighty to ninety quintals per man.

The number of craft of this harbor engaged each year in supplying bait to the French is about thirty, and these vessels take to St. Peters from this p. an. 1,000 hds. caplin valued 10,000 frs., and from Fortune Bay. 15,000 brls. herrings valued 40,000 frs., of the latter about seven thousand brls. would be thrown away, being unsaleable at St. Pierre.

There is one ice house at this harbor where ice is preserved for sale to United States fishermen, principally for the preservation of fresh bait. The quantity of ice sold to United States fishermen at this harbor per last Summers sales is ——— tons.

GEORGE BISHOP.

Sworn, before me, at Burin, this sixth day of Dec., A. D. 1876.

I. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 166.

George Ambrose Hickman, aged 33 years, master mariner and planter, residing at Grand Bank, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:

I have become acquainted with the Newfoundland fisheries by following the same for twenty years.

I have observed a large number of United States fishing vessels in this neighborhood from time to time, this summer there have been over three hundred such vessels in this bay. These vessels came to purchase bait, and they did so purchase fresh herrings for bait.

I have sold fresh bait to United States fishing vessels; the number baited by me has been from twelve to fifteen vessels. Each vessel took from forty to sixty barrels herrings, the price paid for such herrings at and in the neighborhood of Grand Bank, has been about sixty cents per barrel. I have seen United States vessels fishing off Pass Island, inside of the headlands; this I have seen frequently, and at such times they always fished within three miles of the headland, from Cape Lahuné to Point May.

Newfoundland fishermen catch codfish within three miles of the shore, except in exceptional instances, when they go off certain special seasons to six to nine miles off the coasts, but generally the fishing is prosecuted close along shore. The caplin, herring and squid fisheries, used for bait, are taken near the shore, and are always inshore fisheries, never being taken at a greater distance than half a mile from the coasts. I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel prosecuting any fishing voyage on the coasts of the United States of America. I have no knowledge of United States fishermen selling codfish or other fishery produce in this neighborhood. From thirty to forty American vessels frequent Fortune Bay in winter for herrings for freezing, which they always purchase from Newfoundland fishermen. Their average cargo of such herrings has been about six hundred barrels.

I know of United States vessels having trans-shipped cargo in this bay from one vessel to another, so as to make up a load for one vessel despatched to the United States. The practice in force of seining herrings for bait for United States vessels decreases the supply of bait to local fishermen. Instances are

known of heaps of herrings that have perished from close "barring," measuring fifteen feet deep; this has been ascertained by measuring with poles.

The presence of the large number of United States vessels fishing on the Banks off our coasts using fresh bait, greatly reduces the catch of our local fishermen, and I can attribute the short catch of codfish the past summer to no other cause. Codfish will not pass fresh bait, and we all know that the Banks off these coasts are well *manned* by American fishermen. The withdrawal of a large number of American vessels from the *Banks* this fall, is perceptible by an increased catch of fish along our coasts on the occasion of such withdrawal. About five thousand barrels herrings averaging forty thousand francs, and ten thousand lbs. caplin averaging sixty thousand francs, will be a fair estimate of the bait sold at St. Pierre annually by fishermen belonging to Grand Bank; in addition to which over ten thousand barrels herrings are annually thrown away, being unsaleable.

There is an ice house at Grand Bank where ice is kept for sale to United States vessels for the preservation of fresh bait, which was used for that purpose last summer.

Sworn before me at Grand Bank, this 25th day of Nov., 1876.

GEORGE A. HICKMAN.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 167.

John Lake, Senr., aged 60 years, planter, residing at Fortune, Newfoundland, maketh oath, and saith that:

I am acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland, by following the same since I was fourteen years of age. I have seen a large number of United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood, in June and July from six to fourteen daily passed up the bay. These vessels came to purchase fresh bait, which they procured from our fishermen, the chief supply being from fishermen residing at Belloram, St. Jacques, Bay deNorth, in Fortune Bay.

United States fishing vessels two years ago fished about Brunette; two years ago they were fishing between Danjy Cove and Green Island, when one of them nearly lost their dory by a heavy sea running for shore.

Before ruined by American fishermen, our people used to catch large quantities of halibut off Pass Island, now nothing can be done in this fishery.

Newfoundland fishermen, as a rule, catch their fish within two miles of the shore. The herring, caplin, and squid fisheries used for bait in Newfoundland inshore fisheries, generally taken along our coves and harbours, squid sometimes at the Capes. I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel having engaged on a fishing voyage on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

American fishermen have not sold any small fish in this immediate neighborhood; they have done so at Belloram and St. Jacques, in Fortune Bay, and elsewhere, but I cannot give particulars.

About three hundred sail of United States fishing vessels frequented this Bay this spring and summer for fresh bait.

From thirty to sixty United States vessels frequent Fortune Bay in winter for the purchase of fresh herrings which they freeze and take on to Cape Ann, and Boston and elsewhere in United States; the price obtained for these frozen herrings in the markets of the United States varies from one to fifteen dollars. The herrings taken in winter by these American vessels are purchased from our people, the price paid being one dollar nominally, but the measure exacted reduces the price to from sixty to seventy-five cents per barrel. In June and July the seining of large quantities of herrings shortens the supply of bait to local fishermen. In June I knew of twenty seines barring herrings for United States fishermen; some of which seines enclosed two thousand barrels herrings, kept enclosed till United States vessels came along to purchase, and sometimes thus retained for two months, at the end of which time the seines are taken up and the herrings alive set free; in all such cases there is a large destruction of herrings, and a ruinous interference with the bait supply of our local fishermen.

I am of decided opinion that the presence of the large number of United States vessels fishing on the Banks off our coasts using fresh bait, greatly reduces the catch of codfish by our local fishermen, and that the short catch the past season along our south-west coasts is owing to the operations of United States fishermen on the outer banks. Previous to the last two years the fishermen of this harbor average from eighty quintals upwards; the past season the average will not exceed eighteen quintals, but will be nearer fifteen quintals per man. The quantity of bait annually sent to St. Pierre from Fortune will be about, I calculate to be:

5,000 bbls herrings	valued at	40,000 francs.
10,000 " caplin	"	60,000 "

About ten thousand barrels herring are annually thrown away, being unsaleable at St. Pierre. There are no ice houses at Fortune harbour wherein ice is preserved.

JOHN LAKE, Sn.

Sworn before me at Fortune, N. F., this 27th Nov., 1876.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 168.

George Simms, aged 49 years, Stipendiary Magistrate and Preventive Officer, residing at Grand Bank, N. F., maketh oath and saith that :—

I have had thirty years experience of the fisheries of Newfoundland, having at 19 years of age carried on the fishery, and subsequently being with scarcely any intermission connected therewith. I have observed great numbers of United States fishing vessels in this neighborhood, especially during the past season. The number would be from two to three hundred at different times frequenting Fortune Bay for the supply of fresh bait for the cod-fishery, chiefly on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. I can only enumerate a few of such vessels, as they keep away from Customs officers, to evade the local laws of the country, particularly those referring to light dues, which all Newfoundland vessels have to pay. The six United States fishing vessels that paid light dues at my office the past two years, are the following :

	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Master.</i>	<i>Where belonging.</i>
Ed. Driver,	77.	Francis Wheeler,	Gloucester.
Lizzie B. Knight,	67.	Wm. E. Morrissey,	do.
Howard,	74.	Collins,	do.
Frank A. Williams,	66.	Hugh H. Lyons,	do.
Proctor Brothers,	77.	Edw. Trevey,	do.
Elisha Crowell,	67.	Wm. N. Wills,	do.

These vessels purchase fresh bait from our fishermen in Fortune Bay. Newfoundland fishermen catch codfish from half a mile to four miles from the shore, but principally within three miles along shore. The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery:

The caplin, herring and squid fisheries for bait are shoal water fisheries, and caplin and herrings never taken more than three miles from the shore, and squids rarely taken that distance off.

I know of no Newfoundland vessel ever having prosecuted the fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

From thirty to fifty American vessels frequent Fortune Bay in winter for the purchase of fresh herrings to be frozen. They do not catch for themselves but purchase from our fishermen. The average quantity taken by them yearly has been six hundred barrels per vessel. Sometimes a few of these vessels take salted herrings, when they take a much larger quantity.

I have seen United States fishing vessels and crews catching codfish on the Newfoundland inshore fishing grounds, but cannot state the number, having made no records.

I am not aware whether United States vessels refit in this Bay, none of them having trans-shipped cargo in any Newfoundland port.

I consider the supply of fresh bait to United States fishermen to be injurious to our local fishermen.

I consider that the presence of the large number of United States fishermen fishing on the banks off our coast with fresh bait injures the local catch by reducing it greatly.

I think the scarcity of fish along our south west coast this summer has been caused by the increased number of American fishermen on the Banks off our coasts.

United States vessels frequently foul nets along the coast, tearing them away and frequently carrying such nets out to sea, to the great loss of Newfoundland fishermen. In one instance last spring an American vessel thus destroyed five herring nets, without compensation to their owners, vessel being unknown. I have reason to know that very considerable damage is done in this way by United States fishing vessels to the fishermen of Newfoundland, and especially to those of this Bay.

GEORGE SIMMS,

J. P., Stipendiary Magistrate, Grand Bank.

Sworn before me at Grand Bank, N. F., this 24th Nov., 1876.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 169.

Henry T. Holman, aged 40 years, residing at Harbor Breton, manager of the trading business there, carried on under the name of Newman & Co., maketh oath and saith :—

I have had twenty-four years experience of the fisheries of Newfoundland. I have observed several American fishing vessels in this Harbor every summer, and know of a large number (over fifty) that frequent Fortune Bay for herring bait, each vessel coming to the land once a fortnight for fresh bait, which they purchase principally from seine owners. The captain and crews of American vessels, with the aid of the owner of the seine, do all the work of shooting and emptying such seines.

I have known American vessels fishing about three or four miles off Pass Island particularly about May, when they fished for halibut, catching a quantity of codfish also, all on buttows. The quantity and

value, as nearly as I could learn, I have furnished to Mr. Hayward, of H. M. Customs, St. John's. United States fishing vessels do not now fish within three miles of our shores, as they find fish more plentiful further off. When on the Banks, with fresh bait, they make good catches. Newfoundland fishermen catch fish from inshore to three miles off—exceptionally, they go to seven and nine miles off. Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery. Caplin and herrings used for bait are inshore fisheries—squids are sometimes taken farther off. I never heard of caplin or herrings being taken outside three miles of our shores. I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel prosecuting a fishing voyage on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

Some thirty or forty American vessels frequent Fortune Bay in winter for the purchase of fresh herrings, which they freeze before shipping. In some instances, American vessels ship salted herrings.

Frozen cargoes consist of from six to eight hundred barrels per vessel, and salt from twelve to twenty hundred barrels.

I do not know of Americans now fishing for turbot in these waters.

American vessels purchase ice in this neighborhood for the preservation of fresh bait, for which payment is made in small codfish and in cash. I only know of American vessels having transhipped cargo in this Bay from one American vessel to another American vessel. I think the supply of fresh herrings in summer to United States fishermen decreases the supply to our local fishermen. This is particularly the case when large quantities are "barred" in seines, which prevents herrings playing about the adjacent coves and harbors, preventing herrings netting, as they otherwise would do.

I am of opinion that the presence of the large number of United States fishing vessels on the Banks off our coasts using fresh bait has the effect of reducing the catch by our local fishermen, and is acting ruinously upon our codfishery.

I am also of opinion that the scarcity of codfish this year along our south west coast has been caused by the Americans fishing on the outer Banks, as aforesaid.

By a careful comparison of the fish per man previous to and since 1874, I find, by reference to the books of the firm under my management, that whereas before 1874 the catch per man was equal to an average of seventy-nine quintals per man, since 1874 it has decreased to an average of thirty four quintals per man.

The difference is equal to forty-five quintals or two hundred and twenty-five dollars for each fisherman in the Bay, there being about fifteen hundred fishermen in the district of Fortune Bay and Grand Banks.

The estimate of fresh herrings sold to the French at St. Peter's in April, each year, amounts to fifty thousand barrels, the price paid being from one to sixteen francs, an average of about ten francs per barrel would be fair. In some years twice the quantity of herrings sold are destroyed, being thrown away as useless.

HENRY T. HOLMAN,

Sworn before me at Harbor Breton, this fifteenth day of Nov., 1876.

J. O. FRASER,

Commissioner of Affidavits.

No. 170.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John Legresly, of Point St. Peter, make oath and say as follows;—

1. I am 42 years of age and have been 26 years on this coast. I have carried on the fishing business for myself for the past 11 years, before that time I was in the employ of the late firm of Abraham Degruchy for five years, and for ten years a partner in the fishing firm of Alexander and Legresly. I am thoroughly acquainted with all that relates to the fish of this coast, and the fishing and curing, as well as the nature of the markets for our fish.

2. I employ 14 boats of my own and I supply from 15 to 20 other boats whose fish I receive. The price obtained in the foreign markets to which our fish is exported varies from \$4.00 to \$8.00 per quintal. The fish obtains a better price because it is hard cured, and thus is fit for warm climates, fish salted in bulk and kept in salt or pickle for any length of time could never be dried to stand in warm climates. The longest time our fish is allowed to remain under salt is three to four days.

3. I have never shipped any fish to the United States markets, my fish obtains a better price elsewhere.

4. The right of fishing on the American coast is of no value to us, none of our fishermen have ever gone there to fish.

5. The free market of our fish in the United States is of no use to the merchants and fishermen of this coast.

6. During the years of the Reciprocity Treaty about 150 vessels came annually to Gaspe Bay, Meal Bay, and the neighborhood, where they fished for mackerel, during the years when the cutters were on the coast to prevent the Americans from fishing in the inshore waters a few American vessels did still fish, managing to dodge the cutters. Since the Treaty of Washington the number has not been so great as during the Reciprocity Treaty. Mackerel are plentiful on the coast this season.

7. The privilege of fishing in our waters, and landing to get bait, of transshipping cargoes, and landing to dry nets and cure fish is certainly a very great one to give to any foreigner. I do not believe that a bank fisherman can depend on the supply of fish taken for bait on the Banks by drifting or otherwise, and that to make a successful voyage they must obtain fresh bait from the inshores. Salt bait is not equal to fresh bait.

8. I consider in the interest of our population, which is fast increasing, that our fisheries should be kept exclusively to ourselves, nor should foreigners be allowed to get fresh bait in our inshores, nor dry their nets, nor cure their fish on our shores. These are privileges which ought not to be granted to strangers, and if this continues many of our people will be driven to seek employment elsewhere.

I hereby swear that the above statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct

JOHN LEGRESLEY.

The said John Legresley has sworn to the truth of the above statement and affidavit at Point St. Peter, in the County of Gaspé and Province of Quebec, this thirteenth day of August, A. D., 1877.

Before me,

P. FORTIN,
J. P.

No. 171.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John B. Fauvel, of Point St. Peter, in the County of Gaspé and Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am a merchant in fish, of the firm of John Fauvel, of Jersey, in the Channel Islands. I am the manager of the firm in this County. I have lived on the coast for 21 years, all of which time I was engaged in the fish business on this coast. We have our principal establishment at Point St. Peter. We have others at Mal Bay and Long Point on the north shore of the St. Lawrence.

2. We employ altogether 36 boats of our own. These boats fish on shares. We also employ about 20 boats belonging to fishermen, these men sell their fish to us. We also purchase fish and fish oils generally, but our principal business is the codfishery. Our codfish is specially prepared for warm climates. Our principal markets being those of Brazil, the West Indies, Spain, Portugal and the Mediterranean ports. The special property of our fish, which enables it to command a higher price is that it is so hard and thoroughly dried. Our fish cannot be allowed to remain more than 3 days under salt before being dried. Fish salted in bulk on board of vessels is too long under salt, and cannot be dried in the manner in which we dry our fish. Fish so long under salt as it must be when salted on board a schooner becomes salt burnt, and never will dry thoroughly. Another peculiarity of our fish is that it is dry salted and not pickled. This peculiar preparation enables us to command a higher price for our fish on account of its keeping qualities in warm climates. The name of Gaspé fish in foreign markets is always considered better than any other.

3. We ship about from 3000 to 3500 quintals of dried codfish besides other fish and oils. This fish commands from \$4.50 to \$8.00 per quintal. We ship this fish in our own and other bottoms.

4. We have never shipped any fish to the United States markets, as our fish gets a better market elsewhere.

5. The right of fishing on the American coast is not of any value to us. I never knew of anyone having gone there to fish from this coast.

6. The privilege granted to the Americans of fishing in our inshore waters is a very serious injury to us, our population is already large enough to fish our own waters, and must suffer severely by American competition. I do not hesitate to say that our fisheries ought to be kept exclusively to ourselves.

7. The principal bait-fish on this coast are mackerel, herring, launce, squid, clams, capelin, etc., all of which are taken close in shore. I consider that the privilege granted to the Americans of landing to take bait is a very valuable one, as no vessel bank fishing can depend on taking a supply of bait on the Banks, and must land to obtain bait. Salt bait is by no means equal to fresh bait.

8. The privilege enjoyed by the Americans under the Treaty of Washington of entering our ports to trans-ship cargo is also a very valuable one to them.

I hereby swear that to the best of my knowledge and belief the above statement is correct.

JOHN B. FAUVEL.

The said John B. Fauvel has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit at Point St. Peter, in the County of Gaspé and Province of Quebec this Thirteenth day of August, A. D., 1877.

Before me,

P. FORTIN,
J. P.

No. 172.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:—

I, John Legros, of Point St. Peter, in the County of Gaspé, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am a fish merchant. I am a partner in the firm of James Alexander, of Point St. Peter, for the past 11 years, before that time I was for 12 years manager for the firm of Fruing & Co., of Jersey, Channel Islands, who are fish merchants on this coast. I am thoroughly acquainted with all that relates to the taking and curing of fish and the fish trade generally.

2. Our principal establishment is at St. Peter's Point, we have also one at Sheldrake on the North Shore. We employ 24 boats of our own and supply about 20 more belonging to fishermen who give us their fish, each boat is manned by two men, and we have employed on shore about one man and a half to a boat. We deal in other fish and fish oils, but our principal business is in codfish.

3. Our Gaspé fish has better keeping qualities in warm climates, and this fact enables it to command a higher price in foreign markets, because it is better dried. It is dry salted and not pickled. It remains but 3 or four days in salt before it is exposed to the sun to be dried.

4. Our fish commands from \$4.00 to \$8.00 per quintal in the foreign markets to which we export it.

5. The privilege of fishing on the American coast is of no use to us, no one has ever gone from here to fish there.

6. The American free market for our codfish and other fish is of no value to us, as from the reason I have stated before our fish gets a better price in the markets for which it is specially prepared.

7. I certainly consider the permission granted to the Americans of fishing in our inshores, and of taking bait there, a very valuable one, the leave to tranship cargoes, land and dry nets, curing and packing fish &c., is also a very valuable privilege.

8. I consider it very important that we should have our fisheries exclusively to ourselves, and not be subjected to competition by Americans. The population of our coast is fast increasing, and many will have to go somewhere else if strangers are allowed to come and take the fish from their very doors.

9. I consider it impossible for a vessel to make a good fishery, bank fishing, without obtaining fresh bait from shore, as the supply of bait on the banks is very uncertain and cannot be depended upon. Salted bait is by no means equal to fresh bait.

10. During the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty I saw many American schooners fishing for mackerel in our inshore waters. I have seen as many as 30 at one time fishing in Griffin's Cove. I estimate the annual number of American schooners fishing for mackerel from Gaspé Bay to Fox River at about from 120 to 150. Since the Treaty of Washington American vessels have fished for mackerel in our inshores, but not in such numbers. Mackerel are generally plentiful on this coast, the number has increased of late years and this year they are quite plentiful.

11. The Americans used during the Reciprocity Treaty to land, especially when I was at Griffin's Cove, and commit depredations, and do damage to property, and threaten and annoy the people. I am also aware that they used to sell and barter goods that had not been entered at the Custom House. The vessels used to anchor among the moorings and nets and interfere seriously with our own fishermen by obstructing them.

I hereby swear that the above affidavit is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

JOHN LEGROS.

The said John Legros has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit at Point St. Peters, this thirteenth day of August, A. D., 1877.

Before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 173.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Adolphus E. Collas, of Point St. Peter, in the County of Gaspé, in the Province of Québec, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I was born in Jersey. I am 31 years of age, and have been sixteen years on the coast here, and all that time in the employment of Messrs. J. & E. Collas, fish merchants, carrying on the fishery on the north and south shores of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence. I am their general agent.

2. We have fishing establishments at the following places: Point St. Peters (headquarters), Malbay, Gaspé Basin, Moisie, Sheldrake, St. John, these three last places on the North Shore, and English Bay at the west point of Anticosti.

3. We own ourselves 120 fishing boats, and employ besides 230 boats, owned by fishermen of the coast. They are supplied by us and give us their fish. These boats are engaged solely in the codfishery. I may state that the cod is our principal business, although we deal in other fish and fish oil. Our codfish is all dried and exported to foreign countries in our own vessels. This fish is specially prepared for

exportation to the West Indies, Brazil, Portugal, Spain, and Italy. It is superior to any other codfish, prepared no matter where; its superiority lies in its being perfectly dried, so that it will keep for a length of time in hot climates when other fish will spoil. We own six seagoing vessels engaged in this foreign trade, and two coasters. We also at times charter other vessels.

4. We ship on an average from fifteen to twenty thousand (20,000) quintals of dried codfish annually, besides other fish and fish oil. The price we obtain at the foreign markets above mentioned ranges from \$4.50 to \$8 per quintal.

5. We have never sent any of our fish or fish oil to the United States, as the foreign markets above mentioned are better markets, that is we get higher prices for our fish there.

6. My opinion is that the right of fishing in American waters is of no value whatever to us.

7. It is of the utmost importance to the people of this coast to have our fisheries in our own hands, and not to allow Americans to participate in them. The population of the coast is increasing so rapidly that new fishermen enter every year into the business, and we require all our fisheries to give them employment, and enable them to procure a livelihood.

8. The baits for cod fishing found on this coast are mackerel, herring, caplin, launce, smelt, chubs, squid, and clams, there is always an abundance of some kind of the above-mentioned bait. When one kind fails we can always find a substitute.

9. It is my opinion, and I base my opinion upon experience, because we had one of our vessels fishing on the Banks for several years, that American fishermen could not profitably carry on the cod and other fisheries of the deep sea without resorting to our inshore waters to procure bait, either by seining, netting, or by purchase.

I hereby swear that the above statement is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct.

The said Adolphus E. Collas has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit at Point St. Peters, this thirteenth day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

P. FORTIN, J. P.

A. E. COLLAS.

No. 174.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Daniel Orange, of Paspébiac, of the County of Gaspé, in the Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:

1. I am 43 years of age. I have been 29 years in this country in the employment of Messrs. Charles Robin & Co. I have been the General Agent for this firm for the last three years.

2. Our principal business is the codfishing and curing, and fish oil trade. We own 450 fishing boats that take two men each, besides several fishing schooners of from 7 to 50 tons, employed in the coast fishery. We own also 14 foreign going ships and coasting craft—ten in number, most of these vessels were built here, there being now one actually building on the stocks. The sea-going vessels range from 100 to 350 tons each, the coasters average about 50 tons. Besides the 900 fishermen mentioned above, we employ 900 men, made up of shoremen i. e., those employed in curing the fish on shore, ship and boat builders, blacksmiths, coopers, sailmakers and other mechanics. Besides these our foreign-going vessels are manned by about 140 men and our coasters by about 70, making in all 2,010 men. Our firm has been established in this country for more than a century, and has always been in operation since.

3. In 1876 our firm exported 70,000 quintals of dried codfish to Brazils, Spain, Portugal, West Indies and Italy. The fishery that year was a partial failure. We exported also that year 40,000 gallons of fish oil. In an average year we would export from 90,000 to 100,000 quintals of dried codfish.

4. None of our fish is exported to the United States as our fish is prepared entirely for exportation to hot climates, where it is known to keep well, it being of a superior quality; we could not obtain in the markets of the United States, for our fish, a price that would be remunerative. We even tried the United States market with green herring during the Reciprocity Treaty, when there was no duty and we found it did not pay.

5. Most of our codfish are taken within three miles of the shore.

6. During the Reciprocity Treaty and the period of licenses I saw annually a large fleet of American vessels fishing for mackerel on the north as well as the south shore of this Bay of Chaleur. On one occasion I saw at Perce 80 to 100 sail at anchor. Since I came to Paspébiac, three years ago, I have seen several American vessels fishing for mackerel in this bay, and to-day several are fishing within the 3 mile limit. The day before yesterday they took their mackerel with seine close to the shore much to the injury of our inshore fisheries, as it hinders our codfishermen very much in their getting bait for their fishery.

7. The following is a list of our various fishing establishments:—Paspébiac (headquarters), Perce, Grand River, Newport, Pabos, L'Anse au Beau Fils, Magpie, Cape Cove, Dock, St. John, Natashquan in the Province of Quebec; Carraquette, Shippegan, in New Brunswick; Arichat, Small and Big Cheticamp, in Cape Breton, N. S.

I hereby swear that the above statement is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct,

D. ORANGE.

The said Daniel Orange has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Paspébiac, this Sixteenth day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 175.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Joshua Mourant, of Paspébiac, in the County of Bonaventure and Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am 34 years of age, 27 years of which time I have lived on this coast. I am a native of the Island of Jersey, Channel Islands. I am 27 years in the employment of the firm of LeBoutillier Brothers, of Jersey, who carry on the fishing business. I am 20 years an agent, and for the past four years, I have been the general manager of the firm.

2. The following is the list of the fishing establishments of this firm: Paspébiac (headquarters), Bonaventure Island, Thunder River, Magpie, Green Island, Wood Island,—all in the Province of Quebec, and Fortune Bay on the coast of Labrador.

3. We own 170 fishing boats, with from 2 to 3 men each, and we employ, as fishermen and shoremen, carpenters, clerks, blacksmiths, and other mechanics, over one thousand men. We own 5 foreign going vessels, and charter 7 others,—4 coasters.

4. Our principal business is the codfishing and curing, and also herring and fish oils. We export on an average, annually, 21,000 quintals of dry codfish, to Brazils and Mediterranean and West Indies. We also export about 50,000 gallons of cod and seal oils, all of this oil goes to English markets. We do not export any fish to the United States at present, nor for three years. We have tried both herring and large codfish (dry and green) and took great pains that it should give satisfaction, and with all that, it was sacrificed in the American markets. As to the dry codfish that we prepare for the before named foreign markets, and which is of a superior quality, the American market would not pay us what we pay for it here.

5. The American free market is of no use to us at all.

6. The great bulk of the codfish taken is got within three miles of the shore.

7. The right of fishing in American waters is of no value to us, we never go there to fish.

8. From 1854 until the expiration of the period of licenses, the Americans fished in the Bay of Chaleur in great numbers for mackerel,—they used generally to load their vessels. Since 1871 we have still seen them, but not in such numbers, and we see them still, they are here to-day. An American captain told me yesterday that he caught over 30 barrels of mackerel off the Light House on the Point. The mackerel fishing in this Bay generally begins about the 20th of this month. According to reliable information, I believe the mackerel is now plentiful in the Bay, and lots are caught in the nets.

9. I believe it is our interest to keep our fisheries to ourselves, and not allow strangers to participate in them, as our population is increasing, and if strangers are allowed to fish in our inshore waters many of our young men will have to emigrate.

10. Many of the American schooners use trawl lines in the prosecution of their codfishing, which causes great injury,—it being most of the mother fish they catch. They also do damage by the practice of throwing over the offal.

11. If the American Bank fishermen were prohibited from taking or buying bait on shore, they could not carry on their Bank fishery successfully, as the supply of bait on the Banks is not certain.

I hereby swear that the above statement is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct.

J. MOURANT.

The said Joshua Mourant has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit at Paspébiac, in the County of Bonaventure and Province of Quebec, this sixteenth day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 176.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Frank LeBlanc, of Port Daniel, in the County of Bonaventure, Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am fifty years of age. Since the age of 14, that is for the past 36 years I have been a mariner. I have sailed in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, on the coasts of the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland, the Atlantic coasts of America, to the West Indies and to Great Britain, and for the last 25 years I have been master mariner in command of a coasting vessel, employed in the fishing business, and owned by Messrs. LeBoutillier Bros. Before entering into the employment of Messrs. LeBoutillier Bros., I lived for 7 years in Boston, U. S., and during that time I was engaged in fishing during the summer on board of American mackerel fishing vessels, while during the winter I went to sea on different voyages,—sometimes to the West Indies, sometimes to Europe. Our cruising grounds during those 7 summers, after mackerel, were for the first voyage, the Bay des Chaleur, off Bathurst, and Grand Anse,

close to the shore, and we made our second voyage on the north shore of Prince Edward Island, off Rustico, close to the shore, not only within the 3 mile limit, but as close as we could get. We took the fish with hook and line, the mode called bobbing. I mean to say that during the 7 summers alluded to, we made two trips each year, going always to the places mentioned above. The American schooners on which I made those voyages, hailed from Bass River, Cape Cod, and were about 60 tons each, carrying 18 men. Our voyages took usually from 3 to 6 weeks. The schooners were clipper vessels and carried 350 barrels. We never went home without a full load of beautiful fat fish. All the fish we took during those 7 summers were taken strictly within British waters. On one occasion we made our voyage off Rustico in 8 days, we took 140 barrels in one day, and I myself took with my two lines from sunrise till about 8 o'clock, a. m., eleven barrels.

While fishing on the above named grounds we used to see annually about 40 American mackerel vessels in the Bay of Chaleur, and from 80 to 100 on the north coast of Prince Edward Island. These vessels were all fishing on the same grounds as we were, but besides these there were a great many other American mackerel schooners fishing in the Bay, and off Prince Edward Island.

2. During the Reciprocity Treaty, I have been as before stated in command of a coasting schooner owned by LeBoutillier Bros., and in that capacity, made every year ten voyages from Paspébiac to the north shore of the River St. Lawrence; and one trip to Quebec in the Fall. Besides that I used to go very often from Paspébiac to Bonaventure Island. During those trips I always passed along and usually close to the coast of Gaspé County.

3. During the Reciprocity Treaty and the period of licenses, I saw myself, every year, during the mackerel season, a great number of American vessels fishing for mackerel in the Bay of Chaleur, on the coast of Gaspé, on the south shore of the River St. Lawrence, as high as Magdalen River, and on the north shore as high as Point des Monts to the west and as far as Mingan to the east. I saw annually on these shores above named, and nearly all within three miles of the coast, in the act of fishing, from 250 to 300 American mackerel schooners. This I consider a low estimate. Most of those vessels made two trips every year. Some of these vessels were 120 tons and carried 25 hands, and took as much as 800 barrels a voyage. These vessels all carried away on an average from 350 to 400 barrels each trip.

Between the period of licenses and the commencement of the Treaty of Washington, I still saw a good many vessels fishing in British waters along the above mentioned coasts. They used to dodge the cutters. Since the Treaty of Washington the number has been greater, and I estimate it at at least 80. They were of the same description as before, and fished in British waters. Most of them made two voyages and carried away from 350 to 400 barrels each voyage.

4. For the last ten or twelve years I have seen along the north shore of the St. Lawrence from Point des Monts to Mingan about ten American halibut fishing schooners coming annually and fishing close to the shore, and all within three miles of the shore. They fished with trawl lines. Each vessel carried from 4 to 6 doreys, and each dorey had a thousand hooks on their trawls. The halibut they took was gutted and packed in ice on board, and carried in a fresh state to the United States. Some of those vessels made two voyages, and I estimate their load at from 60,000 to 70,000 lbs. each.

When those vessels commenced fishing on the north shore, I can state that the halibut were very abundant. At present, however, the inhabitants find it difficult to get any for their own use. I attribute this falling off to the number taken by the Americans with trawls, which is an extremely destructive mode of fishing, as it kills the large, mother fish. While in the States I learned that the Americans had ruined many of their fishing Banks with trawl lines, and since then I have heard from U. S. fishermen that a similar destruction has been going on on the American coast.

5. I consider that the privilege of fishing in American waters is absolutely useless to us, as I know from experience that fishermen going from here there, would not be able to catch fish enough to pay for their salt.

6. To my own knowledge the crews of some of those American vessels have gone ashore and often committed depredations on our coasts. They used to break down fences, trample the gardens and crops and insult the people. Five years ago there were a great many U. S. fishing vessels at anchor at Port Daniel, and a band of fishermen from them, went to my house, burst open the door and tried to force their way in. They were only prevented by my wife and children defending themselves. My wife herself had to threaten them with an axe, finding such resistance they went away.

I hereby swear that the above statement is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct, as is also the following statement. In the same year a boat's crew landed from one of those American fishing vessels at Port Daniel; they, during the evening, robbed the garden of Dan Sullivan, my neighbor, his wife saw them, and went out to remonstrate, when one of them pulled out a revolver and fired at her, the ball went through the door post, she standing at the door.

F. LEBLANC.

The said Frank LeBlanc has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Paspébiac, this sixteenth day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 177.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Thomas C. Remon, of Little Pabos, of the County of Gaspé, of the Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am a native of Jersey, and have been on this coast for more than 30 years. I was for seven years in the Gaspé Fishing and Coal Mining Company as clerk. I afterwards and since carried on business on my own account. I am thoroughly conversant with all that concerns fish and fishing. I keep fishing boats.

2. I am well acquainted with the fishing carried on from Paspébiac to Perce, a distance of about 90 miles. The principal fisheries on this coast are the cod, mackerel, herring and halibut. The baits are caplin, herring, mackerel, squid, smelts, and clams.

3. With regard to codfish, I think the number of fish on the grounds is as great as it ever was—though each individual boat may not take so many as formerly—still there are very many more boats now than then, and the quantity of fish exported annually is much greater now. The best quality of codfish is that taken close inshore.

4. I do not believe that any vessel fishing on the Banks could carry on that fishery with success and make a paying voyage, without the privilege of coming inshore to buy or take bait, as the supply of bait on the Banks is very uncertain.

5. I have often seen American Bank fishing vessels come close inshore, within the three-mile limit, to take bait, they also came frequently inshore to get wood and water.

6. The mackerel school inshore, and the bulk of them is taken inshore. They feed on the small fish and the shrimps in the shallow shore water.

7. Prior to the year 1854 a considerable number of American schooners fished in our inshore waters here for mackerel. In 1853 one of them was taken and confiscated by a British frigate, the "Devastation." From the year 1854 till the expiration of the period of licenses, a very large number of American schooners fished on this coast for mackerel. I have seen as many as 60 at one time in the offing. The average annual number of United States mackerel schooners that visited the coast above mentioned, during that period, I estimate at not less than 200. They averaged, I should think, 80 tons, and carried crews of from 15 to 20 men. All their vessels took full fares; many of them made two voyages. They took each trip, I should think, from six to eight hundred (800) barrels. Most of this fish was taken inside the three-mile limit.

8. It was a common habit with the Americans when fishing for mackerel to come close inshore among our boats that were also fishing for mackerel, and by throwing overboard bait plentifully and allowing their vessel to slowly drift outside, to draw the fish away from our boats outside.

9. The herring and cod spawn in great numbers on this coast.

10. The American free market for our fish is not of the least use to us, for our fish are prepared for either our own market or for warm countries, where they find a better market than in the United States.

11. The privilege of fishing in United States waters is of no value to us whatever.

12. I think it of great importance to us that our fisheries should remain entirely in our own hands.

13. The practice of throwing overboard offals is very injurious to the fishing grounds.

I hereby swear that the above statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

THOMAS C. REMON.

The said Thomas C. Remon has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit at Little Pabos, this fifteenth (15th) day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 178.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, William O'Connor, of Little Pabos, of the County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am 50 years of age, and for the last thirty years have fished and carried on the fishery at this place. I am practically well acquainted with fishing and all that relates to the fish trade. I know thoroughly all the coast from Gaspé to Paspébiac. The chief fish taken on that coast are cod, mackerel, halibut, and herring. The baits are caplin, mackerel, herring, squid, launce, smelt, and clams. All these baits are taken close inshore.

2. There are just as many codfish now as there ever were, although many more are taken every year, there being more boats, it does not seem to have diminished the number at all.

3. It is my opinion that the Americans could not fish for cod on the Banks and make profitable voyages without having the right to come inshore to take bait or to buy it.

4. During the Reciprocity Treaty and the period of licenses there were annually a great number of American vessels fishing for mackerel in our inshore waters on this coast. I mean within three miles of the coast. There were from Cape Despair to Paspébiac, annually, on an average, a couple of hundred, I should think, and I have seen as many as sixty sail American schooners at one time in the offing. These vessels took the greater part of their mackerel within the three-mile limit. The tonnage of these vessels varied from 60 to 100 tons, manned by from 15 to 18 men. They generally took full cargoes here, carrying on an average about 700 barrels. The mackerel taken was of a fine quality.

5. For the first five years of the Treaty of Washington, that is from 1871 to 1875 inclusive. I have seen a good many American vessels fishing for mackerel on the same grounds and over the extent of coast above described. I estimate their annual number at one hundred (100). They were vessels of the same description as before, and took about the same quantity of fish.

6. It is certainly of no value to us to have the right of going to fish in American waters.

7. The United States free market is of no use to us, for our fish is prepared especially for hot climates, where, unless it were extremely dry and hard, it would not keep at all.

8. I think the privilege acquired by the Americans, through the Treaty of Washington, of resorting to our inshores and harbors for drying and hauling their nets, getting wood and water and ice, obtaining shelter, and trans-shipping cargoes, is one of very great value to them.

I hereby swear that the above statement is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct.

WILLIAM O'CONNOR.

The said William O'Connor has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Little Pabos, this thirteenth (13th) day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 179.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John M. Luce, of Grande Greve, in the County of Gaspé, and Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged on the coast of Gaspé for 16 years. I am manager for the firm of Wm. Fruing & Co., of Jersey, Channel Islands. I reside at Grande Greve, where we have our principal establishment. We have also fishing establishments at Cape de Rosier, Griffins's Cove, Fox River, Claridorne, Grande Vallee, Mont Louis, and Gaspé Basin, all in the County of Gaspé. We have also several fishing establishments in New Brunswick.

2. I am practically acquainted with all that relates to the catching and curing of fish, as well as to the nature of the fish required for the different foreign markets.

3. The principal fisheries of this coast from Gaspé Bay to St. Anne des Monts, are the cod, halibut, mackerel, and herring.

4. The cod is quite as plenty now as when I first came on the coast, though the quantity may vary each year. This year the fish are in unusually good condition.

5. Halibut were plentiful all along this south coast of the St. Lawrence when I first came here, especially at Grand Vallee and Magdalene River; now the quantity is very small indeed. I attribute this destruction of the halibut fishery to the exhaustive fishing of the Americans with their numerous and large trawls. All these halibut and other fish are taken close along shore, within the three mile limit.

6. In the year 1860 and following years up to 1868, during the Reciprocity Treaty and two years of licenses, at least one hundred American mackerel schooners fished for mackerel along this bay and coast with seines and bobs. I have seen them seining in the harbor of Gaspé, inside of Sandy Beach. These vessels were from 70 to 150 tons, having from 15 to 20 men each. They generally loaded, and would average from 600 to 800 barrels.

7. The herring fishery is as good as usual. This spring they were very plentiful.

8. The right of fishing on the American coast is of no use to us. We have as much as we can do on our own coast. Our fishermen would not go there; and the fact that so many Americans come to our waters to fish, leads us to believe that they have not fish nearer home.

9. The free market of the United States is not of any benefit to us. I have never shipped fish to the United States, and I do not know of any other merchant from this coast who has. Our fish is prepared in a peculiar manner for the Brazilian, West India, and Mediterranean markets, where it commands a higher price than other fish.

10. Without the permission to fish in the inshore waters, and to get bait along shore, no foreign or other vessel could make a successful fishing voyage.

11. I am most decidedly of the opinion that our inshore fisheries should be kept exclusively to ourselves. Our fishing population is increasing, and will require the use exclusively of our own fisheries.

No indemnity that we may receive will be an equivalent for the loss caused to us by granting the use of our inshore fisheries to foreigners ; and if the Americans come here in greater numbers, many of our fishermen will have to emigrate from the coast.

I hereby swear that the above statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

J. M. LUCE.

The said John M. Luce has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Grande Greve, in the County of Gaspé, this tenth day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 180.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington :

I, Henry Price, of Grande Greve, of the County of Gaspé, of the Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows :

1. I am 53 years of age. I was born here, and have fished for the past 40 years. I am well acquainted with all the fisheries of this Bay of Gaspé and the neighboring coast. They are the cod, mackerel, herring, and halibut, and are all carried on inshore, within three miles of the coast and in the bay, except as to the cod fishery, as some few are taken off Ship Head, beyond the three mile limit.

2. As long as I can remember the American fishing vessels have resorted to this bay for the mackerel fishing, but it was during the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty and the period of licences, that they came in greatest numbers. There were, I should think, from 150 to 200 of them came here every year of this period, many of these made two trips the season ; they averaged from 50 to 100 tons, and took about 500 barrels each. During the first three or four years of the Treaty of Washington, a good many American vessels came still to this bay and the neighboring coast, of the same class as formerly, about two-thirds as many as before—say from 100 to 140 ; but for the last few years we have seen only a few, although their catch was about the same as formerly. The mackerel they took was of the best quality, especially those caught at the latter part of the season. They fished with hook and seine.

3. The crews of those American fishing vessels often committed depredations on this coast. I can state that some years ago about 30 of them came ashore and took forcible possession of my house, insulting and threatening my family, capsizing everything in the house, and I had to get the assistance of my neighbors to drive them away. Sometimes they anchored in the midst of our nets, and, when getting under weigh, broke and carried them off. One of my nets, worth \$20.00, was torn to pieces by one of those American vessels, when it could easily have been saved.

4. The American fisheries are entirely useless to us.

5. I think it most injurious to us that the American fishermen should be allowed to come to our waters, because they take such large numbers of fish, and draw the fish outside of our ordinary fishing grounds, by throwing overboard bait. I have myself seen United States fishermen preventing us from fishing near them, when in our own waters, ordering us off with threats.

I hereby swear that the above statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

HENRY PRICE.

The said Henry Price has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Grande Greve, this tenth day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 181.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington :

I, William Hyman, Justice of the Peace, and Mayor of the Township of Cape de Rosier, of Grande Greve, in the County of Gaspé, make oath and say as follows :

1. I am a merchant, and have lived here for 34 years. I have been in the fishing business all the time. I have an establishment here, one at Cape de Rosin, one at Fox River, and another at Gaspé Basin. I understand every operation practically relating to the taking and curing of fish. I am acquainted with the fisheries carried on from Grand Étang to Gaspé Bay. The fisheries there carried on are the cod, herring, mackerel and halibut.

2. Those fisheries are carried on mostly within three miles from the shore. The value of the inshore fisheries, therefore, vastly greater than those outside, the fact is, very few boats go outside. The run of the codfish is about the same on the coast as it was formerly, though, owing to the greater number of boats, each boat may not have so much.

3. The herring, upon the whole, appears to be in the same quantity as formerly. They spawn in large quantities at Sandy Beach, in the Bay of Gaspé.

4. The mackerel were very abundant in this Bay, and along the outside coast; for the last few years they have been scarce. They some years ago, failed in the same way but came back again, and they have already appeared this year.

5. Ever since I settled here, I have seen American mackerel vessels fishing for mackerel, both in the Bay and Harbor of Gaspé, and the neighboring coast, they fished with the bob, and with seines, sometimes the Bay used to be full of them, from 100 to 200 vessels used to come during the season, the tonnage of these vessels was from 60 to 100 tons, carrying from 15 to 20 men; they fished with hooks and seines, some of them loaded more than once, and they carried, on an average, from 500 to 600 barrels. Although before the Treaty of Reciprocity, the coast was guarded, yet they managed to come, and fish, but the greatest numbers were seen during the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty, and the period of licenses, a period of about 14 years; after this time, during the years '68, '69, and '70, the coast was again guarded, and still they managed to come in certain numbers, defying the cutters, they did not mind the cutters, as they believed they could outsail them. Since the Treaty of Washington they came in numbers, until the last two or three years, during the first three years of the Treaty of Washington only about one-fourth of the number that used to come during the Reciprocity Treaty.

6. The presence of so many American vessels in this Bay, and along the coast, above described, was very injurious to our fisheries, depriving us of the bait for codfish, and by their superior dexterity, preventing our people from taking as much as they would have done otherwise, as they used to draw the fish outside with their bait, and also by throwing the offals of the mackerel overboard outside of the Bay, they used to keep the codfish from coming inshore, the injury has been as great in proportion, since the Treaty of Washington.

7. The American vessels fishing cod on the banks cause injury to the inshore codfisheries:—first, by using trawl lines, they kill the mother fish. Second, by the hurt caused to the codfish by the offals, which being swallowed by the cod, the bones swallowed destroy them.

8. The American mackerelers using seines, fished in the Bay of Gaspé, inside of Sandy Beach and Peninsula, hauling their seines on shore.

9. The privilege of fishing in American waters is of no value to us, our fishermen will never go there.

10. The American free market for our fish is of no value to us, we make a superior dry codfish to them, and we ship to Brazils and European markets. I have been in business for 34 years, and have never shipped any fish to the United States. And we do not know of any other merchant ever having done so.

11. It is our interest to keep our fisheries to ourselves, and not to allow foreign fishermen to come into our inshore fisheries.

12. The competition of the Americans is very hurtful to our own fishermen, especially, as regards the mackerel and halibut for this coast.

13. American fishermen committed many depredations, and they used to land and sell many articles without paying the duty.

I hereby swear that the above statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

WM. HYMAN.

The said William Hyman has sworn to the truth of the above deposition, at Grande Creve, in the in the County of Gaspé, and Province of Quebec, this fourth day of August, A. D. 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 182.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Abraham Gavey, of Grande Greve, of the County of Gaspé, of the Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am 35 years of age. I am a practical fisherman, and have been engaged in carrying on the fishery for the last 20 years. I am well acquainted with the fisheries carried on in this Bay and the neighborhood. I was born here.

2. The fisheries here are cod, halibut, mackerel and herring.

3. I have seen a large number of United States vessels fishing in this Bay every year for mackerel and cod, ever since I can remember, but they were much more numerous during the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty; I should think that there were during that Treaty, at least from one to two hundred American vessels fishing in this Bay every year. They were on an average from 60 to 100 tons each, manned by from 15 to 20 men, a good many of these vessels, as they themselves have told me, made two voyages. I have seen myself at one time as many as 50 American fishing vessels anchored from Grande Greve to Little Gaspé, a distance of one mile. The average catch of each vessel as near as I can reckon, was about 500 barrels, and the mackerel they took was, especially at the latter end of the season, of the very first quality. That mackerel was taken by hook and seine; the seining was done in the harbour inside of Sandy Beach, and also in the Bay with purse seines.

4. During the first years of the Treaty of Washington the number of American schooners mackerel fishing in this Bay and the vicinity, was about a quarter of what it was during the Reciprocity Treaty, although there were as many fish then as during the Reciprocity Treaty; but for the last three years the fishing has fallen off. This year however they seem to be increasing again.

5. The throwing overboard of offal is extremely injurious to the fish and fishing grounds. This is always done by the American fishing vessels, both in the Bay and outside.

6. The United States fishermen have often committed depredations on this coast, threatening to do bodily harm to the inhabitants, trampling down the crops and stealing sheep and potatoes. One vessel tried to run down my Brother Daniel Gavey and his partner, who were in their boat going codfishing, this occurred four years ago.

7. It is my opinion, and I am sure all the fishermen on this part of the coast think so also, that the privilege of fishing in United States waters is of no value whatever to us.

I hereby swear that the above statement is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct.

ABRAHAM GAVEY.

The said Abraham Gavey has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit at Grande Greve, this tenth day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 183.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Peter Ferguson, of L'Ance au Beaufils, County of Gaspé, and Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:

1. I am 55 years of age. I was born here and have lived here all my life. I began to fish when I was 15 years of age. I am practically acquainted with the fisheries of this coast.

2. The fish found on this coast are codfish, herring, mackerel, and halibut; the principal baits are herring, capelin, squid, mackerel, smelt and launce. The herring spawn abundantly along the coast, and we see great schools of young herring during the summer. Bait is generally abundant, when one fails we get another kind; we always get bait close in shore, always within the three mile limit. We find that the codfish is generally as abundant as it was 30 years ago; but the fishing is more abundant, according to the state of the weather, and the supply of bait. In L'Ance au Beaufils Cove when there are 36 boats, the fish is mostly caught within the three mile limit, very few going to the bank. Ninety per cent. of the fish is taken inside the limit of three miles.

3. It would not pay an American schooner fishing on the bank to remain there fishing without the privilege of taking bait on shore. She could not make a profitable voyage and trust to getting bait on the bank. I have several times seen American bankers coming to get bait on shore, and last year one of them employed my neighbor to seine caplin for bait for him.

4. During the Reciprocity Treaty and the period of licenses, I saw a great many American mackerel schooners along this coast, and several times I have counted as many as thirty between Whitehead and Cape Despair, within the limit. The annual number during each season was between 200 and 250. They used both to take the mackerel inside of the limits, and bait them outside. I was on one occasion on board a schooner that baited the mackerel close to the shore, and thus brought them outside. This was an American schooner. I believe this was a common practice. These schooners were from 60 to 100 tons, and took from four to eight hundred barrels each. They told me themselves that they generally made two trips in the season. They used to grind up the small mackerel they took for bait. It is a common practice for the Americans to begin to fish inside the limit. The mackerel generally feed on shrimps, close in shore, and on other small fish.

5. During the first three years of the Treaty of Washington they continued to come in numbers, and fish as before in our inshores. There were at least half the number that used to come under the Reciprocity Treaty, fishing each year on this shore; as I have said after the beginning of the Treaty of Washington, for the last couple of years, I have not seen so many.

6. I believe that the mackerel spawn along the shore. We have often taken the young mackerel fry in our launce seines along the beach. We generally see the mackerel schooling along this shore about the end of August, and two years ago I saw them as thick as caplin in among the boat moorings. I believe if the Americans must come they could take as many as during the years past. The mackerel taken along the shore are of fine quality.

7. The right of fishing on the American coast is of no use to us; our people don't want to go there.

8. Their free market is of no use to us. Our fish is prepared for foreign markets, other than that of the United States. I mean for Brazil, West Indies, Spain, Portugal, and the ports in the Mediterranean.

9. The competition of American fishermen in our waters is a tremendous detriment to our fishing interest.

10. It would certainly be more advantageous for us to keep our inshore fisheries to ourselves. I hereby swear that the above statement is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct.

PETER FERGUSON.

The said Peter Ferguson has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Cape Cove, in the County of Gaspé, and Province of Quebec, this fourteenth (14th) day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 184.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Christopher Baker, of Cape Cove, make oath, and say as follows:—

1. I am Mayor of Cape Cove. I am 39 years of age. I was born here, and have lived all my life at Cape Cove. I have fished for 14 years. I began to fish at 12 years of age. Since I was 26 years of age, I have been engaged in the fishery business on my own account, and keep fishing boats. I have always had 10 or 12 boats fishing every season. I am practically acquainted with all that relates to fishing, and the fish trade. I am well acquainted with the coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Chaleur from Gaspé Basin to Paspébiac, a distance of about 100 miles.

2. The principal fish taken along this coast are the cod, herring, mackerel, and halibut, codfishing is the principal, and the baits are herring, capelin, mackerel, squid, smelt, and launce. The run of codfish is about the same as formerly, though there are more boats now than formerly.

3. No vessel, American, or other, could make a profitable voyage at bank fishing without the privilege of taking bait on shore, or bringing it from the fishermen of the coast. I do know that bankers come for bait to the shore. I, last year but one, sold bait to an American bank fisherman, and hired my seine to another to seine capelin, which capelin he seined from the beach.

4. Herring spawn here along the shore in abundance.

5. I have seen many American vessels fishing along shore during the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty and the period of licenses. I have seen at one and the same time in Cape Cove when I was fishing 50 American mackerel schooners anchored in the bay. There were some at the same time at other places. I believe that each year along this coast during the period specified above, at least (200) two hundred American schooners used to fish for mackerel, each of from 50 to 100 tons, manned by from 12 to 18 men, some, and I believe the most made two voyages, and I believe they took on an average 600 barrels each. Most of the mackerel they took was taken inside of the three mile limit.

6. A smaller number continued to fish for mackerel inshore, even when the cutters were placed on the coast to prevent them.

7. For the first years of the Treaty of Washington the Americans continued to come in numbers, but for the last two years they have not come in such numbers. They fished as formerly, inside of the three mile limit. I consider the number that come about here was about one-third of the number that come during the Reciprocity Treaty.

8. It is a great advantage for the Americans to have the privilege of fishing inshore, without that privilege they would get very little mackerel outside of the limit. I have bought fish (codfish) and oil, and cod roes from them. I have heard that they did trade a little on the coast.

9. I have seen the Americans throw offals overboard, and I believe this to be injurious to the fish and the fisheries.

10. The privilege they have of taking bait on shore, of getting ice, and trans-shipping cargoes is of great value to them.

11. The right we have acquired by the Treaty of Washington of fishing in American waters is not of any value to our fishermen.

12. The American free market is no benefit to us—my fish is prepared for the Brazil and European markets, the price we could get in the States would not pay us.

13. It is certainly our interest to keep our fisheries to ourselves, and not to allow foreigners to participate in them.

I hereby swear that the above statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

CHRISTOPHER BAKER.

The said Christopher Baker has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Cape Cove, in the County of Gaspé, this 14th day of August, A. D., 1877, before me.

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 185.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, David Phillips, of Peninsula, in the County of Gaspé, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have lived at Peninsula, in Gaspé Bay, for forty-six years. I am a farmer and have fished. I understand practically all that relates to the taking and curing of fish. I am 72 years of age,
2. The principal fish taken in this Bay are the cod, mackerel, halibut, and herring.
3. The codfish taken varies in quantity year by year, but more is taken now than was taken 30 years ago. I believe that the codfish spawn in the Bay, and we see great quantities of the young codfish.
4. The herring spawn in this Bay. I have seen the sea whitened by the milt of the male.
5. Formerly mackerel were very abundant, and I have seen the mackerel schooling in great numbers. I have seen them so thick that one could almost walk on snowshoes over them. Last year and the year before but few were caught. This year the mackerel are appearing in quantity, and there is the prospect of a good catch. I have not for many years seen the mackerel so large and good in quality. When I first came here a few American schooners used to fish in the Bay for mackerel, but afterwards they became so numerous that I have seen as many as forty of them in the Bay at one time. During the time of the Reciprocity Treaty they fished in the Bay in great numbers, and I estimate the annual number that did so at from 100 to 150 and 200. The tonnage of these vessels was from 50 to 100 tons. Some of these vessels made two voyages. I average the number of barrels taken by each to be about 500 barrels. When, after 1868, the coast guard schooners were put on to keep the Americans from fishing in the inshore waters but few Americans came in to fish. In the first years of the Treaty of Washington about one-third of the number that came under the Reciprocity Treaty visited the Bay to fish. These vessels were of the same tonnage, and the catch was about the same. The waters of this Bay are most accessible; the Bay is sheltered, there is a fine, convenient harbor in all weather, and a good supply of wood and water.
6. The privilege granted to the Americans to fish at our doors is no benefit certainly to us, far from it; it is a serious injury. I certainly wish to see our inshore fisheries kept exclusively for our own fishermen. Our population is increasing rapidly, and we require that all our fisheries should be preserved to ourselves, or otherwise our young men will have to emigrate.
7. There is an abundance of bait for codfish in the Bay, especially launcefish, squid, and clams. Our fishermen on the outside coast frequently came in boats a distance of forty miles to get bait, especially launcefish.
8. The privilege of fishing in American waters is no use to us. If fish were plentiful on their coast why do they come here. I never knew of any of our fishermen having gone to fish there.
9. The privilege of selling our fish duty free in the United States is no use to us. Our fish, especially codfish, has a more suitable market elsewhere.

I hereby swear that the above statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

DAVID PHILLIPS.

The said David Phillips has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit at Peninsula, in the County of Gaspé and Province of Quebec, this eleventh day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 186.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Richard Miller, of Peninsula, in the County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am 68 years of age. I was born at Peninsula, and have lived here all my life. I have been engaged in fishing for the last forty-nine years, and am practically well acquainted with the cod, herring, mackerel, and halibut fisheries, and for thirty years, that is, of course, thirty summers, I have navigated through the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Straits of Belle Isle for whale and codfishing.

I was present when the testimony of Mr. David Phillips was given and sworn to, and the same having been read to me, I fully concur in all the statements and opinions therein contained, and hereby swear that they and what I have above stated are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

RICHARD MILLER.

The said Richard Miller has sworn that the above affidavit is the truth, at Peninsula, this eleventh day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 187.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, James Rooney, of Perce, in the County of Gaspé, make oath and say as follows :

1. I am 52 years of age. I was born in Perce, and have lived here all my life. I began to fish at the age of 17; I afterwards kept a fishery, which I still keep. I am well acquainted with the fisheries of this coast, and along this shore.

2. The fish found here are cod, herring, and mackerel; and the baits, squid, caplin, herring, mackerel, are also taken, generally close to the shore. The herring spawn abundantly along the shore.

3. The fish do not run every year the same, but the general run is about the same, some years more and some years less. I mean the codfish. The bulk of this fish is caught close along shore, that is, within three miles. The fish thus caught inshore is much the best fish; all the fish thus caught along this coast is sold either in Brazil, the West Indies, Spain, Portugal, or the Mediterranean. The Gaspé codfish is the best fish in the market, and commands a higher price, owing to its peculiar preparation. Codfish caught on the banks and salted on board a vessel could not be dried to suit these markets. During the summer our fish is not kept more than three days in salt before it is exposed to the sun to dry. Codfish spawn in this neighborhood, especially around Bonaventure Island.

3. The habit of the Americans of throwing offal over on the banks is injurious to our codfishery. It gluts the fish, and they won't bite on the lines. It floats away with the tide and draws the fish off after it.

4. In 1854, and during the continuation of the Reciprocity Treaty, and years of the License System, a large number of American mackerel fishing vessels were seen all along this coast; they used even to fish in among our boat moorings for mackerel. I have seen at one and the same time, about 30 American mackerel schooners in this neighborhood. I have counted 100 sail in different ports in view, at the same time, and I believe that the total annual number that visited this coast during the time named was between 400 and 500, many of them made two trips; their tonnage would average from 50 to 150 tons, with from 15 to 20 men; and they took from 400 to 800 barrels. The most of this fish was taken within the three mile limit. Since the beginning of the Treaty of Washington, a considerable number continued to fish for mackerel in our inshores; I should estimate the number to have been from one to two hundred. The habit practised by the Americans of coming in among our boats fishing for mackerel close inshore, and by throwing out large quantities of bait, thus baiting the mackerel away outside of the reach of our boats, was exceedingly injurious to us and our fishermen.

5. The mackerel spawn along this coast, and the Bay of Gaspé in particular I have seen alive with the mackerel fry. I have seen the same thing along the coast.

6. The fattest mackerel are always closest to the shore, because there they find the most bait; and this is the case with every kind of fish.

7. The right of fishing on the American coast is of no use to us, we don't want to fish there, and I never knew of any vessel from here having gone there to fish. If there is any fish there why do they want to come here and fish.

8. Our fish being prepared for warm countries will not find a market in the United States, so that the right of selling our fish, duty free, in the United States is of no use to us.

9. The right of fishing in our domestic waters, of drying fish on our shores, of taking bait along our beaches, and of trans-shipping cargoes in our harbors, is a very great privilege to the Americans and of great value to them. It is also a very serious loss and inconvenience to us.

10. Our population is rapidly increasing, and we require all our fisheries for our own fishermen. If the Americans continue to disturb our waters, and drain our fisheries in front of our very doors, many of our young men will have to emigrate.

11. Many times I have known people on this coast obliged to keep in their houses, and in some cases to arm themselves for protection, to defend themselves from American fishermen on drunken sprees along shore. They also used to commit trespass, break down our fences, and overrun our fields. I have known of two young girls having been carried off on American vessels against the wishes of their parents.

I hereby swear that the above statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

JAMES ROONEY.

The said James Rooney has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit at Perce, in the County of Gaspé, and Province of Québec, this thirteenth day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 188.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Francis LeBrun, of Jersey, Channel Islands, at present residing in Perce, the County of Gaspé, of the Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been living at Perce since 1857, since that time I have been carrying on the fishing business on my own account. I deal only in codfish, and employ ten boats. I am thoroughly conversant with every operation connected with the taking and curing of fish.

2. The quantity of codfish is as great now as it ever was, although the number of fishermen and the quantity exported have increased very much.

3. All the fish prepared by me are exported either to the Brazils, the West Indies, or to south Europe. The price obtained for this fish varies from \$4.50 to \$8.00 per quintal.

4. More than three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the fish taken on this coast, is taken within the three mile limit, and the fish taken inshore are always of a superior quality to those taken outside.

5. The baits for cod are herring, caplin, mackerel, lunce, smelts, squids and sometimes clams, all these baits are plentiful, and are all taken close inshore, some of them, caplin and launce, are taken from the shore.

6. Since the Treaty of Washington, cod and herring are taken in about the same quantities as before. Mackerel this year are very abundant, being much more plentiful than for some years back.

7. The cod and herring spawn on this coast. I have often seen their eggs and then the small fish here.

8. During the years of the Reciprocity Treaty great numbers of American fishermen used to fish for mackerel along this shore. The average number of these American vessels fishing annually in this immediate neighborhood, was from 100 to 150,—all fishing within the three mile limit. The tonnage of these vessels ranged from 60 to 150 tons each, manned by from 12 to 20 men. Their catch averaged about 500 barrels each trip. Many of them made two trips, and some even three. Even during the years of the preventative cutters, the Americans still managed to fish in the inshore waters, by dodging the cutters.

9. During the first years of the Treaty of Washington, there was still a considerable number of American mackerel vessels seen on this coast.

10. The inshore fishery for mackerel and herring is much more valuable than the outside, in fact these fish are seldom taken far from shore. The relative proportion of the two fisheries is as fifty to one I think.

11. I am aware that the American Bank fishermen are constantly in the habit of coming to the shore to obtain bait, either by taking it themselves, or by buying it from our fishermen. They also obtain ice, in which they preserve this bait.

12. I do not believe that any vessel fishing on the Banks could carry on the fishery with profit, or at all, without the privilege of obtaining fresh bait from the shore, as the supply of bait on the Banks is very uncertain, many vessels being for weeks at a time unable to obtain any.

13. The privilege of entering our harbours to obtain wood and water, and to trans-ship cargoes is a very valuable one to the Americans.

14. The privilege of fishing in United States waters is of no use whatever to us. I never knew of any of our fishermen resorting to those waters to fish.

15. The free market of the United States is also of no value to us.

16. Many disturbances have been caused on shore by the American fishermen. On one occasion they abducted a young girl, a minor, against the consent of her parents, fortunately one of the cutters was near at hand, and, overtaking the American vessel, got back the girl.

17. I consider that much damage is done on the fishing grounds by the Americans throwing over-board offals. They kill the fish by this practice.

18. The privilege granted to Americans of landing on our shores to dry their nets, cure their fish, of obtaining bait in our inshore waters, as well as of fishing there generally, is one that is exceedingly injurious to us, and of very great value to them.

I hereby swear that the above statement is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct.

FRANCIS LEBRUN.

The said Francis LeBrun has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit at Perce, this thirteenth day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 189.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington :

I, William Johnstone, of House Harbor, Magdalen Islands, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Merchant, make oath, and say as follows:—

1. Have been acquainted with all the fisheries that are carried on about the Magdalen Islands for the last 27 years.

2. Fishing by the Americans for herrings about the Magdalen Islands has been extensively carried on. Their vessels average about 65 tons. The herring vessels have 8 men, and the mackerel vessels from 12 to 15 men each for a crew.

3. The American herring fishing vessels take away yearly from the Islands about 600 barrels in bulk each.

4. The Americans carry on the herring fishery by means of seines and nets. They are obliged to land, in order to fish. They have erected establishments on shore latterly.

5. The practice of throwing the offal of fish overboard, as done by the Americans, is highly injurious to our fisheries, because it gluts the fish, and decaying on the bottom, poisons the water, driving away the large fish, and killing the young and eggs.

6. During and before the Reciprocity Treaty the Americans have always fished from the beaches about the Magdalen Islands.

7. The inshore fisheries about the Magdalen Islands are of much greater value than the outside.

8. I have seen the Americans many times in each season come in among our boats whilst they were fishing mackerel in Pleasant Bay, and by throwing superior bait entice the fish away with them. These vessels drift in a straight line, and all the boats anchored in their way are obliged to move or be run down.

9. The hauling seines are used from the shore. The purse seines are tucked in deep water, but always inshore. The purse seine is injurious to the fisheries, because it gathers in all kinds of fish, both large and small, the large mackerel only are saved, the others are thrown away dead, which destroys the ground as well as the fishery.

10. The American trawlers resort to the inshores of the Magdalen Islands for bait for their codfishery.

11. Cod, halibut, and haddock are taken in the inshore waters of the Islands by the American fishermen, and also by the Canadians.

12. The food of mackerel is found inshore. It consists of lance, shrimp, sea fleas, and insects adhering to rockweeds. Many breed inshore on sandy and muddy bottom in Pleasant Bay and the small Coves around the Magdalen Islands.

13. I consider it a great advantage to the Americans to be allowed to land to dry and repair their nets, and to cure their fish.

14. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes enjoyed by the Americans is a great advantage, because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds, and to double their fares during the fishing season.

15. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to procure bait in our inshores, either by fishing for or buying it. If they buy it, it is because they find it more profitable, and it saves time.

16. The Americans could not carry on the cod and halibut fisheries about the Magdalen Islands so profitably without being able to resort to out inshores to procure bait.

17. It is of no practical advantage to Canadians to be allowed to fish in American waters. And I don't know of any Canadian vessels ever going there to do so.

18. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes to the Americans is worth a load. And the privilege of getting bait in our inshores for their cod and halibut fisheries is worth from 50 to 60 per cent of these fisheries, which would otherwise not exist.

19. Fishing by Americans in Canadian waters hinders the fishing operations of our fisheries to a great extent. Not only by their practice of enticing the fish away from the boats or by the practice of throwing fish offal overboard on our fishing grounds, but because they are so much better equipped with vessels and fishing tackle that they take all the best and largest fish, and by superior numbers overpower the boat fishermen.

20. The Americans resorting to our inshores for fishing purposes, take advantage of this opportunity to trade with the inhabitants with goods smuggled from the United States, these goods being an extra supply of ships' stores taken on board for that purpose. They give them in exchange for bait, and in payment for labour, thereby defrauding the customs, and injuring legitimate trade by regular taxpayers.

W. JOHNSTONE.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Halifax, County of Halifax, Province of Nova Scotia, Dominion of Canada, this 23d day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

W. D. HARRINGTON,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Nova Scotia.

No. 180.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Charles Fournier, of Magdalen River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. Have been acquainted with the fisheries on this coast for 22 years.
2. From 1854 to 1866 the fishing by the Americans on this coast has been very extensive for mackerel, between Cape Chat and Magdalen River, a distance of 63 miles.
3. To the best of my knowledge, about 100 vessels have visited these shores yearly during the period mentioned, mackerel fishing.
4. These schooners used to make good voyages yearly, and their cargoes averaged 350 barrels of mackerel each trip. These schooners average about 65 tons, with a crew of about 15 men.
5. The mackerel fishery seems to have decreased, but the cod and herring fisheries are the same as formerly.
6. The Americans take mackerel by means of hand-lines and seines.
7. During the Reciprocity Treaty, on this coast the Americans have always fished for mackerel inshore.
8. It is the common practice of the Americans to come in among our boats, and by throwing bait, entice the fish away with them, thereby causing us a great loss.
9. I know that the American fishermen have used the hauling seines very often. I once helped to load an American schooner in the Magdalen River with mackerel. They were all taken with a hauling seine inshore.
10. Since 1871 the codfishery has greatly increased. I believe it is owing to the absence of Americans from our waters. Mackerel were very plenty last year, and a great increase over former years.
11. Mackerel feed inshore on lance, sea-fleas and other small animals.
12. It is a great advantage to Americans to be able to trans-ship cargoes. Because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds and to double and triple their fares.
13. It is of no advantage to us to be able to fish in American waters; and I don't know of any vessel from here ever going there to do so.
14. Fishing by Americans in our waters injures our fishing operations to a great extent. It brings in a competition that we cannot sustain, they having better vessels and better gears.
15. Some years ago three American vessels came and anchored in Magdalen River until they had their full load of halibut. They caught them with trawls, and all inshore.

A. D. JOHNSTONE, (Witness)

CHARLES ^{his} X Fournier.
mark.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Magdalen River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 27th day July, A.D., 1877, before me,

L. LAVOIE,
*Justice of the Peace,
Province of Quebec.*

No. 191.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Alexis Noil, of Fox River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. Have been acquainted with all the fisheries on this coast from Griffins Cove to Chlorydrome, a distance of 33 miles, for the last 30 years. From 1854 to 1866 the fishing by the Americans has been very extensive. The number of American vessels that have visited these shores for mackerel fishing, during the period mentioned, have been about 150 yearly. The average tonnage of these vessels was about 65 tons, with a crew of about 16 men each. The average cargo of these vessels, yearly, is 350 barrels of mackerel. And I have heard the Captains of these vessels say, that they generally make two trips in a season.
2. The cod and herring fisheries are about the same as they were 20 years ago.
3. The Americans take mackerel by means of seines and hand-lines, principally the latter, and all inshore in 2 or 3 fathoms of water.
4. The throwing of fish offals overboard on the fishing grounds is a great injury to them, and the fisheries, because it poisons the water, drives away the large fish, and kills the eggs.
5. The Americans have always fished inshore and made their loads of mackerel. During the Reciprocity Treaty, and before, often very close to the shores.

6. The inshore fishery is by far of greater value than the outside. Because all the fish on this coast are caught inshore.

7. I have seen the Americans frequently come in among our boats whilst they they were fishing mackerel, and entice the fish away by throwing bait, thereby causing our fishermen a great loss. They have done the same to me often.

8. The codfishery has greatly increased since 1871, owing no doubt to the Americans having left our waters, thereby giving them a chance to restock.

9. I have heard the Americans say many times, that our mackerel were better, and brought a higher price in their markets than their own.

10. Mackerel feed all along our inshores, on lance and other small fish.

11. I have seen the Americans several times setting nets close to our shores for mackerel.

12. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be allowed to trans-ship their cargoes, because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds and to double their fares.

13. It is of no advantage to Canadian fishermen to be able to fish in American waters, and I never knew of any vessel from here going there to do so.

14. The privilege granted to Americans to trans-ship cargoes is worth a load and the privilege of getting bait in our inshores for their cod and halibut fisheries is worth these fisheries.

15. Fishing by Americans in our waters hinders the fishing operations of our fishermen to a great extent. Because we cannot compete with such well supplied and geared vessels.

ALEXIS ^{his} X NOIL.
mark.

A. D. JOHNSTONE, Witness.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Fox River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 27th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 192.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John Packwood, fisherman and farmer, of Cape Rosier, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am acquainted with all the fisheries carried on on this coast from Cape Gaspé to Griffin's Cove since twenty-five years. During the Treaty of Reciprocity mackerel fishing by the Americans on this coast was very extensive, I mean from 1850 to 1866.

2. I have seen the Americans fishing for mackerel here in Cape Rosier Cove, at Cape Bon Ami, at Jersey Cove, and catching mackerel. I have been on board of their vessels when they were fishing, and I have seen them from the shore and from my boat, and catching mackerel, and always inshore, generally in line with the points. I have seen them yearly during the period mentioned above, many times during each season.

3. During the period mentioned, to the best of my knowledge, 60 schooners visited these shores here yearly for mackerel fishing. These schooners averaged 65 tons, and carried away from here and neighboring places about 400 barrels, for the Americans themselves told me that they always made good voyages.

4. Cod-fishery is as good now as formerly; it has increased very much of late. Herring is about the same. Last year there was a good deal of mackerel on our coast.

5. The Americans fished mackerel with hand lines and seines, but I never saw them use the seine here.

6. The practice of the Americans of throwing fish offals overboard is much injurious to our fishing grounds, because it gluts the fish and prevents the fish from biting; and also because the decaying of these offals poisons the water, drives the large fish away and kills the eggs.

7. I have never seen the Americans fish here outside of three miles; they have always fished very close to the shores.

8. The value of our inshore fisheries is, by far, greater than the outside ones. All the fish here is caught inshore.

9. Since 1871 the cod-fishery has considerably increased here; and I believe, with all the fishermen here, that it is because the Americans have been less in our waters.

10. I have heard many times the Americans say that our mackerel here was larger and of a better quality than their own, and that is worth \$20 against their own \$10.

11. Mackerel feeds all along our coasts here upon lance, sea fleas, &c.

12. The fishing by Americans in our waters is extensively injurious to us, because they are supplied so well with every kind of gear to carry on the fisheries of all kinds that we cannot compete with them, so that when they come to fish amongst us they take all the fish before we can take a share.

JOHN PACKWOOD.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Cape Rosier, in the Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 28th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 193.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Mesiah Tapp, of Fox River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. Am acquainted with all the fisheries that are carried on, on this coast, for the last 25 years.
2. From 1854 to 1866 the fishing by the Americans was very extensive for mackerel.
3. About 100 American mackerel fishing vessels have visited these shores yearly during the period mentioned above. These vessels average above 65 tons, having about 16 men for a crew. These vessels carried away from our shores yearly about 400 barrels of mackerel a trip.
4. The Americans take mackerel by means of seines and hand-lines.
5. The practice of throwing fish offals overboard, as done by the Americans, is injurious to the fisheries, because it gluts the fish, poisons the water, and kills the eggs.
6. The Americans have always fished inshore here during the Reciprocity Treaty for mackerel, about one-half mile from the shore.
7. The inshore fisheries are of much greater value than the outside. All the fish here are taken inshore.
8. I have seen the Americans come in among our boats, and by throwing bait entice the mackerel away with them; and I saw them one time throwing ballast rocks at a boat that had gone too near their lines.
9. Since 1871 the codfishery has increased greatly, and I believe it is owing to the absence of Americans from our waters.
10. I have heard the Americans say frequently that our mackerel were better, and brought a higher price in their markets than their own.
11. Mackerel breed and feed on this coast inshore. Their food is launce and sea fleas.
12. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to trans-ship their cargoes, because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds, and to double their fares.
13. It is of no advantage to us to be able to fish in American waters, and I don't know of any vessel from here ever going there to do so.
14. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes to the Americans is worth a load, and the privilege of getting bait in our inshores for their cod and halibut fisheries is worth these fisheries.
15. The fishing by the Americans in our waters hinders the fishing operations of our Canadian fishermen, because they are better supplied and geared than we are, that they take all the best fish.

A. D. JOHNSTONE, (Witness)

His
MESIAH X TAPP.
mark.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief, at Fox River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 31st day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 194.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, James Samuel, of Fox River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. Have been acquainted with all the fisheries which are carried on on this coast from Griffin's Cove to Chlorydorme, a distance of 33 miles for 25 years.

The mackerel fishery by the Americans has been very extensive during the Reciprocity Treaty, from 1854 to 1866 and before on these shores.

2. I have been several times during a season on board of American mackerel fishing vessels. I have seen them fish, and have fished myself with them. They fished always inshore very close the shore in 2 or 3 fathoms of water.

3. The number of American schooners which have visited these shores for mackerel fishing yearly during the period mentioned above, was about 150. The average tonnage of these vessels is about 65 tons, having about 15 men for a crew each. These vessels have taken away from our shores yearly, at least 350 barrels of mackerel. I have heard the captains of some of these schooners say that most of them were on their second trip. They also told me that their first trip was generally made about the Strait of Canso, Magdalen Islands and Prince Edwards Island.

4. The cod and herring fisheries are about the same as formerly.

5. The Americans take mackerel by means of hand lines and seines. But I have seen them use the hand lines only on this coast.

6. The throwing overboard of fish offals as practiced by the Americans injures our fishing grounds and fisheries. Because it gluts the fish and then the decaying of these offals poisons the water, driving the large fish away and killing the eggs.

7. The American schooners have always fished inshore during the Reciprocity Treaty and afterwards, and have made their loads of mackerel often very close to the rocks.

8. The inshore fishery is of much greater value than the outside. All the fish on this shore are caught inshore.

9. It is the common practice of the Americans to come in among our boats when we are catching mackerel, and by throwing bait entice the fish outside, where we cannot go.

10. Since 1871 the codfishery has considerably increased, and it is my opinion that it is owing to the absence of Americans from our waters.

11. I have heard the Americans say frequently that the mackerel caught in our waters were of a better quality than their own, and brought a higher price in their markets.

12. Mackerel feed all along our inshores on lance and shrimp.

13. I have seen the Americans frequently setting their nets close to our shores for mackerel.

14. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to trans-ship cargoes, because by doing so it enables them to remain on the fishing grounds and to double their fares.

15. It is of no advantage to Canadians to be able to fish in American waters.

16. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes to the Americans is worth a load. And the privilege of getting bait in our inshores for their cod and halibut fisheries, is worth these fisheries.

Fishing by Americans in our waters hinders the fishing operations of our fishermen to a large extent, because we are not supplied with vessels and gears to compete with them.

A. D. JOHNSTON, Witness.

His
JAMES + SAMUEL.
mark.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Fox River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 27th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

N. LAVOIE,
Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 195.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Edward Trachy, of Percé, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. Am acquainted with all the fisheries on this shore for 60 years past.

2. Between 1854 and 1866, the fishing by the Americans on this coast has been very extensive, between Cape Cove and Cape Percé, a distance of about nine miles.

3. I have seen the American schooners inshore engaged in mackerel fishing. I have been on board their vessels many times, and I have seen them from the shore and from my boat, fishing and catching fish, between Bonaventure Island and the mainland.

4. About 150 American vessels have visited these shores yearly for mackerel fishing. Each vessel averaging about 70 tons, having from 12 to 15 men for a crew each.

5. During that time I have spoken to American captains, and they told me that they had made good voyages, and sometimes two during a season.

6. These schooners have carried away yearly from our shores an average of 500 barrels of mackerel each trip.

7. The fisheries are about the same as they were 20 years ago. But this year the cod fishery has increased greatly.

8. The Americans take mackerel by means of hand-lines. I have never seen them using seines.

9. The Americans, before and during the Reciprocity Treaty, have taken the most of their mackerel inshore.

10. The inshore fishery is of much greater value than the outside on this shore. Herring, caplin, launce, codfish, and the best part of the mackerel are taken inshore.

11. I have been greatly annoyed while out fishing mackerel, by having the Americans come in among our boats, and by throwing bait, entice the mackerel outside with them, where we could not go.

12. I have seen the American fishermen many times come inshore and set nets for bait, and thus taking the bait away from us.

13. I have seen yearly several American schooners come in the cove here for bait; and I remember once of one waiting two days until our fishermen had caught enough bait for her.

14. There is a great increase in the codfishery since 1871. I think this is owing to the absence of Americans from our waters.

15. The same fish that are taken by the Americans inshore are also taken by the Canadians.

16. Herring are all taken inshore. The Americans catch them for bait only on this coast.

17. It is a great advantage to Americans to be able to land to dry and repair their nets. I have seen them doing so frequently.

18. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to trans-ship cargoes; because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds and to double their fares.

19. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to procure bait either by catching or buying it. If they buy it, it is because they save time, and more profitable to them.

20. It would be impossible for the Americans to carry on the cod and halibut fishery without being able to procure bait in our inshores.

21. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes enjoyed by the Americans is worth a load; and the privilege of getting bait in our inshores for their cod and halibut fisheries, is worth these fisheries.

22. Fishing by the Americans in our waters injure our Canadian fishermen very much. I have had my nets badly torn by the American fishing vessels anchoring among them and sailing over them. It is also an injury to us, because it brings in a competition that we cannot sustain. Their vessels and gears are so much better than ours, that they take all the best fish.

EDWARD TRACHY.

Sworn, to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Percé, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 26th day of July, A.D., 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 196.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Edward Bunn, of Fox River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. Have been acquainted with all the fisheries on this coast, from Griffin's Cove to Chlorydrome, a distance of 33 miles, for the last 20 years. During the Reciprocity Treaty, the fishing by Americans has been very extensive. The number of American vessels that have visited these shores for mackerel fishing during the period mentioned, have been about 150 yearly, these vessels averaging about 65 tons, with a crew of about 15 men. Each vessel takes away from our shores, on an average, of 350 barrels of mackerel a trip. They very often make two trips in a season.

2. The Americans take mackerel by means of seines and hand-lines. I never saw them using their seines on this coast. They take all their mackerel inshore in 2 or 3 fathoms of water.

3. The throwing of fish offals overboard as practiced by the Americans is a great injury to the fisheries, because it poisons the water on our fishing grounds, driving away the large fish, and killing the eggs.

4. The Americans have always fished inshore during the Reciprocity Treaty, and always made their loads of mackerel, and often very close to the shore.

5. The inshore fishery is of much greater value than the outside. All the fish on this coast are caught inshore.

6. It is the common practice of the Americans to come in among our boats, and by throwing bait entice the mackerel outside out of our reach.

7. Since 1871, the codfishery has greatly increased.

8. The same fish that are caught by the Americans inshore are also taken by the Canadians.

9. I have heard the American fishermen say that our mackerel were better, and brought a higher price in their markets than the mackerel caught in their own waters.

10. Mackerel feed along our inshores on launce, shrimps, and sea fleas.

11. I have seen the American fishermen frequently setting their nets close to our shores for mackerel.

12. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to trans-ship cargoes, because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds, and to double their fares.

13. It is of no advantage to Canadian fishermen to be able to fish in American waters. And I don't know of any vessels from here going there to do so.

14. The privilege granted to Americans to trans-ship cargoes is worth a load, and the privilege of getting bait in our inshores for their cod and halibut fishery is worth these fisheries.

15. Fishing by Americans in our waters hinders the fishing operations of our fishermen to a great extent, because their vessels are so much better equipped than ours, that they always take the best fish.

A. D. JOHNSTONE, (Witness).

his
EDWARD X BUNN.
mark.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief, at Fox River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 27th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 197.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Joseph D. Payson, of Westport, in the County of Digby, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries twenty years; two years on board of American fishermen in Canadian waters.

2. American vessels to the number of three and four hundred annually fish in the Bay de Chaleur for mackerel; the average number of men is from twelve to fourteen to each vessel. This is within my knowledge for the past twelve years.

3. The average number of codfish taken by Americans is about twelve hundred quintals to each vessel; and besides that, they annually make a mackerel trip of from three to five hundred barrels of mackerel.

4. The present condition of the fishery is not as good as it was in the past, for either codfish or mackerel. Herring have not decreased as much, but they also are not as good as the past.

5. Americans carry on the codfish and halibut fishery chiefly with trawls; they do some by hand-line on Georges. Mackerel are caught by seines and hook and line.

6. Most of the mackerel caught in the Bay de Chaleur, are caught within three miles from the shore, and have been before and during the Treaty of Washington, by large numbers of American fishermen.

7. The American fishermen use what is called "purse seines," and are ruining the mackerel fishery wherever they are used, by driving the fish from the shores.

8. American fishermen catch bait within three miles from the shores, in St. Mary's Bay, but not very large quantities.

9. American fishermen trawl for halibut and codfish in the Bay of Fundy, in the inshore waters. Halibut, codfish, haddock, hake and pollock are caught inshore by Canadian fishermen.

10. Since the Treaty of Washington there has been a decrease in all kinds of fish in the Bay of Fundy, caused principally by trawling, and by the large quantity of fish offal thrown over by the fishermen from the vessels.

11. The herring fishery is greater inshore than outside in Canadian waters. Americans catch herring for bait and for sale at Magdalen Islands. The American fishermen catch some herring for bait in the Bay of Fundy.

12. There are a few mackerel caught in American waters at some seasons of the year that command a higher price in the American market; but my opinion is that mackerel caught in the Bay de Chaleur are quite as good and usually bring about the same price in the American market.

13. The food of mackerel is found chiefly inshore, called "Brit;" they breed in the head of the bays. Their principal breeding and feeding places are inshore.

14. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes enjoyed by American fishermen since the Treaty of Washington is a very great advantage to them; it enables them to catch a much larger quantity of fish.

15. It is a very great advantage to Americans to procure bait from the Canadian inshores. They prefer to buy it, as it saves time.

16. The American fishermen could not carry on the cod and other fisheries of the deep sea to any extent, or with any profit, without the privilege of resorting to our inshores for bait.

17. It is a great advantage to Americans to resort to Canadian inshores for ice to preserve bait. Quite a number of American vessels have been supplied with ice at Westport this present season.

18. The privilege of fishing in American waters is of no practical value or advantage to Canadians.

19. If it was not for the large fleet of American fishermen in Canadian waters, a large and very profitable business could be done by Canadian fishermen.

The foregoing statement is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. D. PAYSON.

Sworn to at Westport, this 11th day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

BENJ. H. RUGGLES, J. P.

No. 198.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Thomas C. Cook, of Cape Canso, in the County of Guysboro', merchant, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries actively for the period of twenty-five years. During that time I have been engaged in the fish trade, buying and selling and carrying on a general fish business.
2. During prosperous years, as many as three or four hundred American vessels, I understand, are engaged in the mackerel fishing in the North Bay. Each vessel would average from twelve to fifteen men. The American vessels now fishing are larger and better than those formerly used. Each vessel fits out to take three hundred barrels on an average.
3. I have known from two to three hundred American vessels call at Canso during the season for bait. To make up this number, I count several calls by the same vessel. I have known them hook squid inshore, but not much. They generally buy it, because it pays them best and saves them time.
4. The inshore fisheries are of greater value to the inhabitants along the coast than those outside. All kinds of fish are caught inshore by our fishermen. Our people do not, in the County of Guysboro', prosecute the outshore fishery almost altogether.
5. The opportunity given to the Americans of trans-shipping their cargoes, is of great advantage to them; also the privilege of getting bait and ice. They are enabled, by having these privileges, to make more trips and catch more fish. Bait can be bought cheaper in Canadian ports than in the United States. Ice also, I think.
6. American fishermen could not so profitably carry on the deep sea fisheries if they were not permitted to land and buy their bait and ice, otherwise they would not land and do so.
7. Never heard of any Canadian vessels fishing in American waters.

THOS. C. COOK.

Sworn to at Canso, in the County of Guysboro', this 25th day of July, A.D., 1877, before me,

JAMES A. TORY, J. P.

For the County of Guysborough.

No. 199.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, W. Wyse, of Chatham, in the County of Northumberland, in the Province of New Brunswick, at present of Chatham, merchant, maketh oath as follows:—

1. I have been in business for five years in Chatham, and have had business with fishing parties around our coast previous to '72 and since 1854. I have had charge of a salmon preserving establishment on Fox Island, Miramichi Bay, and exported salmon in tins to amount of from 8 to 10,000 per annum. also lobster and mackerel to amount of about 1,000 dollars per annum; also during this time American fishermen have been accommodated on this island with water and other matters necessary for the carrying on of their fisheries. This of itself was, I consider, a very great advantage to them generally.
2. I have been acquainted with the British fisheries in New Brunswick during the time I was engaged at my fishing establishment, say in each year from 15th May till 15th September. I have seen and counted in that time as high as 170 sail, partaking of all the benefits of the three-mile limit as much as if they were Canadian fishermen. I have seen them in a fine morning after a storm in our Bay, between Portage and Badwin Island, for a whole day, and in that time a splendid fishing has been done. This was at a time they had no right to fish within the three-mile limit. This Bay was their chief place of resort, and they had all the benefit of our buoys, lights, and every convenience. This valuable acquisition should be of a large value to American fishermen, and no benefit to us. I am quite sure the average of each vessel would be about four hundred and fifty barrels a voyage.
3. The effect of so large a fleet of American vessels fishing in British waters, and only one mile from Fox Island shore, was most injurious to our mackerel fishermen around the Islands, as they would throw bait and draw them off.
4. The mode of fishing at that time was with hook and line. Since that period a seine, or purse-seine is used, and large catches are made.
5. During the time I was engaged in fishing at Fox Island, a gradual falling off took place with the fleet; whether it was owing to finding other places more profitable, I could not say.
6. I would judge by the movements of the fleet, fully two-thirds of the fish were taken within the three-mile limit.
7. In the year I was on Fox Island, American fishermen had all the benefit of buying bait, getting fresh supplies, fresh water, wood, &c. This I consider a great benefit. At one time, when procuring these necessaries at Badwin Island, they set on fire and burned about twenty acres of marsh and wood-

land, whether accidentally or not could not be ascertained. Damages were put down at the time about \$600.

8. The privilege of landing cargoes and trans-shipping to their own homes during the season is very great. It enables them to make two trips a season with ease. This privilege is worth about \$400 per trip.

9. I have not seen them fish for bait, but have sold them pogies. These are a fish about half the size of herring, and as fat as butter. When ground up, make good article of bait. They have bought our spring herring often.

10. Mackerel has decreased in quantity along the Miramichi Bay and coast, as our own shore fishermen say they are much more scarce of late years, and cannot account for the fact. Ten years ago establishments made it their business to buy mackerel for canning purposes, and preserved yearly from ten to fifteen thousand lbs.; now, and the last five years, they are all closed.

11. The food of mackerel is chiefly got along the shores. Small fry of the different species are their chief food. Their principal breeding places are along Bay Chaleurs and other places along Prince Edward Island and Gulf of St. Lawrence.

12. I consider the privilege granted to American fishermen to land and dry their nets invaluable.

13. I consider the privilege of fishing in American waters of no account or value to Canadians whatever.

14. The value of trans-shipping cargoes and getting bait, &c., is worth about \$400 per trip.

15. I believe it has hurt our shore fisheries to a considerable extent; could not say the value.

16. It is true that United States fishermen have sold goods to our fishermen, and evaded the duty.

17. Another advantage the Americans have enjoyed is the Miramichi Lights, our coast lights, harbour buoys, shelter from storms, getting fresh supplies, fuel, water—in fact, it is impossible to enumerate all the advantages and value of these privileges. Look at the protection of our rivers, the expense connected with protecting the spawning fish, the fry of which all serve to feed our deep sea fisheries.

WILLIAM WYSE.

Sworn before me at Chatham, this 11th day of August, A. D. 1877.

G. W. BLAIR, J. P.

No. 200.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, James Flynn, the elder, of Percé, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, planter, do make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been acquainted with the various fisheries on this coast for upwards of 40 years.

2. During the duration of the Reciprocity Treaty a large fleet of American vessels frequented this coast for fishing purposes, say from Point St. Peters to Cape Despair, a distance of 18 miles or thereabout.

3. I have often seen the American schooners close to the shore mackerel fishing. I have often seen them fishing from shore, and catching mackerel in the Channel, between this and Bonaventure Island.

4. Upwards of 100 vessels or American schooners have fished mackerel in this vicinity each season. These schooners average about 70 tons with a crew of about 12 or 14 men.

5. The fisheries generally speaking are much the same as heretofore. But the codfishery has greatly increased this summer.

6. Mackerel is caught by the Americans both with handlines and seines.

7. The Americans previous to and during the Reciprocity Treaty, took most of their fish inside of the limits.

8. The inshore fishery is decidedly the most valuable, as herring, caplin, lance, smelt; fully two-thirds of the mackerel, and the greater portion of the codfish are taken inshore.

9. It was a common complaint with our fishermen that the American schooners came inshore and enticed away the mackerel by feeding them, thus preventing our people from catching any more.

10. I have also heard our fishermen complain that the Americans came inshore to set their nets for bait, thus preventing their obtaining a sufficiency.

11. I have on several occasions seen American schooners come into the coves and set their nets for bait.

12. The several kinds of fish taken inshore by the Americans, are also taken by our fishermen.

13. A great increase has taken place in the codfishery since 1871, caused no doubt by the absence of the Americans from our waters, thus allowing our fishing grounds to be restocked.

14. Herring are all caught inshore. The Americans catching them for bait only.

15. I have often heard the remark made by persons who have heard the Americans say that the quality of our mackerel was superior to theirs, realising a higher price in their market.

16. It is undoubtedly a source of great advantage for the Americans to be allowed to land, dry and repair their nets.

17. The trans-shipment of cargoes will be a great advantage to the Americans, as it will enable them to keep on the fishing grounds, and double their fares.

18. The procuring of bait either by catching or buying is also a great advantage for American fishermen. If they buy, it is in order to save time.

19. The Americans could not carry on the cod and halibut fisheries, without procuring bait within our limits.

20. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes as now to be enjoyed by the Americans, will be equal to one load. And that of getting bait for their cod and halibut is equal to the value of those fisheries.

JAMES FLYNN.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Percé, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 28th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

R. N. DUVAL,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 201.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, Edmund Flynn, of Percé, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, planter, and Mayor of Percé, do make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been acquainted with the various fisheries on this coast upwards of 35 years.
2. During the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty a large fleet of American vessels frequented this coast for fishing purposes.
3. I have often seen the American schooners close inshore mackerel fishing. I have seen them catching mackerel in the channel between this and Bonaventure Island.
4. I have seen as many as 50 to 100 American schooners during several successive seasons mackerel fishing in this vicinity. These schooners average about 70 tons—each crew consisting of from 10 to 14 men.
5. I have often spoken to American captains, who stated they generally made good voyages—making two, and I believe in some cases three, voyages during each season.
6. These schooners would, on an average, take 400 barrels of mackerel from our shores each trip.
7. The fisheries are, generally speaking, much the same as heretofore; but the cod fishery has greatly increased this Summer.
8. Mackerel is caught by the Americans both with hand-lines and seines.
9. The Americans previous to and during the Reciprocity Treaty caught most of their fish within the limits.
10. The inshore fishery is decidedly the most valuable, as herring, caplin, smelt, launce, fully two-thirds of the mackerel, and the greater portion of the codfish are taken inshore.
11. It was always a common complaint with our fishermen that the American schooners came in shore and enticed the mackerel away by feeding them, thus preventing our people from catching any more.
12. I have also heard our fishermen complain that the Americans came inshore to set their nets for bait, thus preventing them from obtaining a sufficiency.
13. I have often seen American schooners come into the coves and set their nets for bait.
14. The various kinds of fish taken inshore by the Americans are also taken by our fishermen.
15. A great increase has taken place in the cod fishery since 1871, caused no doubt by the absence of the Americans from our waters, thus allowing our fishing grounds to be re-stocked.
16. Herring are all caught inshore, the Americans catching them for bait only on this coast.
17. I have heard it stated that our mackerel is superior to the American, but am not personally cognizant of the fact.
18. It is undoubtedly a source of great advantage to the Americans to be allowed to land, dry and repair their nets on this coast.
19. The trans-shipment of cargoes will also be a great advantage to the Americans, as it will enable them to keep on the fishing grounds and thus double their fares.
20. The catching or buying of bait is also a great advantage for American fishermen. When they buy, it is to save time.
21. The Americans could not carry on the cod and halibut fisheries without procuring bait within our limits.

22. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes, as now to be enjoyed by the Americans, will be equal to one load, and that of getting bait for cod and halibut is nearly equal to the value of those fisheries.

23. Fishing in our waters by the Americans is, and always has been a serious injury to our fishermen, who cannot cope with them on account of the superiority of their vessels and fishing gear.

EDMUND FLYNN.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Percé, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 28th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

R. N. DUVAL,

Justice of the Peace for the Province of Quebec.

No. 202.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John Vardon, of Mal Bay, in the County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, planter, and Justice of the peace, do make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in, and am intimately acquainted with the various fisheries on the coast of Gaspé, and those of the north shore of the St. Lawrence upwards of 48 years.

2. Previous to, and during the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty, a large fleet of American schooners frequented our coast for fishing purposes.

3. I have often seen the American schooners close in shore catching mackerel, and should say that I have seen as many as one hundred sail at one time in Mal Bay.

4. During many successive seasons I have seen from 100 to 150 American schooners mackerel fishing in this vicinity. These schooners are from 50 to 100 tons, some even larger, and are manned by 10 to 15 men.

5. The American captains to whom I have spoken, told me they generally made good voyages, generally two, but even three voyages during each season.

6. These schooners would, on an average, take from 400 to 500 barrels of mackerel from our shores each trip.

7. The fisheries are much the same, generally speaking, as in times past, but the codfishery has greatly increased this season, and is far beyond an average so far.

8. The mackerel is caught by the Americans both with seines and hand-lines.

9. The Americans have, in my opinion, always taken most of their fish within the limits.

10. The inshore fishery is by far the most valuable, as herring, capelin, smelt, clams, launce, at least two-thirds of the mackerel, and a great portion of the codfish are taken within the limits.

11. It has always been a common complaint with our fishermen that American schooners came inshore and enticed the mackerel away by feeding them, thus preventing our fishermen from catching any more.

12. Another complaint with our fishermen has always been, that the Americans came inshore to set their nets for bait, thus preventing them from getting sufficient for their own wants.

13. I have often seen American schooners come into Mal Bay to set their nets for bait.

14. Our fishermen catch the same fish as are taken by the Americans along our shores.

15. The absence of American fishermen from our waters since 1871 has no doubt been the main cause of the increase of the codfishery, as they have thus allowed our fishing grounds to be re-stocked.

16. Herring are all caught in-shore, those caught by the Americans on this coast being for bait only.

17. I have always understood from the Americans that our mackerel was of superior quality to their own, and fetched a better price in the American markets.

18. There can be no doubt that the right to land, dry, and repair nets on our coast will be an important benefit to the Americans.

19. The trans-shipment of cargoes will also be an important advantage to the Americans, as it will enable them to keep on the fishing grounds, and thus double their fares.

20. The buying and catching of bait is also a great benefit to the Americans. When they buy, it is in order to save time.

21. The Americans could not carry on the cod and halibut fisheries to advantage without the privilege of procuring bait within the limits. Halibut is generally caught within a mile of the coast along the north shore of the St. Lawrence.

22. The right to fish in our waters by Americans is, and must ever be a serious injury to our fishermen who cannot cope with them, on account of the superiority of their vessels and fishing gear.

JOHN VARDON, *J. P.*

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief, at Percé, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 1st day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

JAMES ALEXANDER,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 203.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, George Dumaresq, of Fox River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, merchant, make oath, and say as follows:

1. I am acquainted with all the fisheries carried on, on this coast, and on the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence for the last 34 years.

2. During the Reciprocity Treaty from 1854 to 1866, and previous to that time, mackerel fishing by the Americans on these shores, from Cape Rosier to Mont Louis, and also in the Bay of Gaspé, has been very extensive.

3. During the period just mentioned, an average of 150 schooners have visited our shores here yearly for mackerel fishing. These vessels averaged 70 tons, with a crew of 15 men.

4. These vessels made yearly a good voyage on these shores. I heard the Americans say so many times, and that often they were making two voyages.

5. American fishermen have acknowledged before me that yearly these schooners that visited our shores here for mackerel, carried away from 400 to 500 barrels of that fish; I have known vessels taking 250 barrels of mackerel in three days, and very close to the shore at about 4 and 5 fathoms of water, near Fox River.

6. The cod-fishery is as good now as it was formerly.

7. The Americans catch mackerel with hand-lines and seining. I have seen them fishing, and catching fish with both. I have never seen the Americans fishing elsewhere on these coasts than inside the three miles.

8. The practice of American fishermen of throwing fish offals overboard is very injurious to our fishing grounds in several ways; in the first place it feeds the fish too much, thus preventing the fish from taking bait, also the putrid offals upon which the fish feeds on the bottom must be injurious to the mother fish, thereby destroying the fry.

9. On these shores the Americans have always fished inshore. I have seen them fishing inshore continually during the Reciprocity Treaty. I have seen vessels loaded. I have not seen them seining elsewhere than in Gaspé, but I have seen seines on board of several vessels.

10. The inshore fisheries are by far of a greater value than the outside ones. All the fish here are caught inshore.

11. I am aware that the Americans have been in the habit of using artificial bait when they came to fish amongst our own boats, and the moment that bait was thrown out mackerel would suddenly rise to the surface, and after them, making good catch. The Americans would leave for deep water, and no more mackerel was to be caught inshore. I am aware also that Americans have threatened to stone, and did stone, too, our fishermen in their boats, because they say our fishermen were interfering with their fishing.

12. This practice has been carried on during all the time the Americans have visited our coasts for mackerel fishing, and this was at a time of the cod-fishery when mackerel as bait was most needed.

13. The Americans use both hauling and purse seines, both of which, in my opinion, are injurious to the fisheries in this respect, that it takes all size of fish, a part of which they do not save, being of no market value.

14. The cod-fishery has rather increased since 1871; herring keeps about the same. The increase of codfish in my opinion is greatly due to the fact that the Americans have retired from our waters.

15. I have heard American fishermen say that our Number One mackerel was superior to theirs, and reached a higher price in their market than their own.

16. Mackerel feeds on shrimps, lancee, and fry of other fish. The food of mackerel is all inshore, that is what keeps mackerel inshore on these coasts.

17. It is a great advantage for Americans to be able to land on our shores, and to dry their nets and cure their fish.

18. It is a great advantage to Americans to be able to trans-ship their cargoes, because it enables them to remain on the fishing grounds and to double their fares.

19. It is a great advantage to Americans to be allowed to procure bait inshore by catching it, or by buying it; and if they buy, it is because it is more profitable to them.

20. It is not an advantage to us to be allowed to fish in American waters.

21. The privilege of the Americans of trans-shipping their cargoes on our inshores is worth to them another voyage, perhaps two.

22. The Americans would not carry on halibut or codfishery profitably in our waters if they were not allowed to procure bait in our inshores.

23. The privilege of being allowed to get bait inshore for cod or halibut fishing by the Americans is equal to their fisheries of cod and halibut.

24. The fishing by the Americans in our waters injures our fishing operations greatly, because it brings in a competition that we cannot sustain. The Americans being so well supplied and fitted out with vessels and fishing gears, that on the fishing grounds they take the best fish. Besides with their large

seines seining for mackerel, as I have seen them in Gaspe Bay, have prevented our fishermen from taking bait for cod-fishing.

25. The Americans being allowed to catch their bait themselves, this practice is an injury to our own fishermen, because it restrains their trade of bait.

GEORGE DUMARESQ.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief, at Fox River, County of Gaspe, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 31st day of July, 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 204.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Alexander Campion, of Magdalen River, County of Gaspe, Province of Quebec, fishermen, make oath, and say as follows:—

1. Am acquainted with all the fisheries on this coast for the last 30 years.
2. From 1854 to 1866 the fishing by the Americans has been very extensive for mackerel between Cape Chat and Magdalen River, a distance of 63 miles.
3. To the best of my knowledge about 100 vessels have visited these shores yearly during the period mentioned, mackerel fishing.
4. Have been piloting American fishing schooners on this shore, and on the north shore for 3 or 4 seasons during the Reciprocity Treaty. I have seen them fishing and catching mackerel, and I have caught mackerel whilst in their employ, and always very close the shore, sometimes so close that I could step on shore from the schooner.
5. These schooners used to make good voyages yearly previous to 1865, and their cargoes yearly averaged 300 barrels of mackerel each trip. These schooners averaged about 65 tons, with a crew of about 16 men.
6. The mackerel fishery seems to have decreased, but the cod and herring fisheries are the same now as formerly.
7. The Americans take mackerel by means of hand-lines and seines. During the Reciprocity Treaty, each schooner had boats which they sent to fish inshore.
8. The throwing overboard of fish offals, as practiced by the Americans, injures the fishing grounds very much, because it gives too much nourishment to the fish, and because it poisons the water, drives away the large fish, and kills the eggs.
9. I have never seen the Americans fishing for mackerel other than inshore, during the Reciprocity Treaty, and before on this shore.
10. The inshore fishery is by far of greater value than the outside. All the fish are taken inshore there.
11. Many times whilst I was fishing mackerel inshore the Americans have come in among our boats, and by throwing bait enticed the mackerel away with them, and thereby causing us great loss.
12. I know that the American fishermen have used the hauling seines very often for mackerel. I have seen them using seines at the Cove, "Mount Louisa," and at River a la Pierre. And one time there was so much mackerel in the bunt of the seine that it ruptured, and they lost all. The seines they used were hauling seines, they hauled them from the shore.
13. The hauling seines destroy more mackerel than the lines.
14. Since 1871, salmon and codfish have increased greatly. I believe it is owing to the absence of Americans from our waters. There was also a great quantity of mackerel on these shores last year, and a great increase over former years.
15. I have heard the Americans say frequently that our mackerel were of a better quality than their own, and reached a higher price in their markets.
16. Mackerel feed inshore on launce and other small fish, also on sea fleas, which are plenty on this shore.
17. It is a great advantage to Americans to be able to trans-ship cargoes, because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds, and to double their fares.
18. It is of no advantage to us to be able to fish in American waters, and I never knew of any vessels from here ever going there to do so.
19. Fishing by Americans injures the fishing operations of our fishermen to a great extent. Without considering injuries actually done to our own fishermen, by enticing the fish out of their catch, and the injury done to their nets by sailing over them, and spoiling them, the privilege granted to Americans of fishing in our waters brings in a competition that we cannot sustain, they being better equipped and geared than we are, so that they take all the best fish.

ALEX. CAMPION.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief, at Magdalen River, County of Gaspe, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 27th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 205.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Alexis Malouin, of Griffin's Cove, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. Have been acquainted with all the fisheries that are carried on, on this coast and on the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence for the last 30 years.
2. During the Reciprocity Treaty, from 1854 to 1866, the fishing by the Americans has been very extensive on these shores.
3. To the best of my knowledge, about 100 American fishing vessels have visited these shores for mackerel, yearly, during the Reciprocity Treaty. These vessels average about 65 tons, having about 16 men for a crew each. Each of these vessels have carried away from our shores about 400 barrels of mackerel at a trip, yearly. The most of these vessels make two trips in a season.
4. The Americans take mackerel by means of seines and hand-lines. I have seen them seining several times in this cove and catching fish.
5. The throwing of offals overboard, as practiced by the Americans, is injurious to our fisheries; because it gluts the fish, poisons the waters and kills the eggs.
6. The Americans have always fished inshore here during the Reciprocity Treaty, often inside of half a mile.
7. The inshore fishery is of much greater value than the outside. All the fish here are taken inshore.
8. I have seen the Americans several times each season during the Reciprocity Treaty come in among our boats, and by throwing bait, entice the mackerel away with them. They have done it to me frequently.
9. I have heard the Americans say many times, that our mackerel were better and brought a higher price in their markets than their own.
10. Mackerel breed and feed all along our inshores. They feed on lance and shrimps.
11. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be allowed to land to dry and repair their nets. I have seen them frequently doing so.
12. The Americans could not profitably carry on the cod and halibut fisheries without being able to procure bait in our inshores.
13. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to trans-ship cargoes; because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds and to double their fares.
14. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to procure ice in our inshores to preserve their bait.
15. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes to the Americans is worth a load; and the privilege of procuring bait in our inshores, for their cod and halibut fisheries, is worth these fisheries.
16. Fishing by Americans in our waters hinders our fishing operations. Because they are so much better equipped than we are, that they take all the best fish.

ALEXIS MALOUIN.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Griffin's Cove, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 31st day of July, A.D., 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 206.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Charles Gaul, of Douglas Town, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, fisherman, make oath, and say as follows:—

1. Am acquainted with all the fisheries that are carried on in this Bay for the last 50 years,
2. From 1854 to 1866, and before, the fishing by the Americans was very extensive for mackerel in the Bay of Gaspé.
3. During the Reciprocity Treaty, about 100 American vessels on an average have visited these shores for mackerel fishing. These vessels averaged about 70 tons, having a crew of about 15 men.
4. During the period mentioned above, the American fishing schooners made good trips yearly, and very often they make two voyages in a season. They carry away from our shores about 400 barrels each trip yearly on an average.
5. The cod and herring fisheries are as good now as they were formerly.
6. The Americans take mackerel by means of seines and hand-lines. I have seen the Americans seining in this bay at Sandy Beach.

7. The throwing of fish offals overboard as practiced by the Americans is injurious to the fisheries, because it poisons the fishing grounds, drives the fish away, and kills the eggs.
8. The Americans fished all inshore in this Bay during the Reciprocity Treaty.
9. Our inshore fisheries are of much greater value than the outside. All the fish are caught inshore in this bay.
10. I have seen the Americans many times come in among our boats and entice the mackerel away from us by throwing bait; and when we went to follow their vessels they threatened to sink us with ballast rocks.
11. The practice of seining is injurious to the fisheries, more especially the purse seine, because it takes all kinds of fish, both large and small, and the latter are all thrown away.
12. The same fish that are taken inshore by the Americans are also taken by the Canadians.
13. There has been a great increase in the cod-fishery since 1871, and the mackerel are more plenty this year than they have been for many years past.
14. The Americans take herring inshore here for bait only.
15. Mackerel breed and feed in this bay; their food is launce, shrimps, etc.
16. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be allowed to land to dry and repair their nets.
17. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to trans-ship cargoes, because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds, and to double their fares.
18. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to procure bait in our inshores, either by fishing for or buying it. If they buy it, it is because they save time, and they find it more profitable to them.
19. The Americans could not carry on the cod and halibut fisheries so profitably if they could not get bait in our inshores.
20. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to procure ice in our inshores to preserve their bait.
21. It is of no advantage to us to be able to fish in American waters.
22. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes to the Americans is worth a load, and the privilege of getting bait in our inshores for their cod and halibut fisheries is worth these fisheries.
23. Fishing by Americans in our waters hinders the fishing operations of our fishermen to a great extent; their vessels are so much better than ours, and their gears also, that they take all the best and largest fish.

CHARLES GAUL.

Sworn to the best of knowledge, information and belief, at Douglas Town, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 29th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 207.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Robert Tapp, of Fox River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Fisherman, make oath and say as follows;

1. Have been acquainted with all the fisheries which are carried on, on this coast for 30 years.
2. During the Reciprocity Treaty, from 1854 to 1866, the mackerel fishing by the Americans was very extensive on this coast.
3. During the period above mentioned, about 150 American vessels have visited these shores for mackerel fishing, yearly. These vessels averaged about 65 tons, having about 15 men for a crew. They carry away from our shores about 400 barrels of mackerel at a trip, yearly. All that I have seen make two trips in a season.
4. Codfishery is about the same as formerly; herring also.
5. The Americans take mackerel by means of seines and hand-lines. I have seen the seines in their vessels, but never saw them using them.
6. The practice of throwing offals of fish overboard, as done by the Americans, is injurious to our fisheries; because it gluts the fish, poisons the fishing grounds, and kills the eggs.
7. During the Reciprocity Treaty the Americans have always fished inshore, and very close to the shore.
8. The inshore fishery is of much greater value than the outside. All the fish here are taken inshore.
9. It was the common practice of the Americans to come in among our boats, and by throwing bait, entice the mackerel away with them. They have done this to me several times in a season.
10. The codfishery has greatly increased since 1871. Owing, I believe, to the absence of Americans from our waters.
11. I have heard the Americans say frequently that our mackerel were better, and reached a higher price in their markets than their own.

12. Mackerel feed all along our inshores on launce and sea-fleas.

13. I have seen the Americans several times setting nets close to the shore for bait, for their cod and mackerel fishery. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be allowed to land to dry and repair their nets.

14. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to trans-ship their cargoes. Because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds and to double their fares.

15. It is of no advantage to us to be able to fish in American waters; and I never knew of any vessel from here going there to do so.

16. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes to the Americans is worth a load. And the privilege of getting bait in our inshores for their cod and halibut fisheries, is worth these fisheries.

17. The fishing by the Americans in our waters hinders the fishing operations of our Canadian fishermen to a great extent; because they are so much better geared and supplied than we are, that they take all the best fish.

A. D. JOHNSTONE, (Witness)

his
ROBERT X TAPP.
mark.

Sworn, to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Fox River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 30th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 208.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Luke McCauley, of Douglas Town, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, fisherman and farmer, make oath and say as follows:

1. Have been acquainted with the fisheries that are carried on, on this coast for the last 30 years. That is to say, the Bay of Gaspé.

2. During the Reciprocity Treaty, and before, the fishing by the Americans was very extensive for mackerel in the Bay of Gaspé, at Griffin's Cove, Cape Rozier, Cape Bon Ami, etc.

3. The average number of American vessels that have visited these shores for mackerel fishing yearly, have been about 100, between 1854 and 1866. The average tonnage of these vessels was about 70 tons, having from 13 to 15 men for a crew each.

4. During the period mentioned above, the American fishing schooners that I have seen have made yearly good voyages. I have heard the fishermen say that they would sooner go on shares than on wages at \$40 per month, because they could make more. These schooners generally made two trips in a season, and some of the fishermen told me that all the schooners made two trips.

5. The codfishery is as good now as it was formerly; herring also, and all kinds of bait.

6. The Americans take mackerel by means of hand-lines and seines, principally the former. I have seen as many as 15 schooners in the bay here with seines in their boats, ready to start seining whenever they saw a school of mackerel. But I have seen only a couple of hauls of the seines, and I saw the boats loaded with mackerel taken out of them. This was at Sandy Beach, in Gaspé.

7. The throwing of fish offals overboard on our fishing grounds, as practiced by the Americans, is injurious to our fishing; because it poisons the waters, drives away the large fish, and kills the eggs.

8. The Americans fished all inshore during the Reciprocity, in this bay, at Griffin's Cove, Cape Rozier, and Cape Bon Ami.

9. Our inshore fisheries are of much greater value than the outside. All the fish are caught inshore in this bay.

10. It was the common practice of the Americans to come in among our boats, and, by throwing bait, entice the mackerel away with them. And when we went near their vessels they threatened to split our boats with ballast rocks.

11. The practice of seining is injurious to the fisheries. Because the purse seine takes all kinds of fish, both large and small, and the latter are thrown away and left to perish.

12. To the best of my knowledge, about five American vessels have come in this bay for bait, yearly. And I have seen them setting nets for it during the Reciprocity Treaty and before. It takes about 40 barrels of herring for bait for a codfishing voyage.

13. The same fish that are taken inshore by the Americans, are also taken by the Canadians.

14. Since 1871 the codfishery has greatly increased; and the mackerel are more plenty this year than they have been for many years past.

15. The Americans take herring inshore here for bait only.

16. Mackerel breed and feed in this bay chiefly inshore. Their food is launce, shrimps and other small fish.

17. It is an advantage to the Americans to be allowed to land to dry and repair their nets.

18. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to trans-ship cargoes. Because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds and to double their fares.
19. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to procure bait in our inshores, either by fishing for or buying it. If they buy it, it is because they save time and find it more profitable to them.
20. The Americans could not carry on the cod and halibut fisheries so profitably if they could not get bait in our inshores.
21. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to procure ice in our inshores, to preserve their bait.
22. It is of no advantage to us to be able to fish in American waters.
23. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes to the Americans is worth a load. And the privilege of getting bait in our inshores for their cod and halibut fisheries, is worth these fisheries.
24. Fishing by Americans in our waters hinders the fishing operations of our fishermen to a great extent. Because it brings in a competition that we cannot sustain. They are so much better supplied than we are that they take all the best fish.

LUKE McCAULEY.

Sworn, to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Douglas Town, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 29th day of July, A.D., 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,
Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 209.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Thomas McRay, of Gaspé, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. Have been acquainted with all the fisheries that are carried on in the Bay of Gaspé, and on the north shore of St. John's River, for the last 30 years.
2. The fishing by Americans in this bay for mackerel was very extensive during the Reciprocity Treaty from 1854 to 1866.
3. About 150 American mackerel fishing vessels visited this bay yearly during the period mentioned above. These vessels averaged about 70 tons, having about 16 men for a crew each. I have heard the American fishermen say that they had always made good voyages, and often two in a season. They carried away about 350 barrels of mackerel each trip.
4. The cod-fishery is as good now as it was 20 years ago.
5. The Americans take mackerel by means of seines and hand-lines. They generally use the purse seine. I once helped them to haul a seine at Sandy Beach. They haul them from the shore.
6. The practice of throwing fish offals on the fishing grounds is injurious to the fisheries, because it gluts the fish, poisons the water, kills the eggs, and drives the large fish away.
7. To the best of my knowledge, during the Reciprocity Treaty, the Americans have always fished inshore in this bay and at St. John's River for mackerel.
8. The inshore fishery in this Bay is of much greater value than the outside. All the fish in this bay are caught inshore.
9. It was the common practice of the Americans, during the Reciprocity Treaty, to come in among our boats, and by throwing bait, entice the mackerel away with them. They do this whenever they get the chance.
10. The use of the purse seine is injurious to the fisheries, because it takes all kinds, both large and small. The latter are thrown away and left to perish.
11. While on the north shore, I have seen the Americans seine for bait, and we could not throw our seine until they had finished. And I heard one of the American fishermen say that if we were to do the same on their coast, we would be soon driven away. They came in night and morning to seine for bait.
12. Herring are all caught inshore. The Americans take them for bait only.
13. Mackerel feed and breed all along our inshores. They feed on lance, shrimps, and sea-sleas.
14. The same fish that are caught inshore by the Americans are also caught by the Canadians.
15. Since 1871, the cod-fishery has greatly increased, owing, I believe to the absence of Americans from our waters. Mackerel also, and I think for the same reason.
16. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be allowed to land to dry and repair their nets.
17. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to trans-ship their cargoes, because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds, and to double their fares.
18. The Americans could not profitably carry on the cod and halibut fisheries in our waters if they were not able to procure bait in our inshores.

19. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes to the Americans is worth a load, and the privilege of getting bait in our inshores for their cod and halibut fisheries is worth these fisheries.

20. Fishing by Americans in our waters hinders the fishing operations of our fishermen to a great extent, because they are so much better equipped with vessels and gears than we are, that they take all the best and largest fish.

A. D. JOHNSTONE, (Witness).

his
THOMAS X McRAY.
mark.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Gaspé, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 1st day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 210.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Francis Noil, of Fox River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. Am acquainted with all the fisheries which are carried on, on this coast, from Griffin's Cove to Chlorydorme, a distance of 33 miles, for 30 years.

2. During the Reciprocity Treaty, from 1854 to 1866, and before, the mackerel fishery by the Americans has been very extensive on these shores.

3. I have been several times during a season on board American vessels fishing mackerel. I have seen them fishing whilst I was on board and catching mackerel, and I have fished myself, besides, during the period mentioned above. I have seen yearly, and many times during the season, from shore and from my boat, Americans catching mackerel, and always inshore, and very close to the shore, in two or three fathoms of water.

4. The number of American fishing schooners which have visited these shores for mackerel fishing yearly, during the period mentioned above, was about 150, to the best of my knowledge. The average tonnage of these schooners is about 65 tons, having 15 men for a crew. Each of these vessels have carried away yearly at least 350 barrels. I have heard the captains of these schooners say that most of these schooners were on their second trip, having made their first load about the Magdalen Islands, Prince Edward Island, and the Strait of Canso.

5. The codfishery is about the same as formerly. Herring the same also.

6. The Americans take mackerel by means of hand-lines and seines, but on this coast I did not see them using seines.

7. The practice of the Americans of throwing fish offals overboard, injures our fishing grounds and the fisheries in general; because, first, it gluts the fish, and secondly, because the decaying of these offals poisons the water, drives the large fish away, and kills the eggs.

8. During the Reciprocity Treaty, and before and after, the American schooners have always fished inshore, and made their load of mackerel often very close the rocks.

9. The inshore fishery is by far of greater value than the outside; all the fish on this shore are caught inshore.

10. Every year during the period mentioned above, I have witnessed the American vessels coming amongst our boats when we were fishing for mackerel, and the moment they arrive they throw bait and entice the mackerel away from us, so that our boats could not take any more. They have done this to me and to my neighbors as often as they could get the chance, thereby causing us great damage.

11. Since 1871, the codfish have considerably increased; and I believe it is because the Americans have left our waters.

12. I have heard the Americans state many times, that mackerel caught in here were larger and of a better quality than their own, and brought a higher price in their markets than their own.

13. Mackerel feed all along our inshores on launce and other small fish.

14. I have several times seen the Americans setting nets close to the shore.

15. It is a great advantage to Americans to be able to trans-ship cargoes. Because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds and to double their fares.

16. It is of no advantage to us to be able to fish in American waters, and I never knew of any vessel from here going there to do so.

17. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes to the Americans is worth a load; and the privilege of getting bait in our inshores for cod and halibut is worth these fisheries.

18. The fishing by the Americans in our waters hinders the fishing operations of our fishermen to a great extent, because we are not supplied with vessels and fishing gears to compete with them.

F. NOIL.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Fox River, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 28th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 211.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, James Jessop, of Newport, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. Am acquainted with all the fisheries carried on, on this coast for 30 years. I am living at Newport, and previous to that in Percé. I have been engaged on board an American mackerel fishing schooner on shores. I have seen them fishing with hand-lines and seines, and have fished myself while on board, and caught mackerel always inshore, and besides I have seen them from the shore fishing at Newport and Percé; and I have been on board many times whilst they were catching fish inshore during the period from 1854 to 1866.

2. A hundred American vessels have visited these shores yearly, from Point Macqueréau to Percé, fishing mackerel. The average tonnage of these vessels is about 70 tons, having from twelve to fifteen men for a crew.

3. To the best of my knowledge the American vessels have made good voyages of mackerel yearly during and before the Reciprocity Treaty—300 barrels per trip on an average.

4. The cod-fishery is better this year than it has been for 30 years, and it is because we are alone to fish on our grounds. Herring fishery is about the same. These last couple of years mackerel have not been plenty, but it seems to have increased this year.

5. The Americans fish mackerel with hand-lines and purse seines.

6. When I was engaged on board the American schooner we caught all our mackerel inshore, in fact on the net moorings and inside the rocks. And all the schooners that I have seen here for mackerel have all made their loads inshore.

7. The practice of throwing offals of fish overboard, as practiced by the Americans, injures the fishing grounds very much—it sickens the fish, and kills the eggs.

8. The inshore fishery is of greater value than the outside. Herring, caplin, launce, two-thirds of the codfish, and the greater part of the mackerel are taken inshore.

9. The Americans tuck their seines inshore, in fact I have only seen them use the seine inshore.

10. The use of the seine is injurious in this way, that the small fish are all thrown away and lost. They take all kinds of fish, big and small.

11. Almost every season whilst in Percé I have seen several American trawlers come in the cove and set nets to catch herring for bait.

12. Since 1871 codfish has certainly increased, both inshore and on the banks. As I said before, it is because the Americans are not here to take our fish.

13. The Americans catch herring for bait only, inshore.

14. Mackerel feed on these shores on launce and other small fish, and that is what brings the mackerel inshore, and keeps them there during the fishing season.

15. It is a great advantage to Americans to be able to land, to dry and repair their nets.

16. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to trans-ship their cargoes, because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds, and to double their fares.

17. It is a great advantage to Americans to be able to procure bait in our inshores, either to catch or to buy it; but if they buy it, it is because they save time, and they find it more profitable.

18. The Americans could not carry on the cod and halibut fishery profitably without being able to procure bait in our inshores.

19. It is of no advantage to us to fish in American waters.

20. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes granted to Americans is worth a load; and the privilege of getting bait in our inshores for cod and halibut is worth these fisheries.

21. We cannot compete with the Americans with reference to the fisheries, they are so well equipped and supplied with fishing gears that on the fishing grounds they take all the best fish.

JAMES JESSOP.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Newport, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 25th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 212.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, S. B. Hammond, of Lockeport, in the County of Shelburne, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been well acquainted with the fishing business for the last fifteen years, and have vessels at present engaged in that business, and am well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in this County.

2. Out of this port about one hundred vessels are engaged in the fishing business, most of these

vessels are engaged in the shore fisheries. Fifty at least of these vessels get their bait in this County. Many American fishing vessels run to this port for bait, and to other ports in this County. They also get ice in which to pack their bait in this port and in other ports in the County. The American vessels which get their bait and ice in this port fish from ten to forty miles off this coast, and without this bait and ice they could not profitably carry on the fishery on the coast. The Americans carry on the fishery off this coast within the said distance, by trawling, which I consider a bad way of taking fish. Our vessels take fish within the said distance principally by handlining, and have adopted trawling only this year to any extent in order to compete with the Americans.

3. The small codfish and scale fish, the greater part of which the Americans were in the habit of throwing overboard, they now bring into this port and sell at a profitable price. The Americans are thus enabled to come in and sell their small fish; run off and fish; come in again and sell their small fish, and finally go home filled up with a cargo of large and valuable fish.

S. B. HAMMOND.

Sworn to at Lockeport, in the County of Shelburne, this 21st day of August, A. D. 1877, before me,

AUSTIN LOCKE, J. P.

No. 213.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, William Lloyd, of Lockeport, in the County of Shelburne, master mariner, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for twenty-eight years, for twenty-four years as master. I have fished along the southern coast of Nova Scotia from inshore, off seventy-five miles and took mostly codfish and am well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in Shelburne County.

2. I have seen in one day twenty sail of American vessels engaged in taking codfish on the above mentioned fishing grounds. From LaHave Bank to Brown Bank there are this summer at least fifty vessels of Americans. They are double the number of our vessels. These American vessels carry from ten to fifteen men each and take from sixty thousand to one hundred thousand pounds of fish each. They carry on the fishing on the above mentioned Banks by trawling and get the bait and ice with which they are enabled to do so principally in Shelburne and Yarmouth Counties, and without this bait and ice they could not carry on the fishing on the above mentioned Banks. These American vessels are a great hindrance to Nova Scotian vessels as they have more hooks and are larger vessels and take away the fish from us. The Americans take mostly all their fish on these banks by trawling; Nova Scotian fishermen principally by handlining. Trawling I consider a bad method of taking fish.

The Americans bring in here their small and scale fish, which they were formerly in the habit of throwing overboard, and find here a good market for them; these fish the Americans were in the habit of throwing overboard. They take away the best fish home with them. The Americans purchase bait and ice in this port and in other ports in this County. They purchase because it saves time and expense, and it would take a long time to catch sufficient bait.

WILLIAM LLOYD.

Sworn to at Lockeport, in the County of Shelburne, this 14th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me,

DAVID EISENHAUER, J. P.

No. 214.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, James Alexander, of Point St. Peters, in the County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, merchant, do make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been acquainted with the various fisheries on this coast for upwards of fifty-eight years.

2. Previous to and during the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty, a large fleet of American vessels frequented this coast for fishing purposes.

3. I have often seen a great number of American schooners close in shore catching mackerel, particularly in Mal Bay and the Bay of Gaspé.

4. I have seen as many as 50 to 100 sail and upwards of American schooners, for several seasons, mackerel fishing in this vicinity. These schooners would average upwards of 70 tons each, manned by 10 to 15 men.

5. The American captains to whom I have spoken stated they generally made good voyages, always making two and often three voyages each season.

6. These schooners would take on an average from 400 to 500 barrels of mackerel from our shores each trip.

7. The fisheries are, generally speaking, much the same as heretofore. But the codfishery has considerably increased this summer.
8. Mackerel is caught by the Americans both with handlines and seines.
9. The Americans, previous to and during the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty, took most of their fish inside the limits.
10. The inshore fishery is by far the most valuable, as herring, smelt, caplin, lance, fully two-thirds of the mackerel, and a great portion of the codfish, are taken inshore.
11. It has been a common complaint with our fishermen that the Americans schooners came inshore to entice away the mackerel by feeding them, thus preventing any more being caught by our people.
12. Our fishermen also complained that the Americans set nets for bait close inshore, which prevents their obtaining a sufficiency.
13. Have not seen them set nets.
14. The various kinds of fish taken inshore by the Americans are also taken by our fishermen.
15. The catch of codfish has greatly increased since 1871, caused no doubt by the absence of the Americans from our waters, thus allowing our fishing grounds to be restocked.
16. Herrings are all caught inshore, and are only caught for bait by the Americans on this coast.
17. I have always understood from the Americans that our mackerel was superior to theirs, and fetched a higher price in their markets.
18. The landing of nets to dry and repair by the Americans, on our coasts, is an undoubted advantage for them.
19. The trans-shipment of cargoes will also greatly benefit the Americans, as it will enable them to keep on the fishing grounds and double their fares.
20. The catching and buying of bait is also an important advantage for the American fishermen when they buy, it is to save time.
21. The Americans cannot advantageously carry on the cod and halibut fisheries, without procuring bait within the limits.
22. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes will benefit the Americans to the extent of one load. And that of getting bait for cod and halibut is nearly equal to the value of those fisheries, as the latter is all taken within the limits.
23. Fishing in our waters by the Americans is, and always has been, a serious injury to our fishermen, who cannot cope with them on account of the superiority of their vessels and fishing gear.

JAMES ALEXANDER, *J. P.*

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information and belief at Point St. Peters, in the County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this first day of August, A. D. 1877, before me,

PHILIP VIBERT,

Comr. P. D. P.

No. 215.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, George Privel, fish merchant, of St. George of Mal Bay, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:

1. I am acquainted with all the fisheries that are carried on, on the coast of Gaspé for 40 years past. I have been fishing myself for cod, herring and mackerel for 30 years.
2. During the Reciprocity Treaty, from 1854 to 1866, the American fishery for mackerel on this coast, from Point St. Peter to Sandy Beach, Gaspé, has been extensive.
3. To the best of my knowledge, about 80 to 100 vessels have visited these shores for mackerel fishing yearly. The average tonnage of these American vessels was from 60 to 65, with a crew of ten to fifteen men.
4. During the period mentioned above, I have been on board several American mackerel fishing vessels, whilst they were fishing close to our coast. I have seen them actually fishing and catching mackerel with hand-lines inside three miles, and I heard many times the fishermen say to me that they were doing very well, and sometimes two trips during the season by each vessel.
5. These American fishing vessels must have carried yearly during that period at least 800 barrels.
6. I have seen the Americans, yearly, during the Reciprocity Treaty, continually fishing for mackerel, and very close to the shore, from Point St. Peter, all along the coast of Gaspé Bay.
7. I have seen the Americans catching mackerel only with hand-lines.
8. The use of the seine is injurious to the fisheries, because seines take all kinds of fish and of all sizes; the small ones not being marketable are thrown away and lost.
9. The practice of Americans of throwing fish offals overboard is injurious to our fisheries, because it gluts the fish and prevents the fish from biting, and also because it poisons the water, drives the fish, and kills the eggs.
10. Our inshore fisheries are by far more valuable than the outside ones. Mostly all the fish here is caught inshore.

11. The practice of the Americans of throwing their mackerel bait amongst our boats, and afterwards retiring from the shore, has been highly injurious to us, because it enticed the fish away, so that we could not take mackerel afterwards. They have done that as often as they got a chance; it has been done to me and to my neighbors very often, thereby causing us a great damage, not only in mackerel fishing, but also in the codfishery, by thus preventing us from getting bait.

12. The food of mackerel consists of lance, sea-fleas and small animals floating in the water; this food is inshore, that is what keeps mackerel inshore. Mackerel breed in the Bay of Gaspé and feed along the shores.

13. I consider it a great advantage to Americans to be allowed to land for drying and repairing their nets or seines, and to cure their fish.

14. I consider it a great advantage to the Americans to be allowed to trans-ship their cargoes in our harbors; because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds and to double their fare.

15. I consider that the Americans could not carry on profitably the cod or halibut fisheries in our waters if they were not allowed to procure bait inshore.

16. I consider it a great advantage for the Americans to be allowed to get ice in our harbors or on our shores to preserve their bait.

17. It is no advantage to us to be allowed to go and fish in American waters, and I know of none of our vessels having resorted thither for fishing purposes.

18. The privilege to Americans of trans-shipping cargoes is worth the value of a load and sometimes of two.

19. The value of the privilege to Americans of taking bait on our shores for cod and halibut is worth to them the profits of their fisheries of cod and halibut, because without that privilege they would not come.

20. Without speaking of the drawback the presence of Americans ashore sometimes causes to our own fishermen, their presence and fishing on our shores injure us very much, because we cannot compete with them, on account of their being far better supplied and equipped for the fisheries than we are; on the fishing grounds they take all the best fish, and besides they ruin our fishing grounds.

GEORGE PRIVEL.

Sworn, to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Point St. Peter, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 1st of August, 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 216.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Daniel Devot, of the Basin Amherst Island, Magdalen Islands, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am 62 years of age, I was born here and have always lived here. I am well acquainted with all the fisheries of these Islands. I have fished myself from these Islands for forty years.

2. The herring are found all round these Islands as soon as the ice has gone, some years as early as the 20th of April, but generally in the beginning of May. They come in the greatest quantities into Pleasant Bay. They begin to spawn about the 10th or 15th of May each Spring. They have never failed to spawn here each Spring, always in great numbers, but differing sometimes more sometimes less. They spawn in from half a fathom to two fathoms of water, close to the shore. They also spawn in abundance in the harbor of Amherst, and in the basin at the Moulin. In the harbor they spawn in very shoal water, there not being more than a foot of water above the eggs at low water. I have seen the eggs at the bottom attached to the sea herbs, kelp, &c., and to the rocks. When the male herring are depositing their milt over the eggs the water is made as white as milk; this is especially the case, and to be seen, in calm weather. After a strong breeze of on-shore wind the eggs are often washed by the surf upon the shore or beach in great banks. The herring here spawned by the end of May or the beginning of June, as when taken at this time they no longer contain any spawn. We find the young herring about an inch and a half long about the beginning of August in all the bays and coves round the Islands, but more particularly in Pleasant Bay.

3. The Americans have come to these Islands to seine herring every Spring, as long back as I can remember, some years in greater numbers than others, but always in great numbers. They always have large schooners; sometimes I have seen large three-masted schooners, brigs, and even steamers—these were American vessels. They seined from the shore, landing to haul their seines, on to or close to the shore. Without landing on the shores they could not seine in this way. They take immense quantities of herring in this way, frequently taking as much as two thousand barrels in one haul of the seine. Several vessels join and help to haul the seine, and they load in common from the quantity of herring in the seine. When a great quantity of herring remains in a seine for more than one day, this herring is lost, as the fish thus jammed together soon die and sink to the bottom. These herring are lost, and I have often seen a thousand barrels of herring thus lost.

4. Without the right of landing on our shores the Americans could not thus haul their seines.
5. I have seen as many as from 900 to 150 American vessels here at one time for the herring fishery, and these were large vessels, carrying from 900 to 1,000 barrels at the least.
6. The mackerel are taken with nets in Pleasant Bay and all around these Islands, beginning generally about the 10th of June. This net-fishing for mackerel lasts about ten or twelve days, and generally ends about the 20th of June. When we take the mackerel at the beginning of this net-fishing season they are full of eggs. By the 20th of June, when this net-fishing ends, the mackerel have deposited their eggs. They spawn in deeper water than the herring, where the sea seldom breaks. The line and hook fishery for mackerel begins about the beginning of August, and by this time it is very seldom that we find mackerel with eggs in them. About the beginning of August the Americans come in great numbers for the mackerel fishery in Pleasant Bay and around the Islands. I have sometimes seen from 600 to 700 sail of American mackerel fishers in and around the Islands. I once saw 400 sail at one time anchored off my place at the Moulin.
7. The permission to fish in American waters is of no use to us; our fishermen do not go there.
8. The American free market is of no use to me. I am in the fish trade for myself for the last fifteen years, and I have never sent any fish to the United States. I sell my fish either in Halifax or Quebec. My dried codfish goes to the West Indies; my mackerel to Halifax or Quebec.
9. The American fishing crews often land and commit serious depredations. No later than last week they landed from four schooners in Pleasant Bay and got up a riot at Amherst Harbor. Two years ago some Americans forced an entrance into my own house, causing, by their violence and noise, much alarm to my family. They broke open the door of my house.

I hereby swear that the above statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

W. WAKEHAM (Witness).

his
DANIEL X DEVOT.
mark.

The said Daniel Devot has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Amherst Harbor, Amherst Island, Magdalen Islands, County of Gaspé and Province of Quebec, this twenty-first (21) day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 217.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Joseph Sinette, of Griffin's Cove, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

I am acquainted with all the fisheries that are carried on on the coast of Gaspé since 35 years.

1. During the Reciprocity Treaty, from 1854 to 1866, and some years before that time, the mackerel fishery by the Americans on these coasts, from Griffin's Cove to Madeleine River, has been very extensive.

2. To the best of my knowledge, 150 American vessels have been on these shores yearly for mackerel fishing, during the period mentioned. The average tonnage of these vessels was 70 tons, and their crew 16 men.

3. I have been one season employed on board of an American schooner during the Reciprocity Treaty. We went all along the coast from here to Madeleine River, and we fished at Grand Etang, Clhorydorme, Grande Vallie and Madeleine; we fished about, five or six acres from land; with hand lines we took fish. The large fish we kept and the small were thrown overboard.

4. I have noticed in one day as much as twenty barrels which were thus thrown overboard.

5. Besides I have seen the Americans fishing always inshore, and yearly, from my house and from my boat. I have never seen the Americans fishing on this coast elsewhere than inshore, and very close to the shore.

6. The American fishing vessels always made good fares at that time mentioned, and it is also to my knowledge that most of these schooners were making two voyages a season each.

7. These American schooners have yearly carried away from our shores here, during the period already mentioned, from 400 to 500 barrels of mackerel.

8. I have also noticed the Americans trawling along the shore here for catching halibut.

9. The cod-fishery is as good now as formerly; herring also.

10. The Americans catch mackerel with hand-lines and with seines, either hauling or purse-seines. I have seen the Americans seining with a purse-seine at Griffin's Cove, at about two acres from land. There was so much mackerel in the seine that it burst. I have seen seines on board every American vessel I have been on board.

11. The practice of Americans of throwing fish offals overboard is highly injurious to our fishermen, because it gluts the fish, and poisons the water by decaying on the bottom, thus killing the eggs, and driving the fish away.

12. The Americans have always fished inshore during the period mentioned above, and caught all their fish very close to shore.

13. The inshore fisheries are by far of a greater value than the outside ones. All the fish on this coast are caught inshore.

14. When the Americans were not with us, we would take mackerel as well as themselves, but the moment they were coming with their vessels amongst us, and throw bait, our catching was done, except if they allowed us to fish with them. but most of the time they threatened to stone us if we did not get away. They done that as often as they got a chance. They have done that to me many times, and more than that, they once run into my boat, notwithstanding my cries, and would have drowned me, had I not been quick enough to cut my boat-anchoring cordage.

15. In my opinion, the use of the seine is injurious to the fisheries, specially the purse seine, because it takes a great deal more fish, and of every quality and size, a part of which is not saved, but thrown overboard or aside to die.

16. I have seen many times the Americans coming in here for herring, which they have bought for cod, halibut, and mackerel fishing.

17. During the first years of the Reciprocity Treaty, and before, the Americans use to take all the mackerel, big or small, but later they only took the number one mackerel.

18. Mackerel feeds on launce, shrimps, sea-fleas, etc. This food is inshore, that is what keeps here mackerel inshore. There is an abundance of food for mackerel all along our shores.

19. It is a great advantage for Americans to be able to land, to dry and repair their nets, and to cure their fish.

20. It is a great advantage for the Americans to be allowed to trans-ship cargoes in our shores, because it enables them to double their fares. I have seen that done at Fox River.

21. I consider it a great advantage to the Americans to be allowed to come in our inshores to catch or buy bait. And if they buy it, it is because they save time, and are able to keep longer on the fishing grounds, and catch fish.

22. The Americans could not fish profitably for cod or halibut, or even mackerel, if they were not allowed to come inshore to get bait.

23. I consider it also an advantage to Americans to be allowed to come inshore for ice to preserve their bait.

24. I do not consider it an advantage to us to be allowed to fish in American waters.

25. The privilege to Americans of trans-shipping cargoes is worth them a load, or the value of a load, or two more.

26. The privilege of getting bait inshore for halibut and cod is worth to the Americans these fisheries.

27. Besides the troubles and riots which the Americans have raised inshore, and which I have witnessed myself, besides also the difficulties we had in our small coves here in setting our nets on the moorings, which was often impossible, on account of the Americans having anchored too close, or because we were afraid that they would lose them during the night in getting underway, the fishing by Americans in our waters is highly injurious to us, and ruin us, because it brings in a competition on the fishing grounds that we cannot sustain, they being better supplied with vessels and fishing gears than we are.

J. A. CUELLET. (Witness).

his
JOSEPH X. SINETTE.
mark.

Sworn to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief, at Griffin's Cove, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 31st day of July, 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 218.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John Phelau, of Port Daniel, County of Bonaventure, Province of Quebec, fishery overseer, make oath and say as follows:

1. Have been acquainted with all the fisheries on the shores of Bay Chaleur for a space of 25 years. About 150 American fishing vessels have visited the shores of Port Daniel and neighboring shores from 1854 to 1866 for mackerel fishing. I have counted as many as 60 at a time inshore; each vessel having an average of 12 men for a crew. I have seen American fishing schooners every year fishing inshore, from Point Macquereau to Paspébiac, a distance of 30 miles.

2. During the period mentioned from 1854 to 1866, I have often been on board American fishing vessels which were fishing at about half a mile from the shore. I have seen them actually catching mackerel inshore.

3. I have often heard American fishermen say that they were doing well at the mackerel fishery.

5. To the best of my knowledge the American fishermen have always made good voyages yearly.

6. The codfishery is fully as good on this coast now as it was 15 or 20 years ago; herring also. Mackerel had decreased. But this season they have increased, owing to the disappearance of Americans from out waters.

7. The American fishermen carry on the mackerel fishery with hand-lines and seines.

8. The practice of throwing mackerel offals overboard on the fishing grounds injures the codfishery, because it gluts the fish. Mackerel offals being recognized as good bait for codfish, whilst cod gurry is the most dileterious, poisoning the fishing grounds, driving away the large fish, and killing the small ones. When the Americans were numerous in the bay, the codfishery was poor on this coast, whilst now there are codfish in abundance.

9. To the best of my knowledge from 1854 to 1866 the Americans have fished mostly inshore.

10. Our inshore fishery is of greater value than the outside (I always speak of this shore from Point Macquereau to Paspebiac), because mackerel, cod and herring are all caught inshore here.

11. Several times I have heard complaints from our own fishermen about the Americans causing them injury, by coming in among the boats and enticing the fish away, thereby causing them great loss. The Americans do this whenever they get the chance.

12. Most of the American fishing schooners are supplied with the purse seine for mackerel fishery. The Americans have always used the purse seine inshore. I have seen them use them several times each season, and with success. I have never seen them use the seines outside. I can safely say that two-thirds of the mackerel are taken inshore. They have seined all along this shore.

13. The use of the purse seine is injurious to the fisheries, because they take all kinds of fish, large and small, the latter being thrown away dead or maimed, so that it could not live.

14. Every year some American schooners come in Port Daniel for bait. They both fish for and buy it. They catch their bait with nets.

15. Herring are all caught inshore. The Americans take them here for bait only.

16. Mackerel feed all along the inshores in Bay Chaleur. Their food is launce, small herring and other small animals.

17. I have seen the Americans several times come ashore to dry and repair their nets. I consider it a great advantage for them to be allowed to do so.

18. It is a great advantage to the Americans to be able to trans-ship their cargoes; because it enables them to keep on the fishing grounds, and to double their fares.

19. It is a great advantage to American fishermen to be able to procure bait in Canadian inshores. I don't believe they could carry on the cod and halibut fisheries otherwise.

20. The privilege granted to Americans to fish in Canadian inshores injures Canadian fishermen to a great extent. It brings in a competition that we cannot sustain. The Americans being better equipped with fishing gears and vessels, that they have all the chance.

21. If the Americans were not allowed to fish in our inshores we might do well in good seasons, even with our poor outfits for mackerel. The reason our outfits are so poor is because we are not supported by strong and rich companies like the Americans.

JOHN PHELEN.

Sworn, to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, at Port Daniel, County of Bonaventure, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 23rd day of July, A.D., 1877, before me,

N. LAVOIE,

Justice of the Peace, Province of Quebec.

No. 219.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Sixte Lafrance, of Amherst Harbor, Amherst Island, Magdalen Islands, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:

1. I am 67 years of age, and I have lived here for 48 years, and I have fished during all that time, though for the last seven or eight years I have not fished much. I am well and practically acquainted with the fisheries carried on in Pleasant Bay, off Amherst Harbor, and around these Islands.

2. The herring spawn in great abundance in Pleasant Bay and Amherst Harbor and all around the Islands, and they have never failed to come and spawn here every year, as above stated, since I first came here. They spawn in shallow water, on the flats of Amherst Harbor, in among the seaweed, where at low water there is not more than one foot of water over the spawn. Their spaw is generally attached to the seaweed. In Pleasant Bay and around the Islands they spawn in from half a fathom to two fathoms water. They spawn in May, and during the spawning season, when the weather is fine and the sea calm, the sea over the spawning ground gets white like milk; this is caused by the milt of the male fish. Towards the end of August and in September, large quantities of small herring about two inches long are seen in the harbor and in Pleasant Bay; these fish keep in small schools. Towards evening they come inshore, while in day time they seem to go out to sea. The mackerel feed on them, and when the fishermen are fishing for mackerel in the bay, and when they see schools of small herring pass by their boats, they know that the schools of mackerel are near at hand, and get ready for them.

3. Ever since I came here, I have seen every year large numbers of American schooners fishing for herring with seines, and I have seen as many as 150 of them at one time. About 25 years ago they used to load and take away from 800 to 1,100 barrels each. They used to take the herring with seines; they used to draw their seines ashore, and the men went on the land to draw the seines. They used also to dry their seines on shore, when their voyage was completed. I have seen myself one haul of a seine for herring load two American schooners of at least 1,000 barrels each, and this was not a rare occurrence; and I know that as many as 3,000 barrels have been taken in one haul. I have seen seines that had been drawn near the shore, moored for three days; that is, as long as the fine weather lasted, and the schooners that were partners in the seine, sometimes six in number, used to send their boats to take out the fish with dip-nets. When the bad weather came on they were obliged to tip the seine and allow the fish to go, some of them still alive, but most of them dead and of course lost.

4. If the Americans had not the right of landing on our shores, they would not be able to draw their seines ashore.

5. Mackerel are found in great abundance sometimes, at other times they appear in less quantities, in Pleasant Bay. They have never yet failed to come every year. The time of fishing mackerel extends from the 10th to the end of June,—that is, mackerel fishing by means of nets in Pleasant Bay. They are then, in the beginning of this fishery, full of spawn; towards the end of this fishery a great number have spawned, as we find their bodies empty of the spawn; but still some have retained it to deposit it a little later. When we begin to fish for mackerel with hook and bait we no longer find them full of spawn, they are then spent.

I hereby swear that the above statement is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct.

Witness, JOHN GALT.

His
SIXTE X LAFRANCE.
mark.

The said Sixte Lafrance has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Amherst Harbor, Magdalen Islands, this twenty-first (21st) day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 220.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Gabriel Cormier, of Amherst Harbor, Amherst Island, Magdalen Islands, County of Gaspé, Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:

1. I am 77 years of age. I was born here and have lived here all my life. I fished from the age of 15 till about eight years ago, around the Magdalen Islands, at Anticosti, on the North shore of the Gulf from Natashquan to Blanc Sablon, and for the last 7 years I have confined myself to fish in Pleasant Bay and off the neighboring shore. I am well acquainted with all the fisheries carried on at the above-named places; they are cod, herring, mackerel and halibut.

2. As soon as the ice disappears from the shores of these Islands, herring are seen in great abundance, coming close to the shore, for the purpose of spawning. They spawn in Amherst Harbor and all the Islands. I have seen the eggs of the herring on the flats near the shores, everywhere around the Islands. They spawn in a depth of one foot to two or three fathoms, and during the spawning season, that is during May, the sea gets white, as far as we can see, in Pleasant Bay, towards House Harbor and in Amherst Harbor, with the milt of the male fish. In July we begin to see the herring fry, half an inch long, with large heads and eyes. In September they are about two inches long, and begin to be shaped like the adult herring. In October they are about three inches long, and we use them then as bait for the codfish. We take those little herring with dip-nets along the shore, and sometimes we find enough in the stomach of the codfish taken to serve us as bait for the whole day. Since I first commenced fishing, I have never seen the herring fail in Pleasant Bay or round these Islands. They always come to spawn, though sometimes in greater numbers than others. There is no place in the Gulf or on the coasts of the Maritime Provinces, as far as I have heard from the numerous fishermen with whom I have spoken, where herring spawn in such abundance as at the Magdalen Islands.

3. The Americans have come to fish for herring round these Islands ever since I can remember, and about 20 or 25 years ago, they must have come some years to a number of 150 sail or more annually.

4. In June, mackerel come into Pleasant Bay in great numbers; we then catch them with nets, and we then find them full of spawn. When, in August, we fish for them with hook and line, we find them spent; they are then beginning to get fat, and recover from the effects of spawning.

5. I may also state that the Magdalen Islands are spawning grounds for the codfish.

6. The right of fishing in American waters, granted to us by the Treaty of Washington, is not of the least use to us. I have never heard of one of our vessels going to fish in those waters.

I hereby swear that the above statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

Witness, JOHN GALT.

His
GABRIEL X CORMIER.
mark.

The said Gabriel Cormier has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Amherst Harbor, this twenty-first day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 221.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Edward A. Conway, of Gaspé, in the County of Gaspé, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am agent at St. Johns for the Messrs. J. & E. Collas, fish merchants. I was also agent at Moisie for 2 years before I came to this place. I am in the fish business for the last 7 years.

2. The principal fish on this coast are the cod, the halibut, mackerel and herring. All these fish are caught in the inshore limits. At St. Johns we occasionally fish on the banks.

3. It would be impossible for any vessel to continue to fish on the banks or inshore waters of this coast, without coming on shore for bait, as all our bait is caught within three miles from shore; in fact all our bait is taken close along shore. The usual bait—launce, herring, capelin, etc., are taken all the time right on shore.

4. The right of fishing in American waters is of no value to us; we have no desire to go there, as we have all the fish we can take, if left undisturbed, at our own doors.

5. The American free market is of no use to us. All our fish is prepared for, and shipped to Brazil, the West Indies or Europe. In my time, I have never known of any fish having been sent to the United States.

I hereby swear that the above affidavit is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct.

E. A. CONWAY.

The said Edward A. Conway has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at St. Johns, in the County of Saguenay, and Province of Quebec, this 8th day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 222.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Philias Sirois, of L'Islet, in the County of L'Islet, and Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am engaged in the fishing business for the last 16 years. I own a fishing establishment in St. John River, north coast of the River St. Lawrence, on which I keep 24 boats. I am thoroughly acquainted with all the operations connected with fishing on this coast. I am acquainted with the fisheries carried on between Mingan and Seven Islands.

2. The principal fish caught are the cod, halibut, mackerel, and herring.

3. The cod is the principal fish, and gives rise to the principal fishing on the coast. All the fishing on the coast specified is carried on within the three mile limit, with the exception of the St. John's Bank and Mingan Bank, upon which the boats of this coast go and fish sometimes, generally in the fall, but the great bulk of the fishing is carried on much inside of the three mile limit.

4. The bait—we use caplin, launce, herring, clams, and trout, mackerel and squid occasionally, also smelt. These fish are all taken close on the beach, except the squid, but all for within the three mile limit. It would be impossible for a foreign fishing vessel to fish for cod on the banks of St. John or Mingan outside to the limit, without being obliged to come into Canadian waters to take their bait. I am sure of this fact, as I have seen during the last five years of the Reciprocity Treaty, and the two years during which the Americans were allowed to fish in British waters with licenses, a fleet of from 10 to 40 vessels, most of which were American vessels, fishing for cod and halibut, both on the banks and inshore waters. These vessels had to come on shore for bait, and I repeatedly saw them taking their bait by means of seines, inside of the mouth of the river, as well as on the beach. They might sometimes take their bait on the banks by means of drift nets, and they might also bob for squid, but they could not depend on this manner of getting bait but for cod-fishing, they have to come to the shore for bait. If they had not this right, they would have to stop the fishing, and leave the coast.

5. After the period named, I saw but a few, say three or four of a season, fishing on the banks and inshore waters, and as usual, taking their bait on shore.

6. It is my opinion that vessels fishing on fishing grounds, and throwing overboard all their offals, as every vessel does, injure the fishing, because it glut the fish, and they refuse to take the bait.

7. The competition by these foreign vessels also injures the fishing, as when the fish is scarce the more boats or vessels are fishing, the less remains for each; and when bait is scarce, and strangers come and interfere with our men in the taking of it with large seines, there is less chance for our men to get enough, and our fishing may be stopped or hindered accordingly.

8. The privilege of fishing in American waters is of no practical advantage whatever to Canadian fishermen, as it is not at all probable that we will leave good fishing grounds to go such a distance to fish in grounds already exhausted.

9. The American free market is of no use to us, and for the last 17 years I have never shipped any fish to the United States. My fish goes to Europe, Brazil, or Canada.

10. It is important for us to keep our fisheries to ourselves, and not to give them to foreigners unless we obtain equivalent advantages in one way or another.

11. The American vessels I mentioned in paragraph 4, used, as a general thing to load. They averaged from 50 to 60 tons, and they used to get full loads.

I hereby swear that the above statement is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct.

PHIS. SIROIS.

The said Philias Sirois has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at St. John's River, in the County of Saguenay, and Province of Quebec, this Eighth day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 223.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John Renouf, of Carlisle, of the County of Bonaventure, of the Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been on this coast for the last 21 years, as agent for Mr. Clarence Hamilton. I have been his agent during that time at the following places: Seven Islands, Moisie, Long Point of Mingan, and St. John River. I understand thoroughly every operation connected with fishing and the curing of fish. I keep twenty-two boats here at St. John River.

2. The fisheries carried on on this coast are the cod, herring, mackerel and halibut, all these fisheries are done within three miles of the coast in our waters, with the exception of two Banks, the St. John Bank, and the Mingan Bank, where cod and halibut are occasionally taken late in the season, these Banks lie at about nine miles from the shore.

3. The cod is the most important fish on this coast and is the fishery most extensively carried on by our people.

4. The bait we use for codfishing is caplin, launce, herring, clams, mackerel, occasionally squid and trout.

5. It would be impossible for a foreign fishing vessel not having the right of entry to our waters, to carry on the fishing on the Banks above described, for, although bait is occasionally taken on these Banks by seines, this is by no means certain, the bait is almost entirely taken close inshore and in the mouths of the rivers and on the beach.

6. I think the practice of throwing overboard offal, while on the fishing grounds, which the Americans do extensively, most injurious to the fishing, as it gluts the fish, and they will no longer take the bait.

7. The competition carried on by foreign vessels is also very injurious to the fishery, for when the fish are scarce the more boats there are fishing the less each one will take, and when bait is scarce, if foreigners are allowed to come with large seines and fish day and night for it, as I know they have done, of course there is less chance of our fishermen getting enough to carry on their fishery.

8. I consider the privilege of fishing in American waters, granted to us by the Treaty of Washington, of no value to our fishermen, as they would never think of leaving their own profitable waters for ones already exhausted.

9. I consider it a matter of great importance to us, to keep our fisheries in our own hands and not to allow Americans or any one else to have the right of exhausting our waters.

10. The American market for our fish, free of duty, is of no advantage to us. I have never shipped any fish to the United States, all our fish are sent to Europe or the Brazils.

I hereby swear that the above statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

JOHN RENOUF.

The said John Renouf has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit at St. John, in the County of Saguenay, of the Province of Quebec, this eighth (8th) day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 224.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, William Francis Bower, of Point St. Peter, of the County of Gaspé, of the Province of Quebec, Fisheries Agent at Shelldrake for Messrs. John & Elias Collas, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have for the last three years been manager of Messrs. J. & E. Collas's fishing establishment at Shelldrake. I understand thoroughly every operation connected with fishing and curing fish.

2. The fish taken here are cod, herring, mackerel, and halibut; of these I am only concerned in the cod-fishery; but I am well aware that all the fisheries here are carried on within three miles of the

coast, except on one small bank, which lies some seven or eight miles from the shore, between Shel-drake and Thunder River. The fishermen, however, very seldom go there.

3. The codfish cured here rank as Gaspé fish—number one—and are superior to American cured fish, and command higher prices in the Brazilian and European markets.

4. I can confidently state that our fishermen will never go to fish in United States waters, and consequently that the right acquired by the Treaty of Washington is of no value whatever to us.

5. From the knowledge I have of the fish trade, I am in a position to state that the right of having a market free of duty for our fish in the United States is of no value to us.

I hereby swear that the above statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

WILLIAM FRANCIS BOWER.

The said William Francis Bower has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit at Sheldrake, this seventh day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 225.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington :

I, Hyppolyte Boudreau, of Esquimaux Point, of the County of Saguenay, in the Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows :

1. I am 40 years of age, and have been a fisherman for the last 25 years. I am well acquainted with the fisheries carried on at the Magdalen Islands, Anticosti, and the North shore of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence, from Sheldrake to Blanc Sablon. I was present when Mr. Julien Boudreau gave his affidavit, and having heard it read to me, I declare that I fully concur in all his statements and opinions, as being to the best of my knowledge and belief correct.

Witness, JOHN GALT.

His
HIPPOLYTE X BOUDREAU.
mark.

The said Hippolyte Boudreau has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Esquimaux Point, this 8th (eighth) day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 226.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington :

I, Francis Cormier, of Esquimaux Point, in the County of Saguenay, and Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows :

1. I am 35 years of age ; I have been fishing for 22 years, and am well acquainted with the fisheries of the Magdalen Islands, the Island of Anticosti, the North shore of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence, from Sheldrake to the Straits of Belleisle ; and being present when Mr. Julien Boudreau gave his affidavit, and having heard it read to me, I fully concur in all his statements and opinions, and hereby swear and declare that all his statements and opinions are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

Witness, W. WAKEHAM.

His
FRANCIS X CORMIER.
mark.

The said Francis Cormier has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Esquimaux Point, this eighth day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 227.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington :

I, Placide Doyle, of Esquimaux Point, in the County of Saguenay, and Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows :

1. I have been 30 years a fisherman and am master and owner of a schooner. I am 45 years of age. I am well acquainted with the fisheries of the Magdalen Islands, the Island of Anticosti, and the North shore of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence, from Sheldrake, to Blanc Sablon ; and being present

when Mr. Julien Boudreau gave his affidavit, and having heard it read to me, I fully concur in all his statements and opinions, and hereby declare that all he has said is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct, and to this I swear.

Witness, WM. WAKEHAM.

His
PLACIDE X DOYLE.
mark.

The said Placide Doyle has sworn to the truth of the above statement, at Esquimaux Point, this eighth day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 228.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Gabriel Cormier, of Esquimaux Point, of the County of Saguenay, of the Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:

1. I am 50 years of age, and have been a practical fisherman for the last 35 years. I am well acquainted with the fisheries carried on on the Magdalen Islands, Anticosti, the North shore of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence, from Sheldrake to Blanc Sablon: and being present when Mr. Julien Boudreau gave his affidavit, and having heard it read to me, I fully concur in all his statements and opinions, and declare that they are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

Witness, JOHN GALT.

His
GABRIEL X CORMIER.
mark.

The said Gabriel Cormier has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Esquimaux Point, this 8th (eighth) day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 229.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Nathaniel Boudreau, of Esquimaux Point, of the County of Saguenay, of the Province of Quebec; make oath and say as follows:

1. I am 46 years of age. I have been carrying on the fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence for the last 30 years, and I am well acquainted with the fisheries of the Magdalen Islands, of Anticosti, the north shore of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence, from Sheldrake to Blanc Sablon, and being present when Mr. Julien Boudreau gave his affidavit, and having heard it read to me, I fully concur in all his statements and opinions, and declare that all he has said is, to the best of my belief and knowledge, correct.

Witness—JOHN GALT.

His
NATHANIEL + BOUDREAU.
mark.

The said Nathaniel Boudreau has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit at Esquimaux Point, this (8th) eighth day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 230.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Julien Boudreau, of Esquimaux Point, in the County of Saguenay, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have lived here 16 years, before that I lived at the Magdalene Islands where I was born. I am 63 years of age and have been a fisherman for 50 years, and for the last 45 years I have been carrying on the fishery with a vessel of which I was master and owner, on the north coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, from Sheldrake to the Straits of Belleisle, and in the Straits of Belleisle, and on the Atlantic Coast of Labrador, as far as Cape Harrison, at the Magdalene Islands, on La Have Bank, at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, and on George's Bank. I am well acquainted with every operation relating to the taking and curing of codfish, halibut, mackerel and herring.

2. I am also acquainted with seal hunting on the ice.

3. The fisheries carried on along the coast of the north of the St. Lawrence, from Sheldrake to the Straits of Belleisle, are the cod, halibut, mackerel, and herring. All these fish are caught within the three-mile limit, all along the coast named, with the exception of the St. John and Mingan Banks, Natashquan, Kejasca, Belles-Amours Banks, where the fisheries are carried on also outside of the three-mile limit, at a distance of from three to six miles from the three-mile line.

4. The bait for taking cod and halibut is caplin, herring, lancee, squid, clams, mackerel, and trout. All this bait is taken near the shores, and generally as in the case of lancee, caplin, herring, with seines from the shore. Herring as well as mackerel and trout is also taken in nets. Squid are taken with jigs by hand.

5. Since I visited the north shore of the St. Lawrence and the Straits of Belleisle, that is to say for the last 45 years, I find that the quantity of fish is about the same upon the whole, but I must add that there are variations, some years being much better than others.

6. From the time that I first visited Natashquan in 1832, that place was visited annually by American fishing schooners to the number of about 15, of from 80 to 120 tons, and having from 15 to 25 men with from four to eight boats to each vessel. These vessels were in company with, on an average each year, 20 or 25 Canadian vessels. Each of these American vessels averaged 500 quintals. This state of affairs existed up to 1854, a period of 22 years, during which they took at this place alone about 8,000 quintals annually; valuing this fish at \$3 per quintal, this would give a sum of nearly half a million of dollars for the value of the fish taken illegally by the Americans at Natashquan alone. Before my time, according to reliable information, American vessels were also in the habit of fishing at this place in even greater numbers. A number of American vessels still visited Natashquan after the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty, but the quantity of codfish having slackened they did not visit the place in such numbers. I have always seen American vessels fishing on the Banks of Natashquan and Kejasca.

7. These American vessels fishing on these Banks and throwing the offal overboard, cause great destruction to the cod, by the codfish swallowing the heads and spinal bone, thus choking themselves, besides it drives the cod off the grounds on which these offals are thrown.

8. American vessels fishing on the Bank of Natashquan or any other Bank in the Gulf, cannot carry on the fishery with profit, or at all, unless they obtain the right of taking bait on shore that is in British waters. It is true they might bring salted clams from their own country, or herring from the Gut of Canso, and sometimes take fresh herring on the Bank with drift nets, but this bait cannot be depended upon, and no schooner could make a profitable voyage under those circumstances; and without the right of taking fresh bait on our shores, no American schooners could continue to fish on the Banks.

9. At Bonne Esperance, Five Leagues, Middle Bay, Belles Amours, Bradore, Blanc Sablon, the Americans use seines for taking cod, these they haul on shore, and by means of these seines they take large quantities of codfish—large and small, many of the small ones too small to be cured, and they have to be thrown away, thus causing a wanton waste of this precious fish. Two years ago at Blanc Sablon some American fishermen threw away six boat-loads of small fish which had been taken in the seine. This way of taking fish is an injury to the fishing ground, to the fish itself which it destroys without profit, and to the fishermen who fish with hook and line.

10. The herring is a fish that is found in great abundance on this coast, and they spawn at many places, particularly at Betchewar, St. Genevieve, Pashashubac, Kegasea, Washlucootai, Coacoachoo, and many other places to the Eastward. American fishing vessels have been in the habit of visiting the coast between Washlucootai and Coacoachoo, both inclusive, for the purpose of taking herring for the last 20 years. They take this herring with seines, which they draw on shore. About 20 American schooners went there this year, the ordinary fishing schooners for herring took about 1000 barrels each, and one three-masted schooner took 6000 barrels (six thousand). This load was for the Norwegian market, and the vessel sailed directly from Washlucootai for Norway. During the last 20 years about the same number of vessels have loaded herring each year.

11. I am also acquainted with the fisheries of the north and south coasts of the Island of Anticosti, the fisheries carried on there are those of cod, herring, and mackerel, and halibut, and are all carried on within 3 miles of the coast, there being no fishing beyond that limit, so that any vessel coming to fish there, must fish within British waters. Some American schooners, about 8 or 9, come to fish herring on the north coast of Anticosti, at Fox Bay, or Belle Bay. Some of them loaded there, others went to complete their load at Washlucootai. They have been in the habit of coming for a number of years till this year.

12. About 15 years ago, American vessels began to come and fish for halibut on the coast of Anticosti, and they fished there until this year. They also fished on this coast, and even in the harbour of Esquimaux Bay. I cannot state exactly what number, but I can say that they fished so exhaustively that they have nearly destroyed all the halibut on these fishing grounds.

13. The competition of so many American vessels in our waters is injurious in a very great degree to our fisheries, and to our fishing interest, and the fishermen of this country have a much smaller chance of taking fish when they have so many American fishing vessels on the same fishing grounds as themselves, than if they were left alone. It is consequently the interest of this country to keep the fisheries in our own hands if possible.

14. The right of fishing in American waters is of no value to us.

15. The privilege of selling our fish duty free in the United States is no use to us, our fish is not prepared for that market.

16. All the coasts that I have mentioned in and about the Gulf of the St. Lawrence are very accessible to American fishermen, and they possess numerous harbors and good anchorage grounds, where their vessels can lay with safety. They also can, and do procure wood and water and other supplies.

17. The advantage of fishing in the inshore waters is a very great one to the Americans, if they could only fish on the outside banks, they would do but little harm to us, and would have but poor success themselves.

18. I rate the advantage to the Americans of fishing in our inshore waters, and taking bait on our shores, at from 75 (seventy-five) to 90 (ninety) per cent on the total value of the fish caught.

I hereby swear that the above statement is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct.

Witness, WM. WAKEHAM.

his
JULIEN X BOUDREAU.
mark

The said Julien Boudreau, of Esquimaux Point, has sworn to the truth of this affidavit, at Esquimaux Point, in the County of Saguenay, and Province of Quebec, this Eighth day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 231.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Philip Touzel, of Shelldrake, of the County of Saguenay, in the Province of Quebec, Postmaster, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have lived here for the last 21 years, and for three years previous to that I came every Summer to this coast to carry on the cod-fishery. I am a practical fisherman, and also fish merchant, and am well acquainted with the fisheries of this place and the neighborhood. The fisheries on this coast are cod, herring, mackerel, and halibut; of these the cod is the chief by far.

2. These fisheries are carried on within three miles of the shore, except that sometimes the fishermen take codfish on a bank $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the shore. This bank is a continuation of the St. John's Bank.

3. The quantity of codfish on this coast, I think, is now as great as ever it was, though of course the catch varies, some years there being more, some less.

4. Halibut were formerly plentiful on this coast, and the fishermen could take plenty with hand lines, especially off Shallop River and Manitou River. American fishing schooners equipped purposely for halibut fishing, began to show themselves on this part of the coast about ten years ago, as far as I can remember, although some might have come before. We used to see three or four at once off this place. Those vessels used to make two, sometimes three, trips each season. They kept their halibut fresh on ice. All these vessels took full loads at each trip; they were from 70 to 80 tons each, and could take on an average seventy or eighty thousand pounds (80,000) of fish each. These vessels continued to fish here till about three years ago, keeping here sometimes as late as the beginning of November. During the time that they had no right to fish, that is, between the time of licenses and the commencement of the Treaty of Washington, they came here in spite of the coast-guard cruisers.

5. I believe the present scarcity of halibut on this coast is owing to the immense numbers of that fish that were taken by the Americans; but if this fishery is left unmolested for a few years I am sure it will become soon as productive as it ever was.

6. This coast is very accessible for fishing boats and vessels, as it is full of harbors and roadsteads, and the shores abound with bait.

7. The bait found here in abundance is caplin, launce, herring, squid, and clams. Launce, caplin, and clams are the most plentiful throughout the season.

8. The halibut schooners take a supply of bait with them from the United States; after this is used up they take their bait on our shore. A vessel equipped for Bank fishing for cod or halibut, which would come to fish on the Bank above described, might at times find bait on this Bank in the shape of herring or mackerel, but more than half the time they would have to come to the shore to take bait, and foreign fishermen not having acquired the right by Treaty to fish in our waters, could not, therefore, take their bait on shore, and in consequence would not be able to carry on their Bank fishing.

9. While it is a great advantage to American fishermen to have the right to fish in our waters, it is not of the least use to our fishermen to have the same right with regard to United States waters, as there is no chance of our ever going there.

10. And the American free market is also of no use to our fishermen, for our fish are cured especially for home consumption or for exportation to Europe and the Brazils. These markets are large enough to take all the fish we can supply.

11. I consider it a matter of the utmost importance to our fishermen to have, if possible, our fish-

eries reserved exclusively to ourselves, as the competition carried on by Americans is most injurious, and will soon deprive our fishermen of their occupation, and oblige them to emigrate.

I hereby swear that the above statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

PHILIP TOUZEL.

The said Philip Touzel has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit at Sheldrake, in the County of Saguenay, of the Province of Quebec, this seventh day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 232.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Samuel Bouchard, of Amherst Harbor, Amherst Island, Magdalen Islands, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am 40 years of age. I was born here. I have fished for 20 years at the Magdalen Islands, and on the north shore from Natashquan to Belleisle.

2. The herring spawn here every spring, and never fail since I remember—they spawn in May.

3. The mackerel also spawn here in the month of June. They spawn in deeper water than the herring, and do not spawn till after the herring.

4. The Americans fish here for herring every spring; they generally haul their seines from the shore.

5. I fished on board American schooners for two seasons 21 years ago. I fished all round the Magdalen Islands, and on the north shore of the Island of Prince Edward, and in the Bay of Chaleur; and the greatest part of the fish taken by these American vessels was so taken close along the shore, and within 3 miles of the coast. We found greater facilities for taking mackerel close inshore, because mackerel are generally more abundant inshore, as they find inshore a greater quantity of small fish upon which they feed. We made one trip each season, taking 400 barrels each trip.

6. From 250 to 300 sail of American mackerel fishers fish in and around the Magdalen Islands each season, and I have seen 100 in Pleasant Bay at one time; and only the other day I saw 72 American vessels anchored off Etang du Nord. The schooners we see this year are of much larger tonnage than we used to see formerly, some are from 100 to 150 tons, and have two seines on board. They practice mackerel seining now more than they used to here formerly, though they also, even the seiners, use the hook and line. The schooners, when loaded, carry from 300 to 400 barrels, that is, the ordinary sized ones, but the large ones can carry as much as a thousand barrels.

I hereby swear that the above affidavit is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct.

SAMUEL BOUCHARD.

The said Samuel Bouchard, of Amherst Harbor, Magdalen Islands, County of Gaspé, and Province of Quebec, has sworn at Amherst Harbor, as above, to the truth of this above affidavit, this Twenty-first day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 233.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Gabriel Seaboyer, of Lower LaHave, in the County of Lunenburg, master mariner, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for forty years. I have fished as master about eleven years, and have also been interested for the same period of time in vessels engaged in the fisheries. I have fished along the Southern coast of Nova Scotia, around Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, Eastern coast of New Brunswick, and around the Magdalenes and Lower St. Lawrence. I have fished mackerel, herring, and codfish on the above mentioned coast, and am at present well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in Lunenburg County.

2. I have seen in the North Bay at one time, upwards of one hundred sail, the most of whom were Americans; and I have seen at Pleasant Bay a fleet of upwards of two hundred sail, most of whom were Americans. Those vessels were engaged in mackerel fishing, and they took mackerel mostly all within three miles of the shore; and in my experience I never saw any large quantity of mackerel taken beyond three miles from the shore. I have made calculations, along with other captains, and we concluded that there were nine hundred sail of American fishing vessels in the North Bay.

3. The Americans carry from fourteen to twenty men on board their mackerelmen, and took from three to four hundred barrels on board each vessel; some took as high as seven hundred barrels. They

made from two to three trips. American codfish vessels carry from ten to fifteen men, and take in the Bay from seven to ten hundred quintals to each vessel, on each trip, and make about two trips. I have often seen Americans in the Spring of the year lying along Cape North, in Cape Breton, within three miles of the shore, engaged in taking codfish; and the vessels which now go from here to take codfish, fish close into the shore.

4. In my experience the mackerel fishery has varied. It may have fallen off some during the past few years, which, I think, has arisen from over-fishing. Codfish can almost always be taken plentifully if bait is plenty. The herring fishery is good and has always remained the same.

5. The Americans took mackerel with hook and line and now use purse seines. They take codfish mostly by trawling, which I consider a very improper method of taking fish. Trawling takes the spawn fish, as the bait lies quietly upon the bottom. In hand-lining spawn fish are seldom taken. The Americans trawled for codfish ever since I can remember. Our fishermen only commenced to trawl about five years ago, and were driven to this plan by to compete with the Americans. I have seen American schooners take large quantities of herring inshore around the Magdalenes; some schooners took as many as two thousand barrels. Those herring were taken with seines.

6. In my opinion throwing overboard offals is injurious to the fishing grounds, and the sound bone which is thrown over kills many large fish.

7. The Americans always fished inshore when they could. When a cutter was in sight they disappeared, and when she went away they returned, and I have seen Americans kept off the shore beyond three miles, and they could not catch a mackerel, and our vessels caught hundreds of barrels.

8. The inshore fishery is worth double of the whole fishery, and more than double.

9. The Americans made a practice of lee-bowing us, and I have often seen them running into Nova Scotian vessels; and I have myself been driven off the grounds by American vessels, and away from schools of mackerel.

10. Over twelve years ago, I have seen American vessels in the North Bay with purse seines, and I consider these seines injurious to the fishery. I have never seen a Canadian vessel with a purse seine.

11. The Americans catch bait all around our coast, as much as they can get.

12. During the past six years there has been no increase in the quantity of fish in Canadian waters. This, I think, is owing to over-fishing, purse seining, trawling, and throwing gurry overboard, and other improper methods of taking fish.

13. The herring fishery is all inshore, and the Americans fish and buy them for bait; they buy because they find it saves time and expense.

14. I have often heard the Americans say that our mackerel is superior to what they take in their own waters.

15. Mackerel make inshore to feed and spawn. They are taken inshore, and I consider them an inshore fish.

16. I have often seen the Americans trans-shipping cargoes at the Strait of Canso; by so doing they save time, expense and catch more fish.

17. The Americans get bait, and ice in which to preserve it, from our inshore fishermen all along our coast, and without this bait and ice it would be impossible for them to carry on successfully the deep sea fishery. The Americans being allowed to get bait is a great injury to our bankers, as they gobble up the bait from our men. Without ice it would be impossible to keep the bait fresh, and they get this ice in almost every harbor along our coast.

18. I have never known nor heard of any Canadian fisherman fishing in American waters, nor do I consider this right of any value.

19. The Americans hinder Canadian fishermen by taking away so many fish, by improper methods of fishing, by carrying off our bait, and by taking up our fishing grounds.

20. I would consider it a great benefit to the Canadian fishermen if the Americans were excluded.

GABRIEL SEABOYER.

Sworn to at Lower Lallave, in the County of Lunenburg, this 7th day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

JAMES H. WENTZEL, J. P.

No. 234.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Patrick Mullins, of South Bar, Sydney, in the County of Cape Breton, in the Province of Nova Scotia, Collector of Customs, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been about fifty-two years engaged in the inshore fishery, and have fished mackerel, codfish, herring, halibut, dogfish, pollock, and squid, capelin, and other bait, and have handled salmon to a considerable extent, and have been acquainted with many Nova Scotian and American fishermen.

2. To my knowledge, the amount of fish taken by American fishermen in Canadian waters is very great. They take mackerel inshore, and I have heard from Nova Scotian fishermen that they have

interfered with their nets inshore, their bobs being found in the Nova Scotia fishermen's nets; and they take codfish and halibut offshore, which makes the inshore catch of these last mentioned fish less plentiful, and they dress their fish offshore, throwing overboard the offals, which is injurious to the fishing grounds.

3. I live close to the coast, and have within the last seven years seen within the three mile limit as many as twenty American fishing vessels at onetime engaged in fishing; and this fall ten years ago, I have seen about one hundred fishing vessels in Sydney harbour at one time, most of whom were American fishermen. Such a large number of fishermen, their being from ten to fifteen men on board each vessel, caused uneasiness to the inhabitants; and from my own observation, I would call them very ill-conducted people, and their conduct caused such alarm that the people talked about sending for a man-of-war to quell them.

4. The vessels fishing within the three mile limit, are said, within the last seven years, down to the present time, to take on an average of twenty barrels a day to each vessel. About five years ago they took about thirty barrels on an average per day. They take those fish at the time of the year when mackerel are number one. The mackerel taken at that time are worth twelve dollars per barrel to our fishermen in the Halifax market. Our number two large are good number one in the American market. And if Americans were kept out, our fishermen would make more money by fishing. These statements, I believe to be rather under than over the mark.

5. Twenty-five years ago, I have seen over a thousand barrels of mackerel taken by thirty men within three weeks at Ingonish, in the County of Victoria. These fish were all taken by boats and nets inshore, some close into the shore by nets made fast to the shore. These barrels I saw packed and weighed, and all of them I numbered and inspected. These mackerel were taken in the spring about the middle of June. About 25 years ago, at Cape North, in the County of Victoria, in the fall of the year, about the first of November, within a fortnight, I have seen about seven hundred barrels taken, of which two-thirds at least were number one. These fish (number one) were worth in the Halifax market five pounds per barrel. These latter fish were taken within half-a-mile of the shore.

6. About fifteen years ago I conversed with an American fisherman who fished off Cape North, and who told me that he was glad when Saturday night came, as he would have a spell then, and that every codfish he took was as long as a splitting table, (about four feet), and besides his own vessel, there were other American fishing vessels.

7. In my opinion, over-fishing may have something to do with the scarcity of the mackerel; but within my knowledge, the fishing has varied, the mackerel, cod, and other fishing being some years good, and others poor. This year I have seen more squid, which is the best bait for codfish, and the best codfish follow them, than I have ever seen in any year during the last fifty years in this Bay (Sydney), and to my knowledge codfish always follow the squid.

8. The inshore fishing I consider to be the most valuable, and if the American fishermen were not allowed to come inshore to fish mackerel, it would not pay them to come to our fishing grounds, most of the mackerel being taken inshore.

9. I think the Americans must take three-fourths of the mackerel inshore.

10. In my opinion, mackerel may have decreased some, the other fish none, since the year Eighteen hundred and seventy-one. The Americans have lessened the catch of fish for Nova Scotia fishermen.

11. The herring fishery is all inshore, and I know of no herring being taken offshore. The American fishing vessels have nearly all two herring nets with them, and with these they can catch herring for bait.

12. Our Nova Scotian inshore codfish are much superior to that taken by the Americans, commanding a better price in the American markets, and are better cured.

13. The food of the mackerel is found inshore. They come inshore and feed on the small bait found there—a small kind of fish found inshore, and of which the mackerel may be found full when taken inshore, also on mussels found inshore on the rocks.

14. The mackerel breed in the North Bay, and around the Magdalene Islands. They feed and breed all round our coasts, in the bays and harbours.

15. In Sydney Harbour (North) the Americans trans-ship mackerel, which saves them a large amount of time, so that they can take more fish, and make a good season.

16. The Americans purchase bait, and also ice, in considerable quantities; without the ice it would be impossible for them to prosecute their fishing voyages. They sometimes purchase a trifle of supplies when they fall short—when they lose an anchor, sail, or chain, without which they would have to return home, and in running home would run a great risk.

17. The Canadian fishing ground, I believe to be much superior to the American, and I know of no Canadian fisherman who goes to take a fish in American waters, and I know hundreds of Americans come here and fish.

18. I consider it in no way in the world a benefit to us for Americans to come here and fish. They diminish the catch of fish for our men, injure our fishing grounds, and in my opinion it would be much better if they were totally excluded.

PATRICK MULLINS.

Sworn to at South Bar, in the County of Cape Breton, in the Province of Nova Scotia, this 21st day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

J. A. RICHARDSON, J. P.,
For and in the County of Cape Breton.

No. 235.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Michael Rooney, of Douglstown, in the County of Gaspé, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been for 30 years a fisherman, and I am practically related to all that appertains to fishing. I am acquainted with all the North coast of the Island of Anticosti. I have fished at McDonald's Cove every year for the past 12 years with Mr. Andrew Kennedy, and have been present when he gave his affidavit, and have heard it read. I fully concur in all he has stated, and hereby swear that, to the best of my belief, all that he has stated is correct.

Witness, W. WAKEHAM.

His
MICHAEL × ROONEY.
mark.

The said Michael Rooney has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at McDonald's Cove, Island of Anticosti, and County of Saguenay, and Province of Quebec, this ninth day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, *J. P.*

No. 236.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Peter Briord, of Douglstown, in the County of Gaspé, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been for 30 years a fisherman, and am practically acquainted with all that relates to fishing. I am acquainted with the North coast of the Island of Anticosti. I have fished at McDonald's Cove, in the North coast of the Island of Anticosti, for the past 12 years. I have heard Mr. Andrew Kennedy give his affidavit, and it has been read to me. I fully concur in all that he has said, and I hereby swear that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, what he has said is correct.

Witness, W. WAKEHAM.

His
PETER × BRIORD.
mark.

The said Peter Briord has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at McDonald's Cove, Island of Anticosti, County of Saguenay, and Province of Quebec, this ninth day of August, A. D., 1877 before me,

P. FORTIN, *J. P.*

No. 237.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington.

I, Andrew Kennedy, of Douglstown, in the County of Gaspé, in the Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:

1. I am 57 years of age, and have been a practical fisherman for the last 40 years. I fished for 12 years on the North shore, at Thunder River, and for the last 12 years I have fished at McDonald's Cove, on the North shore of the Island of Anticosti. I am thoroughly acquainted with the fisheries of the North shore of the Island of Anticosti, from the East to the West points. I am part owner of the fishing establishment here, and understand thoroughly every operation connected with the taking and curing of fish.

2. The fisheries carried on here are cod, herring, mackerel, and halibut. These fisheries are all within the three-mile limit.

3. The bait used for taking these fish is herring, caplin, squid, and trout; all this bait is taken close inshore.

4. Herring are abundant on this coast, and they spawn along the shore, chiefly, however, at Fox, or Bell Bay.

5. The American fishing vessels have been in the habit of resorting to this coast for the purpose of taking herring by means of seines, and this year, according to reliable information, they have already taken 18,000 barrels at Bell Bay and the neighborhood.

6. Since I first came here, I have seen from ten to fifteen American vessels fishing for halibut along this coast, every year. Last year, however, there were only two here, and this year as yet none have appeared. Each of these vessels was from 80 to 120 tons, had a crew of from 10 to 15 men, and from 4 to 6 dories. Each dory has two trawl lines of 500 fathoms each, and each trawl line 350 hooks. Some of these vessels used to make two, some only one trip, and their load amounted to from 80,000 to 120,000

lbs. each vessel. When I first came here, I could take plenty of halibut, sometimes twenty a day, but now we can hardly take one. My opinion is, and it is the opinion of all the fishermen on the coast, that the Americans have exhausted the halibut fishery here, by their excessive fishing with trawls. And not only that, but as when catching halibut they also catch codfish, and those generally the largest, and as they are not prepared for curing those codfish, they throw them overboard when they don't find on the spot other fishermen with whom they can barter them. This great destruction of the large cod, which are generally the breeding fish, is of no use to any one and much to be regretted.

7. Mackerel were very abundant on this shore when I first came here; there seems to have been a falling off for the last two or three years, but this year there is much better prospect.

8. The codfish seem to be as abundant now as when I first came here; but the number varies from year to year, sometimes striking one part of the shore more than another part.

9. Codfish and herring are the chief means of subsistence for the fishermen resorting to this coast, and it is of the utmost importance that they should be preserved as much as possible.

10. I consider the right of fishing in United States waters, granted by the Treaty of Washington, of no value whatever to our fishermen.

11. It is my opinion also that the free market for our fish in the United States is no advantage to us, for our fish is sold for home consumption or for exportation to Europe and the Brazils.

12. It is of the utmost importance for the future of our fisheries, and for the advantage of the fisheries and fishing interests of this country, that foreigners be not again allowed to participate in our fisheries after this treaty has expired; and the competition of American fishermen in our waters is a great detriment to us, as they prevent us from catching as much fish as we would if we were alone.

13. If the Americans did not possess the right of coming to our inshores it would be of no use for them to attempt fishing anywhere on the coast of Anticosti.

I hereby swear that the above statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

ANDREW KENNEDY.

The said Andrew Kennedy has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Macdonald's Cove, Island of Anticosti, this ninth day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 238.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Pierre Brochu, of Seven Islands, in the County of Saguenay, and Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am 64 years of age. I am a practical fisherman. I have lived for 24 years on this coast, 13 of which I have lived at Seven Islands, and at St. Margaret's River 7 years, and 4 years at Moniquajan. I am well acquainted with the fisheries carried on, on this coast between Moniquajan and Esquimaux Point, on the north shore of the River St. Lawrence, a distance of 200 miles. I am also acquainted with the fisheries of the Island of Anticosti, from Ellis Bay, round the West Point and North Shore of the Island, as far as Cape Observation, a distance of 80 miles.

2. The principal fisheries of the coasts mentioned above, are cod, halibut, mackerel, and herring. All these fisheries are carried on within three miles of the shore, except on the St. John and Mingan Banks, and the Sheldrake Bank.

3. The quantity of codfish on this coast is, in my opinion, quite as abundant now as it was when I first came here, though the quantity varies from year to year, five years ago the boats averaging from 125 to 150 draughts at Seven Islands and St. Margaret's River.

4. From the time that I arrived here, until 1868, the time that the Americans were permitted to fish inshore, I saw large numbers of American mackerelers along the shores, and also halibut fishers; and I have counted often as many as 30 at one time at Seven Islands Bay. They come there for shelter, and for fishing also. When they were prevented from fishing by the coast guard schooners, after the end of the Treaty, we saw but few, though they still continued to come in small numbers in spite of the coast guards. Since the Treaty of Washington, I have only seen a few fishing for mackerel and halibut. I estimate the average annual number of mackerel and halibut schooners belonging to the Americans, from Seven Islands to Gadabout, to have been 100. These vessels were all fishing and seining close along the shore, within the 3 mile limit. They fished inside the limit, because there was no fish outside of the limit. They nearly all loaded. I fished for them, and with them, for several seasons, both with the hook and with the seine. This enables me to give accurate information with regard to the fisheries of the Americans on this coast; each of these vessels took from 300 to 800 barrels. About ten of these vessels fished annually for halibut.

5. There was generally one seine for each three schooners, some seines were shore seines, and some were bay seines; even with the bay seines they never fished outside of British waters. Often they threw the seine after a school of fish, and when the seine was drawn near the shore, it was found that they had herring, or young codfish, and not mackerel; and as they wanted no fish but mackerel, they would allow the greatest part to perish and rot upon the shore.

6. The halibut fishing schooners fished along the coast, always within three miles. They stopped fishing in numbers about 7 or 8 years ago. Since that period we only saw a few, this year none. When I first came here, I could take as many halibut as I liked, and the people used to sell large quantities, and besides used it largely as food; but now, since the Americans have fished so extensively along the shore, we only catch a few. It is now not worth our while to fish for them. My opinion is, that this scarcity, which is so injurious to the people of the coast, and to the interests of the fishermen of this county in general, is due entirely to destructive over-fishing done by the Americans, as I have stated above, by trawls, etc. Now that the fishing for halibut is at rest, the re-stocking is taking place, as we see more small ones this year. And if the Americans keep away for a certain number of years, this fishing will certainly recuperate, as our fishermen never fish in such an exhaustive manner as to destroy the fishery.

7. We find on this coast, from Point Charles to St. Nicholas, a distance of 120 miles, excellent spawning grounds, especially at Seven Islands Bay, St. Margaret's Bay, May Islands, Cawee, Trinity Bay, Gadbout, etc. At all these places any quantity of herring can be taken in the spring.

8. The American fishing grounds are of no use to us, we don't want to go there.

9. Our fish is prepared for the Canadian markets, and Europe and Brazil.

10. The population is increasing so fast on this coast, and the fisheries are so needful for their subsistence, that they should not be given away to foreigners; if they are, half our population will have to emigrate. Most of these American vessels trade extensively with the shore population, and sell and land articles without paying duties. The fisheries here are very accessible, as there are many harbours, good anchorage grounds, and roadsteads.

11. The bait for cod-fishing and halibut, and mackerel, is very abundant along the shore, and the Americans used to go and get it themselves. I have seen them repeatedly go and dig clams at Seven Islands and the May Islands.

I hereby swear that the above statement is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct.

PIERRE BROCHU.

The said Pierre Brochu, of Seven Islands, has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Moisie, in the County of Saguenay, and Province of Quebec, this Sixth day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 239.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Isaac Chouinard, farmer and fisherman of Cape Chat, in the County of Gaspé and Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in fishing on this coast for about twenty years.

2. I am well acquainted with the fisheries of the south coast of the St. Lawrence from Matane to Gaspé, of the north shore from Point des Monts to Esquimaux Point, north and west coasts of Anticosti, Bay de Chaleur and the Magdalen Islands. I was engaged as fisherman on board an American mackerel fisher for one season, the summer of 1863; we made two trips of 850 barrels each trip, both of which took place within ten weeks, the first trip we took 100 brls. with the seine, the rest were taken with hook and line, the second trip was made entirely with the seine, and we filled our vessel in five days, that is to say the seine was hauled once, from the shore at Cape St. Nicholas on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence, and contained no less than 1200 brls., the seine was moored, and 850 brls. were taken from the seine, and the seine was capsized and the remaining 350 brls. were allowed to go, we having no means of preserving them, many of these were dead and became a total loss. The first voyage was made partly on the coast of Gaspé and partly in the Bay of Chaleur, the fish we caught were taken entirely within the three mile limit in both voyages, that is entirely in British waters. We also made a third voyage in September and October on the Banks off the Magdalen Islands, where we loaded with codfish and halibut. The vessel was of 100 tons and hailed from Boston.

3. Mackerel was very abundant on this coast formerly, for the last few years they have been scarce, this year they are appearing in abundance.

4. According to my belief the scarcity was caused by the great quantity taken by the Americans, and as they have not been fishing in any numbers for a few years back, the quantity of mackerel is again increasing. The year that I fished with the Americans, it was reckoned that seven or eight hundred American vessels were fishing in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, as far as I could see and learn, they were all fishing within the three mile limit.

5. I affirm that the presence of so many American vessels in our waters fishing for mackerel, was most injurious to our mackerel fisheries, as it must tend to diminish the supply, the methods practiced by the Americans, either by seines or by hook and line, enabling them to take such large quantities so easily.

6. The privilege of fishing in American waters is of no value to us. I have no knowledge of any Canadian vessels being engaged in fishing in American waters.

7. The free market for our fish in the States is of no use to us, as our fish is prepared either for home consumption or for foreign markets other than the American, where they command better prices.

8. It is my opinion that it is of the greatest importance to us as Canadians to keep our fisheries entirely to ourselves as a means of developing our own fisheries, and fostering our Mercantile Marine, and giving employment to our maritime population; and thereby keeping them from emigrating to foreign countries.

I swear that the above statement is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct.

(Witness) W. WAKEHAM.

ISAAC ^{his} CHOUINARD.
mark.

The said Isaac Chouinard, has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit at Cape Chat, in the County of Gaspè, this thirty-first day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 240.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Austen Locke, of Lockeport, in the County of Shelburne, merchant, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the buying and selling of fish for twenty years, in fishermen's supplies, and outfitting fishing vessels, and am well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in Shelburne County.

2. From eight to ten American fishing vessels run into this port within the two or three years now past. They purchased ice and bait and supplies to a small extent. They are fitted out at home with supplies and only purchase when they run short, which is a great accommodation to them. The American vessels which run in here sell their small fish which would be an inconvenience for them to carry home; by doing this they take home a cargo of large and valuable fish. The American vessels which come in here and take ice and bait, trawl for codfish off this coast within twelve or fifteen miles. In my opinion trawling is an injurious method of taking fish, as it destroys the spawn fish. Out of this port there are about one hundred vessels engaged in the fisheries—mostly codfish—all fitted out here. The most of these vessels take codfish by handlining. The American vessels which fish off this coast take, during the year, about one thousand quintals of codfish each, and could not catch this fish unless they got bait and ice in our harbors to enable them to do so.

3. In the falls of seventy-one, two and three, I had a vessel running to the North Bay for mackerel, and in seventy-one she made a good trip. She took three hundred and forty barrels of mackerel. She carried fifteen men. From seventy-one back to sixty-three I had vessels engaged in the mackerel fishery, and in my experience this fishery has varied, being some years good and others poor. Since seventy-three the codfish have fallen off to some extent, this I attribute to trawling as already stated.

4. The fishing grounds are injured by throwing overboard offal, and so many American vessels throwing over this offal are very injurious to the grounds.

5. The inshore fishery is of greater value than the offshore fishery, and twice the value of the offshore fishery.

6. Canadian fishermen catch codfish in inshore waters along the coast.

7. Since eighteen hundred and seventy-one the number of American vessels engaged in taking codfish has very largely increased—there are more than five times as many.

8. Last year from four to five thousand barrels of herring were taken in the County of Shelburne—these fish are taken all inshore, within three miles of the shore.

9. In proportion to the whole number of mackerel taken in American waters they do not get so many number one as there are taken in Canadian waters.

10. It is a great advantage to American fishermen to be able to procure bait and ice in which to preserve it in the bays and harbors along the Canadian coast, and without this bait and ice they could not successfully carry on the fishery on the banks off this coast. They purchase this bait in this county, and do so because they save time and expense by so doing. It would require too much time to catch this bait to any large extent inshore in this county. The privilege of getting bait inshore in Canadian waters interferes with the supply for Canadian bankers, as they make the bait scarce, especially in the early part of the season.

11. I have never known nor heard of any Canadian vessels except two from this county fishing in American waters. One of these vessels I myself owned. She went from here to get seines at Gloucester, and only caught two barrels of mackerel on the American coast. She reported that she did not see a school of mackerel on the American coast. This vessel was in American waters during the month of July now past.

12. The privilege of getting bait in Canadian ports is worth six hundred dollars to each American vessel.

13. So many American vessels running down here to fish make the fish much more scarce for Canadian fishermen. They first employed trawling and compelled Canadian fishermen to do so in order to compete successfully with them. By trawling the expense in catching is double. Nova Scotia vessels out of this port have commenced trawling within the last three years.

14. I have known of cases of smuggling by American vessels in this county, particularly Kerosene Oil.

AUSTEN LOCKE.

Sworn to at Lockeport, in the County of Shelburne, this 23rd day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

JACOB LOCKE, J. P.

No. 241.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Daniel McAdams, of Lockeport, in the County of Shelburne, master mariner, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for the past twenty-four years. I have taken codfish in the North Bay, along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, on the Labrador coast and on the Banks. Along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, in the North Bay and on the Labrador coast I have taken herring.

2. I left the North Bay a fortnight ago and saw a large number of American mackerel vessels there and likewise round Prince Edward's Island. I saw as many as thirty sail in one day. Last summer I also saw a large number of American vessels engaged in taking mackerel. Last year and this year I have seen many American vessels engaged in taking codfish in the North Bay. These American mackerel vessels carry from fifteen to twenty men each. The American vessels which I saw had on board about three hundred barrels of mackerel each. The Americans take this mackerel inshore within three miles of the shore.

3. In the North Bay the American codfish vessels carry from twelve to sixteen men each, and are fitted out to take from a thousand to fourteen hundred quintals of fish to each vessel.

4. The Americans catch almost all their codfish by trawling. Both last year and this I saw American vessels trawling for codfish around the Magdalene Islands within three miles of the shore. This year I have seen as many as seven American schooners trawling inshore within three miles of the shore for codfish. An American schooner which lay alongside of our schooner, took inshore within three miles of the shore, from ten hundred to twelve hundred quintals,—she took as many as one hundred and fifty quintals in one day. The American vessels fished to a large extent inshore this year, as the fish were more plentiful this year within three miles of the shore than off. Four years ago I have seen the Americans set their trawls inshore around Scaterie. Since eighteen hundred and seventy-one the Americans fished inshore whenever the fish made in.

5. In the North Bay last summer I have counted in sight from forty to forty-five vessels at one time,—most of whom were Americans. This number I have counted day after day. Nearly all the American vessels, as already stated, take codfish by trawling. Most of the Canadian vessels hand-line. Trawling I consider an injurious method of taking fish, as it destroys the mother fish. In hand-lining very few mother fish are taken. In trawling the bait lies dead upon the bottom, and the mother fish which are on the bottom bite at it. In hand-lining the bait is almost continuously on the move.

6. On the Canadian coast of Labrador four years ago and for ten years previous, every year I have seen American vessels engaged in seining codfish on the shore. This I consider a bad method of taking fish, as it destroys all kinds of fish, and the large and very small codfish are taken. I have never seen any Canadian vessel seining codfish. The American schooners on the Labrador coast carry about twenty hands each, and are fitted for from two thousand to two thousand two hundred quintals, and generally take eighteen hundred quintals each.

7. I have seen many of the American vessels around the Magdalenes fishing herring and mackerel for bait within the last six years. These herring and mackerel the Americans take in nets. Nearly all the American vessels engaged in codfishing in the North Bay catch their own bait inshore within three miles.

8. I have known American vessels on the Labrador coast to take a thousand barrels of herring by seining on the shore.

9. The mackerel fishery to my knowledge has always varied. In seventy-one, two and three, there were good catches. The herring fishery is almost always good. The codfishery in the North Bay and on the Banks during the past five or six years, has fallen off to a large extent, particularly the off shore codfish in the North Bay. This I attribute to overfishing, and to trawling as already stated.

10. The throwing overboard of offal is very injurious to the fishing grounds, as it drives the fish away, injures the young fish and destroys the spawn.

11. In Canadian waters the inshore fisheries are in my opinion double the value of the off shore fisheries.

12. The herring fishery in Canadian waters is all inshore. The Americans get them for bait, both buying and catching them. They buy in Nova Scotia Bays and harbours along from Cape Sable to Scaterie. They buy because it saves time and expense, and without this bait and ice in which to preserve it, they could not carry on the Bank fishing.

13. The Americans come along the southern coast of Nova Scotia early in the Spring when bait is scarce, and gobble it up, which interferes with Nova Scotia Bankers, and vessels running to the North Bay.

14. It would be a great benefit to Nova Scotia fishermen if the Americans were excluded from our inshore fisheries, and I know of no benefit whatever which we derive from American fishermen.

Sworn to at Lockeport, in the County of Shelburne, this 23rd day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

AUSTEN LOCKE, J. P.

DANIEL McADAMS.

No. 242.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Messie Fournier, of Grande Vallée, in the County of Gaspé, and Province of Quebec, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been fishing in this place for 28 years. I am a practical fisherman and am well acquainted with the fisheries of this coast.

2. Before the American fishermen began fishing on this coast for halibut, this fish was to be caught in great abundance, and we frequently loaded our boats when fishing for cod. At this present time, and for several years back, we can hardly take any; in fact not even enough for our own consumption. This complete destruction of our halibut fishery I believe is due solely to the exhaustive manner in which the Americans fished for halibut, by means of trawl lines, having an immense number of hooks.

3. Before the American schooners began fishing in our inshore waters for mackerel, as they did in such great numbers during the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty, mackerel existed in great numbers all along the bays and coves. Towards the latter years of the Reciprocity Treaty, the quantity of mackerel had sensibly fallen off. Last year and this present summer they are again to be found in great numbers. I attribute the scarcity of a few years ago to the great drain caused by the large fleet of Americans that fished here; and I consider that the present increase is altogether owing to the fact that for some years back the schools of mackerel have not been so much disturbed.

4. I have seen 32 American schooners anchored among the net moorings close inshore at the same time; but they used to come in less numbers almost every week during the mackerel season. They interfered with the drifting for bait and the setting of our herring nets.

5. The crews of some of these vessels used to come ashore and tramp over our crops, force themselves into our houses in the most rude manner. I myself, was forced to keep guard in my house, as well as my neighbor, for eight days, fearing insults to the women of our households during the night; and one morning one of these schooners in getting under weigh, carried off five herring nets, three that were on the mooring, breaking them on the moorings, and two nets that were on the drift, with the boat belonging to one of our men named Landry, the nets of course being fast to the stern of the boat. The schooner with her anchor caught in the net, dragged the boat, with the two men in it, stern foremost for 9 miles, the schooner's crew all the time laughing and making a joke of it. The lives of these two men being in constant jeopardy, the Americans never made the least effort to clear the net, by coming in the wind, as could have been easily done. The boat and men only got clear when the ropes broke, and the nets were lost to these poor fishermen.

I hereby swear that the above statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

Witness, W. WAKEHAM.

His
MESSIE × FOURNIER.
mark.

The said Messie Fournier has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at Grande Vallée, in the County of Gaspé, and Province of Quebec, this second day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 243.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, William Haddon, of Grosse Isle, Magdalen Islands, make oath and say as follows:

1. I am 36 years of age, and have been engaged in the fisheries from Grand Entry Harbor, and am well acquainted with the fisheries of Grand Entry and of the eastern shores of the Magdalen Islands.

2. The herring spawn without fail every season, at Grand Entry, and they go in the lagoon, and they spawn outside as well. I have seen the eggs in the water and on the beach. I have seen the spawn after a heavy north wind cast on the beach knee deep. The people of Grosse Isle take the herring with nets, but the American fishermen take them with seines, which seines they haul on shore, and from the shores, they going themselves on shore to haul the seines ashore. They also go on shore to mend their nets and seines.

3. The American trawlers on the banks resort to Grand Entry in June to get bait. I have seen 20 and 30 sail every spring for the last five or six years. They go on shore to dry their nets, and also hire nets from the inhabitants. I believe that trawling and throwing offal overboard is injurious to the cod and mackerel fisheries.

I hereby swear that the above affidavit is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.

WILLIAM HADDON.

The said William Haddon has sworn to the truth of the above affidavit, at House Harbor, Allright Island, Magdalen Islands, County of Gaspé, and Province of Quebec, this twentieth day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

P. FORTIN, J. P.

No. 244.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington :

I, John Carter, of Port Mouton, in the County of Queens, at present of Lockeport, in the County of Shelburne, fisherman, make oath and say as follows :

1. I have been engaged in fishing for eighteen years in American vessels, and in Nova Scotia vessels for twelve years. I was in an American vessel this spring. While in American vessels I fished codfish on the Western and Quero Banks, and trawled codfish in the North Bay. I fished mackerel in American vessels year after year, down until the fall before last, around the north side of Cape Breton, around Prince Edward Island, the Magdalens, and on the eastern side of New Brunswick.

2. When in the North Bay, I have seen at one time five hundred fishing vessels, most of whom were Americans, engaged in taking mackerel. In the falls of seventy-one, two and three, the catch of mackerel in the North Bay was good. In the fall of seventy-three I was in the American schooner *Water Fall*, of Southport, Maine, and we took in four weeks three hundred and twenty barrels; a crew of thirteen hands were on board. The mackerel trim the shore, and the most of them are taken inshore.

3. When fishing on the banks in American vessels we always made good fares, taking on an average from seven to eight hundred quintals each trip, and two trips each year—carrying from eleven to twelve men. This I have done for six years, now past.

4. The Americans get their bait for trawling inshore in the bays and harbors of Nova Scotia, and along the Canadian coast, and without this bait and ice, in which to keep it fresh, they could not carry on trawling.

his
JOHN X CARTER.
mark.

Sworn to at Lockeport, in the County of Shelburne, this 23rd day of August, A. D. 1877, before me, the same being read over to the within named deponent.

JACOB LOCKE, J. P.

No. 245.

Came and appeared before me, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, in and for the District of Gaspé, William McLeod, Esq., J. P. :

Who deposes and saith that he has had an interview with Capt. Henry Smith, Master of schooner *W. T. Smith*, of Gloucester, Mass., while lying in the harbour of Port Daniel, on a mackerel fishing voyage, about ten days ago.

He being the same Capt. Smith mentioned by him, William McLeod, in his evidence before the Commission at Halifax, he referred him to some remarks he had made to him some few years ago, on the evil results of seining on our shores and throwing fish offal overboard, particularly in our harbours and near the mouths of rivers where salmon resort and other young fry propagate. That he, the said Capt. W. Smith, does recollect that conversation, and also of stating that it was in comparison to killing the goose that laid the golden eggs. He, the said Capt. Smith, also stated that he would depose to the same before any legal tribunal, if called upon; and, that large quantities of mackerel were frequently taken that were unfit for market, and were consequently thrown overboard, to decompose and pollute the waters where thrown, which, if left to nature would become of inestimable value to other fishermen at some future time.

And that he would willingly sign a petition against the use of seines altogether for mackerel fishing, either to the United States or the Dominion Governments. Moreover, that it was his, Capt. Smith, belief that if the practice of seining was continued for ten years consecutively, it would to a great extent annihilate the mackerel fishery both in the Dominion and American waters.

And that he has been connected with the fisheries during the last thirty-five years, and feels competent to give an opinion on that subject. That he is a native of Nova Scotia, but has resided for several years in Salem, Mass.

And allowed the said William McLeod to use his name with reference to the above subject.

WILLIAM McLEOD.

Sworn before me at Port Daniel, this twenty-seventh day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven.

W. MILLAN, J. P.

At same date, also appeared before me, the undersigned Justice of the Peace, Joseph Horie, of Port Daniel, who deposeth and saith that he was present and witnessed the conversation in the margin.

JOSEPH HORIE.

Sworn before me the day and year above mentioned.

W. MILLAN, J. P.

No. 246.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, Allan Matthews, of East Ragged Islands, in the County of Shelburne, fisherman, make oath and say as follows :—

1. I have been in the habit of supplying ice to fishing vessels during the past two years both Canadian and American vessels. I have last year and this present year supplied ten Canadian vessels with ice. The Canadian vessels take from one ton to three tons each. Last summer and the present summer I supplied two American schooners with ice. A ton and a half each. They used this ice for bait which they got in this harbor. With this bait the American vessels fished on La Have, Brown and Port Le Bear Banks off this coast. They take codfish on the said Banks by trawling.

Sworn to at Lockeport, in the County of Shelburne, this 22nd day of August, 1877, before me.

AUSTIN, LOCKE, J. P.

ALLAN MATTHEWS.

No. 247.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, David Murray, Junior, of Port Mulgrave, in the County of Guysborough and Province of Nova Scotia, Collector of Customs, make oath and say as follows :—

1. I have been acquainted with the fisheries on our coasts for the past twenty-four years, during twenty-one years of which I was engaged in the fishing business, and for the past four years I have been Collector of Customs at this Port.

2. During the Reciprocity Treaty I have known as high as eight hundred sail of American mackerel and cod-fishermen go in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in one season. Of late years about half that number. For the last two years there have been about three hundred sail each year including cod, mackerel and herring. These vessels average about fourteen men each. They fish all around the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. During the Reciprocity Treaty the mackerelers averaged about eight hundred barrels per vessel each season; of late years only about half that quantity. I have known eighteen hundred quintals to be landed in one year by an American cod-fishing vessel. The average catch of codfish I estimate to be about nine hundred quintals per vessel each season.

3. The Americans catch the codfish with trawls, and the mackerel with seines and with hook and line.

4. I consider that the fishery around our coasts is much injured by the Americans throwing over-board offal and garbage. I have been informed on the best of authority that the codfishing at Banquereau has within the last two or three years been totally destroyed by this practice, on the Grand Bank, as I have been informed, the fishermen sometimes draw their trawls through "gurry" (that is the entrails and refuse parts of codfish) and bring it up on their lines. Wherever this practice is carried on, the fishermen say that the fish are driven away.

5. I have understood American fishermen to say that the greater part of the mackerel are caught within the three mile limit, and at the present day a greater portion of the mackerel than formerly is caught in shore.

6. The value of the inshore fishery so far as the mackerel and herring are concerned is of much greater value than that outside.

7. The inshore boat fishery is much injured by the Americans running in among the boats and throwing bait in larger quantities and of better quality than our fishermen, and by this means enticing away the fish away from the boats. The schooner *Alice*, Captain H. B. Joyce, took one hundred and twenty "wash barrels" of mackerel on Sunday the 22nd day of July last, close inshore.

8. The American fishermen are beginning to use purse seines on our coasts extensively during the last two or three years. These seines are very injurious to the fishery as they uselessly destroy great quantities of herring and small mackerel which are thrown away. They also tend to break up the schools of mackerel and drive them away. The American codfishermen generally buy herring and mackerel from our fishermen for bait, and catch squid for the same purpose themselves.

9. Halibut are caught to some extent by American fishermen in our waters close in shore.

10. The mackerel caught of late years in Canadian waters are larger than those caught in United States waters, but being generally longer in pickle than the American mackerel, do not bring so high a price when put in the market.

11. The principal feeding and breeding places of the mackerel are around the Magdalen Islands and Prince Edward Island and in the Bay of Chaleur, and in all cases inshore.

12. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes on our coasts is of great value to the American mackerelers. It enables them to make a greater number of trips and catch more fish than they otherwise could; and by this means they save about three weeks on each trip they make. I have known an American mackereler to catch a fare of fish in the time that another vessel was going to the United States and returning.

I consider it a very great privilege to the American codfishermen to be allowed to procure bait on our shores either by purchase or by catching it themselves. They consider it more profitable to buy bait than to spend time in catching it; for this reason, that their ice would melt and their bait already obtained would turn sour while they were fishing for more. They therefore obtain almost all their bait by purchase from our fishermen. The Americans cannot profitably carry on the deep sea fishery without obtaining bait on the shores of the Dominion or Newfoundland. Indeed I do not see how they can carry on the deep sea fishery at all without obtaining bait in Canadian or Newfoundland harbors or shores.

13. The privilege of fishing in American waters is of no practical advantage whatever to Canadians.

14. The value of procuring bait on our shores is worth to American codfishermen almost the whole value of their trip, as without getting the bait they could not catch the fish at all. And in the winter and summer seasons the Americans cannot procure bait except in Canada or Newfoundland.

15. The Canadian inshore boat fishery is injured to a great extent by the American vessels carrying on their fishing operations within the three mile limit; especially by seining and throwing of bait.

The said David Murray, junior, was sworn to the truth of this affidavit at Port Mulgrave, in the County of Guysborough, this 30th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

JAS. PURCELL,
A Justice of the Peace.

DAVID MURRAY, JR.

No. 248.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Thomas Condon, of Guysboro', in the County of Guysboro', merchant, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for five-and-twenty years, both for myself and others, in the County of Guysboro' and other parts of the eastern coast of Nova Scotia. During that time I have been actively engaged in the business, and have a general and fair knowledge of the business of fishing as carried on by both the Canadians and Americans.

2. I have known as many as seven hundred American vessels fishing on our coast during one season for mackerel alone. Some years there would not be so many. Their average tonnage would be from sixty to one hundred per vessel. The crews would average fifteen. When the fishing was good and they enjoyed the privileges now enjoyed under the Treaty of Washington, each American vessel would catch on an average one thousand barrels. This average I consider none too large. When they fished on our coast they used to land and refit. This enabled them to catch double the quantity of fish.

3. Whenever the Americans could they fished inshore. This they did during the Reciprocity Treaty and at other times when they could evade the law. This they also do since 1871. When restricted from our inshore fisheries their voyages were broken up and their vessels were ordered home. This I learned from dozens of the American masters themselves, while I did business at Port Mulgrave for W. O. Heffernan.

4. The value of the inshore fisheries are immensely more valuable to the people of eastern Nova Scotia than those outside. Very few fish are caught by our people outside.

5. Where the practice of enticing fish off shore has or is being carried on, it is very injurious in drawing the fish beyond the reach of many of our own people.

6. All kinds of fish taken in our waters are caught inshore by our fishermen. Whenever there are a large number of fishing vessels in the North Bay there is less fall mackerel taken, which is and has been one of our most important inshore fisheries. The reason for this I believe to be that the excessive quantity of bait used in the Bay keeps them from our shores so late that our fishermen cannot take them. Besides, when the Americans frequent our harbors and bays it injures our inshore fisheries and destroys the fishing gear and nets of our fishermen.

7. I consider the privileges granted to the Americans by the Washington Treaty of immense value to them, and the withdrawal of them would completely cripple their fishing operations. By enjoying these privileges they are enabled to double their trips and more than double their catches. Indeed, without such privileges I think it would be impossible for them to prosecute the fisheries. They catch and buy their bait. When they buy it, it is to serve their own interests, not ours. The right to land, catch and buy bait inshore is indispensably necessary to them for the prosecution of their fisheries.

8. I am not aware of any Canadian vessels fishing in the American waters. The privilege to us I consider of little or no value.

THOMAS CONDON.

Sworn to at Guysboro', in the County of Guysboro', this 26th day of July, A.D., 1877, before me

JAMES A. TORY, J. P.

For the County of Guysborough.

No. 249.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Alexander McKenzie, of Crow Harbour, in the County of Guysboro', fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries during the last thirty years in and about the northern coast of Nova Scotia, catching all kinds of fish caught along the Nova Scotian coast.

2. Crow Harbour is situated in Chedabucto Bay. Since 1871 American fishermen come into the Harbour for bait and ice, to an average of fifty each year. They fish the greater part of their bait, but some they buy. The quantity of squid alone caught by them in this harbour since A. D. 1871, will average twelve hundred dollars annually, at least. They take quantities to the Banks for sale. Besides squid, they also buy herring and mackerel for bait. The American vessels come in twice and sometimes three times after bait.

3. When the American vessels are in fishing bait, few fish can be caught. The principal fishing carried on in Crow Harbour is seine and net fishing. The American vessels are anchored on the seine grounds—their boats are all around the harbour and coast—the catching of bait and the noise made by them by firing guns and in other noises made by them break up the schools of mackerel, so that they are frightened off, and prevent them from coming in so that the fishermen can catch them. Neither can our fishermen set their nets when American vessels are coming in and out, or when they are at anchor, because the anchors and ships tear and destroy them. For these and many other reasons it has been very injurious to our fisheries to have the Americans come in for bait. In fact our fishing in this harbour is almost destroyed. Formerly the mackerel fishing in this harbour was one of the best in Canada.

4. The value of our inshore fisheries is immeasurably greater to us than those offshore. The whole fisheries of this Bay are inshore.

5. Since 1871 wherever the Americans have resorted for bait the fishing has decreased. This is particularly the case in this harbour. The failure of the fishing in this harbour during the last few years, I attribute largely to the presence of the American fishermen in our harbour.

6. Mackerel feed upon shrimp and other small fish. This food is found along our shores where the mackerel feed. I think a portion of the mackerel spawn or breed along the coast of Nova Scotia, but the greater number spawn on the Bank and other shoal waters of the North Bay.

7. I consider it a great advantage to the Americans to be allowed to land and dry their fish and trans-ship their cargoes. In this way they are enabled to catch a much larger quantity of fish, and in fact, without the advantages granted by the Treaty of Washington, I cannot see how they could carry on the deep sea fisheries with profit. It will at least enable them to double the quantities they would otherwise catch.

ALEXANDER MCKENZIE.

Sworn to at Crow Harbour, in the County of Guysboro', this 26th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me,

WM S. MCKENZIE, J. P.

For the County of Guysborough.

No. 250.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Michael Robertson, of Port Jollie, in the County of Queens, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in fishing for upwards of thirty years. I have fished along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, around Cape Breton, on the eastern side of New Brunswick, around Prince Edward's Island, around the Magdalenes, and on the Labrador coast, both on the Canadian and Newfoundland coast. I am well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in Queens County.

2. When fishing in the North Bay I have often seen from two to three hundred American vessels engaged in fishing at one time. These vessels were engaged in taking mackerel and took the most of them inshore within three miles of the shore, and it would not pay to send a vessel to the North Bay unless she could catch mackerel within three miles of the coast. I was in the North Bay when the fisheries were protected by cutters, and saw the Americans kept off beyond three miles, and they took scarcely any mackerel while our vessels within three miles of the shore were doing well.

3. In this harbour large quantities of clams are got for bait. About fifty sail of vessels are supplied every year with this bait. These vessels take from twenty-five to thirty barrels each. These vessels thus supplied are Canadian. They say the clams got here are just as good as the American. These vessels use these clams for bait in taking mackerel and codfish. The codfish taken by clam bait is with hook and line.

MICHAEL ROBERTSON.

Sworn to, before me, this 17th day of August, 1877.

S. T. N. SELLON, J. P.

Port Jollie, 1877.

No. 251.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Geoffrey W. Publicover, of Getson's Cove, in the County of Lunenburg, master mariner, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for twelve years down to the Fall of 1873 inclusive. I fished along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, around Cape Breton, on the eastern side of New Brunswick, around Prince Edward's Island, around the Magdalenes, on the Canadian coast of Labrador, and am well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in Lunenburg County. I have taken all the kinds of fish found on the above-mentioned coasts.

2. I have seen in Port Hood harbour at one time four hundred sail of mackerel vessels of which upwards of three hundred were Americans. I have seen in the Fall of 1873 one hundred and eighteen vessels engaged in taking mackerel, of whom one hundred at least were American vessels. These vessels were all in sight. There were many which we did not see. I have often made calculations with Nova Scotia and American skippers, and during the Falls of '71, '72 and '73, we put the American vessels engaged in taking mackerel at over four hundred sail on an average for the three years. These vessels take the most of their mackerel inshore, and in my opinion it would not pay to fish mackerel in the North Bay unless they can be taken inshore.

3. These American mackerel men carry from fifteen to twenty-two hands. These vessels take from two to six hundred barrels on each trip, and make from three to four trips. In the Falls of seventy-one and two many of them made four trips and took as many as two thousand barrels of mackerel in the year.

4. I have seen many American vessels engaged in taking codfish in the North Bay. These vessels carry about twelve men each and take from about ten to twelve hundred quintals of codfish during the season. These vessels take fish inshore within three miles of the shore, and I have seen them take codfish by trawling close into the shore at Scaterie. They take fish wherever they can get them.

5. I have frequently seen the Americans take herring around the Magdalenes. These vessels carry about from eight to ten hands, and take from one thousand to two thousand barrels each. I have seen the Americans take herring and codfish on the Canadian coast of Labrador. These fish they take by seining on the shore. These vessels take about two thousand barrels of herring each. The codfish vessels take about two thousand quintals each.

6. Mackerel, in my experience, have varied in the Falls of seventy-one and seventy-two, the catch of mackerel was more plentiful than I had ever seen it for over ten years. In the Fall of seventy-three my vessel, with a crew of sixteen hands, took in a few weeks two hundred barrels of mackerel. Codfish in my experience has remained about the same. The herring fishery has always been good.

7. The Americans formerly took mackerel with hook and line during a few of the last years I was

there. I saw the Americans use purse seines. These purse seines I consider very bad for the fishery. they take both large and small mackerel; they break up the schools of mackerel and frighten them away. I have never seen nor heard of any Canadian vessel using a purse seine. I am acquainted with over two hundred Nova Scotian vessels. The Americans take codfish in the Bay mostly all by trawling. Many of the Canadian vessels take codfish with hand lines.

8. In my experience the Americans fished inshore whenever they could, whatever the terms of the Treaty were. I have seen two American vessels taken by the cutter *Sweepstake* in one day.

9. I think it would be a great benefit to Canadian fishermen if the Americans were excluded from our inshore waters, and I know of no benefit that we derive from American fishermen whatever.

GEOFFREY W. PUBLICOVER.

Sworn to at Getson's Cove, in the County of Lunenburg, this 10th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOSEPH W. LOCKHART.

No. 252.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, James S. Seaboyer, of Rose Bay, in the County of Lunenburg, merchant, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I was engaged in the fisheries for twelve years, down as late as 1869. I fished along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, around Cape Breton, the eastern side of New Brunswick, around Prince Edward's Island, around the Magdalenes and on the Labrador. I took principally mackerel, and I have fished also codfish. I have fished for one season in an American vessel, *Charles P. Thompson*, of Gloucester. We took all mackerel and took them mostly all inshore within three miles of the shore, and in my opinion it would not pay to go to the North Bay to catch mackerel unless they can fish inshore; nor do I think it would pay to fit out a vessel for the North Bay if she had to fish outside of the three mile limits. The American vessel that I was in was from the latter part of August till the latter part of October in the North Bay, and took in that time three hundred barrels of mackerel. The men's share averaged about one hundred dollars apiece. The Americans get bait around here at Moser's Island, and have got it in considerable quantities during the past six years.

2. When I was in the Bay the bulk of the Americans trans-shipped their cargoes at Canso, and by doing this they save time, expense, and take more fish.

Sworn to at Rose Bay, in the County of Lunenburg, this 8th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

JAS. H. WENTZEL, J. P.

JAS. S. SEABOYER.

No. 253.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Thomas Ritcey, Senior, of Lower La Have, in the County of Lunenburg, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for thirty-three years, and have a vessel now engaged in the fisheries. I have fished along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, around Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, the eastern side of New Brunswick and around the Magdalene Islands and Lower St. Lawrence. I have fished mackerel, herring and codfish, and all the fish taken in Canadian waters.

2. I have seen in one day in the North Bay upwards of one hundred and fifty sail engaged in taking mackerel. All those vessels were American. We often made calculations among ourselves, and put the American vessels down at between five and six hundred in the North Bay. The American vessels carried from fifteen to twenty-five hands. The Americans fished in close to the shore, and took mackerel wherever they could get the most of the mackerel. The Americans got inshore. Very seldom they got much mackerel three miles from the shore. In my opinion it would not pay the Americans to go to the North Bay to fish mackerel unless they could fish within three miles of the shore. I have seen the Americans trawl inshore within three miles for codfish, around Prince Edward Island.

3. The American vessels averaged about four hundred or upwards barrels to each vessel on each trip. They average two trips. The codfish vessels carry from twelve to eighteen men, make two trips, and take from eight to twelve hundred quintals to each vessel on each trip.

4. In my experience, mackerel has always varied, being some years good and others poor. Over-fishing during the past few years may have something to do with the falling off in mackerel. This year mackerel have struck in plenty. The cod-fishing during the past fifteen years has been good, and if bait is plenty, plenty of codfish can be had. The herring has always been plenty.

5. The Americans take mackerel mostly with hook and line. I have seen them seining them around North Cape, in Prince Edward Island, with purse-seines. This plan of taking mackerel with purse-seines is injurious to the fisheries. I never saw any Canadian vessels using purse-seines. The Americans take codfish mostly by trawling inshore and offshore, and wherever they can catch them. Trawling, in my opinion, will be the ruination of the codfish, as by it the mother fish are taken. In trawling, the bait lies still upon the bottom; in hand-lining the bait is moving, and very few fish are taken. Upwards of twenty-five years ago I have seen Americans trawling. Nova Scotians never made a practice of trawling until the last four or five years, when they were compelled to do so in order to compete with the Americans.

6. The throwing overboard of offal I consider very injurious to the fishing grounds. I have seen the Americans throw overboard fish under a certain number of inches, which I also consider injurious to the grounds. By these practices the fish are glutted and driven away. The throwing overboard of the sound bone I consider injurious, and I have often caught fish with sound bones in them in a consumptive state. This offal is also destructive to the spawn.

7. The Americans made but little difference under any treaty. They fished inshore when the cutters were out of sight, and made off when the cutters appeared. It was reported again and again that the American vessels carried two registers.

8. The inshore fishery is double the value of the offshore fishery.

9. I have often been lee-bowed by the Americans. I have often seen them running into Nova Scotia vessels, and I have had my own vessel injured by them. They used to throw overboard bait and take the fish away from us.

10. The Americans get bait and ice all along our coast in the bays and harbors, wherever they can get it quickest and cheapest. They get this bait in order to carry on the bank fisheries, and without this bait and ice it would be impossible for the Americans to carry on successfully the bank fishery.

11. Since 1871 the number of fish has not increased. This is owing, in my opinion, to over-fishing and the improper methods employed by the Americans in taking fish.

12. The Americans, since 1871, have injured Canadian fishermen by taking large quantities of fish, by trawling and other improper methods of taking fish.

13. The herring are chiefly taken inshore, and the Americans purchase them for bait in order to save time.

14. The mackerel feed inshore, and make inshore to spawn, and I call them an inshore fish.

15. I have seen Americans land their fish and then go out on the fishing grounds to take more. By so doing they save time and expense, and take more fish, as a vessel can carry home more than she can fish with.

16. It would, in my opinion, be impossible for the Americans to carry on the deep sea fishery around our coast unless they could procure bait and ice in which to pack it. They purchase bait in order to save time.

17. The Americans are mostly all fitted out on leaving home, and only purchase supplies, except ice and bait, when they run short.

18. I know of no benefit to Canadians in the right of fishing in American waters.

19. The Americans make bait scarce for our bankers, and carry away large quantities of fish from our men.

20. I have often heard of Americans smuggling goods around our coast, and exchanging them for fish.

21. If the Americans were excluded from our inshore waters it would be a great benefit to Canadian fishermen.

THOMAS RITCEY.

Sworn to at Lower La Have, in the County of Lunenburg, this 7th day of August, A.D. 1877, before me.

JAMES H. WENTZEL, J. P.

No. 254.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, William D. Smith, of Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, merchant, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been actively engaged in the fish business in the way of a supplying establishment for the past thirteen years. I am owner of the fishing establishment on Port Hood outer island, and furnish supplies to fishing vessels and take fish in payment, and have a pretty good opportunity of judging of the condition of the fishing business on this part of the coast.

2. During the period I have been engaged I have known as many as 200 American vessels in Port Hood Harbor at one time. Mackerel and codfish are the chief fish obtained by the Americans in the Gulf, though they take small quantities of haddock, hake and halibut.

3. The average cargo of American fishing vessels is three hundred barrels per trip of mackerel, and

from 600 to 1000 quintals of codfish, and they make on an average from two to three trips during the season. The American vessels begin to arrive at about the first of May to procure bait for that codfishing. In July they arrive here for the mackerel fishing and continue fishing in the Gulf and on the coast for several months until November.

4. The catch of mackerel has somewhat decreased during the past two or three years, but there is no reason to believe that this has been due to any falling off in the number of mackerel frequenting our coasts and waters. I believe that our mackerel fisheries will be as productive during the next eight years if properly cared for as during any past time.

5. The American mode of fishing in our waters is very destructive to our codfisheries. Their system of trawling is very injurious. Meeting the fish and killing the mother fish early in the season before they have spawned. I believe this mode if continued by the Americans will do serious damage to our fishing grounds.

6. I am not sufficiently familiar with practical fishing to understand fully the injury done to our fishing grounds by the practice of the Americans of throwing overboard offal; but I have understood that the fish were glutted by it, and I attribute the falling off in the catch of mackerel during the past two years as due to this practice of throwing bait overboard, which has prevented the mackerel from biting as freely as before. Our own fishermen exercise greater care in disposing of the offal and usually bring it on shore with them.

7. I cannot speak positively as to the relative quantity of fish caught by the Americans at the time of the Reciprocity Treaty inshore and outside. But I know that the Americans fished there inshore, and I know that the inshore fisheries are much more valuable than those outside.

8. The Americans have injured our boat fishing by their system of throwing bait overboard to entice mackerel to leave the shores. This at one period was a source of great damage to our boat fishing.

9. The effect of the use of purse seines by the Americans in any great numbers would be the destruction of the fishing grounds and the glutting of the markets. The fish would be caught in such large quantities that many of them would be lost and thrown into the sea dead which would be very destructive to the grounds.

10. The Americans I understand do catch small quantities of herring and squid for bait inshore, but chiefly purchase their bait from traders. The small fish used for bait is taken almost exclusively inshore and in Bays and Creeks.

11. Since the Treaty of Washington to the best of my knowledge there has been a slight decrease in the number of codfish frequenting the Gulf, and I attribute the cause of it entirely to the system of trawling adopted by the American fishermen.

12. The herring fishery on our coast is a very large industry, and very important to our fishermen. Herring are caught altogether inshore. The Americans do not prosecute herring fishery to any great extent now, but should they do so at any time, as under the Treaty of Washington they may, they would very greatly injure the grounds, and their competition would be a great loss and injury to our fishermen, who are now profitably engaged in the business.

13. The mackerel spawn near the shore, and must necessarily feed near the shore, as the small fish upon which they feed only frequent shoal water.

14. It is unquestionably a very great advantage to American fishermen to be allowed to land and dry their nets and cure their fish. And a still greater advantage to be permitted to trans-ship cargoes, because it enables them to land their fish and refit for another voyage at our ports, without returning to the States, and greatly saves time during the season. It also affords a reasonable likelihood of building up a profitable trade for the Americans by preserving the fish in ice and trans-shipping them fresh to the American markets.

15. It is one of the greatest advantages which the Americans gain under the Treaty of Washington to procure bait in our waters and ports. Most of this is purchased from our traders, but the Americans only adopt this mode of obtaining it, because it is more profitable to them than catching it. Our own fishermen procure it with much greater facility than the Americans can, and it would be a serious drawback for them to have to catch it now, and would involve extra time and extra outfit.

16. It would be nearly if not quite impossible for the American fishermen to carry on codfishing and other deep sea fisheries around our coast, if deprived of the privilege of resorting to our ports for bait. Their bait will only last three weeks on ice, and to be entirely dependent on their own ports for this would be destructive of all profits in the business.

17. Another great advantage to Americans under the Treaty is the privilege of resorting to our ports for ice, which they obtain from our traders every season.

18. The cash value of the privileges accorded to American fishermen in respect of our fishing grounds can be measured by the value of our fisheries to them; for if they were deprived of them their codfishing would be ruined, and their mackerel fisheries in the Gulf at least be greatly crippled.

19. I know of no advantage which Canadian fishermen derive from the privilege of fishing in American waters, and I never heard of any Canadian vessel going to fish in these waters, save that I read an account this spring in an American paper of one vessel that had been fitted out at Lunenburg for that purpose.

20. I do not consider the privilege of sending our fish into American markets free of duty anything like an equivalent for the use of our fishing grounds. In fact it is only a trifling advantage to us anyway.

WILLIAM D. SMITH.

Sworn to at Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, this 20th day of July, A.D., 1877, before me,
JOHN MCKAY, J. P.

No. 255.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Archibald B. Skinner, of Port Hastings, in the County of Inverness, trader and inspector of fish, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fishing business for the past thirty-two years. I have been a practical fisherman and am familiar with the general character of the fishing business on this coast.

2. During the Reciprocity Treaty a large fleet of American fishing vessels came to this coast during the summer season to carry on a fishing business. The number increased during the treaty, until at the termination a fleet numbering hundreds of vessels were engaged in fishing around the coast of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, P. E. Island and the Magdalen Islands. These principally took mackerel and codfish, but they took other fish as well. The average cargo of mackerel was at least three hundred barrels per trip, and the cargo of codfish ranged, to the best of my knowledge, from six hundred to a thousand quintals. They made two or three trips per season.

3. After the Reciprocity Treaty the American fleet began to fall off very much, and their business and profits began to decline, and I believe it would have gone down much more, and possibly have been abandoned, if American fishermen had not violated the law.

4. During the past two or three years the mackerel fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence has fallen off considerably. The number of American vessels has been decreased and the catch diminished. This has been merely accidental and temporary, and not permanent. The reason for few American vessels coming here I attribute to the falling off in the price of mackerel in American markets; and also to the injury done to our fishing grounds by American fishermen by their system of seining and their throwing bait and offal overboard, which gluts the fish and tends to destroy the catch.

5. Our herring fisheries are among the most valuable and important we have, and are the source of great profit to our own fishermen. Nearly the whole herring fishery is carried on inshore.

6. The inshore fisheries are considered more valuable than the outside. During the prosperous years of our mackerel fishing I have no doubt but that the larger number were taken inshore. I believe that our mackerel fisheries, if properly protected, will be more productive and valuable this year and for the next eight years than for some time past. The number of American vessels arriving here this season and passing through the Strait is larger than it has been for some time past, and the mackerel season is only beginning. I know no reason why there should not be as large a mackerel fishery in these waters during the remaining term of the Treaty of Washington as under the Reciprocity Treaty.

7. The privileges granted to American fishermen under the Treaty of Washington of catching and procuring bait in our waters and ports, is exceedingly valuable to them. In fact without that privilege I cannot see how they could carry on their codfishing in these parts with profit. All their bait is procured here and preserved in ice obtained from our traders, and I do not have much hesitation in saying that if the Americans were entirely dependent on themselves for bait they would have to abandon codfishing on the British American coast.

8. The privilege of reshipment of cargoes which the Americans obtain under the Treaty of Washington, is exceedingly valuable to them. They are to my knowledge taking advantage of this privilege at the Strait of Canso. They have an advantage in this over Canadian fishermen, because by using American vessels they are able to avoid inspection, and they do avoid it, as in my capacity of inspector of fish I happen to know.

9. A large portion of the American fishing fleet is now going every year up the eastern side of Cape Breton and fishing in the vicinity of Scateric, Cape North, and the section around there. I understand that these grounds are very rich in fish.

10. The value of the privileges acquired by American fishermen under the Treaty of Washington cannot be estimated accurately by the money value to each vessel engaged. It is worth nearly as much as their entire fisheries on this coast, for, if deprived of all these privileges, they would scarcely be able to carry on their fisheries on this coast with any profit, without violating the law.

11. I am not aware of any advantages which Canadian fishermen derive from the privilege of fishing in American waters, nor do I know of any of our fishermen who have availed themselves of this privilege.

12. It would be a great advantage to our shore fishermen to have exclusive use of our fishing grounds. They would preserve them and derive greater profits from them than they possibly can when the Americans are using them in common. I consider the privilege of sending our fish into American markets no kind of an equivalent for the privileges given to Americans under the

Treaty of Washington; in fact it is only a trifling benefit to us at all. If we had exclusive use of our own grounds it would be better for us, even though the American Government imposed the highest duties on our fish.

A. B. SKINNER.

Sworn to at Port Hastings, in the County of Inverness, this 25th. day of July, A.D., 1877, before me,

PETER GRANT, *J. P.*

No. 256.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, William Munroe, of Whitehaven, in the County of Guysboro, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries during the last forty years, and have a personal knowledge of the matter, hereinafter deposed to.

2. The Americans in large numbers fish in the North Bay for mackerel, and frequent the Canadian coast for bait and other necessaries. I have known a hundred and fifty American sail come into Whitehaven Harbor during a single season for bait. The codfishing vessels average from ten to twelve men the mackerel vessels will average fifteen men. The tonnage will range from sixty to a hundred tons.

3. The present condition of the fishery on the coast of Nova Scotia is not as prosperous as formerly. Codfishing particularly has declined. I consider trawl fishing the principal cause of this decline, as it kills the mother fish.

4. The principal portion of the American mackerel fishermen fish with hook and line. A small portion with seines known as purse seines. The American codfishers fish with trawls or set-lines Herring are principally taken by them with seines, and a few with nets. Halibut are fished in the same way as cod. They throw away all the small cod, sometimes in as large quantities as three hundred pounds per vessel per season. This I consider very destructive to the codfishing. The cod thus thrown away is similar to those caught inshore by the Canadian fishermen.

5. The practice of throwing offal of every kind carried on by American fishermen on the fishing ground I consider very injurious. It kills the fish and drives them off the ground.

6. The inshore fisheries are of greater value to Canadian fishermen than the outshore fisheries. I consider the inshore fishery of double the value of the outshore ones.

7. All kinds of fish are caught inshore by Canadian fishermen. Since 1871 the price of fish has gone down. This is due to the privileges granted to the Americans of fishing, landing, &c., inshore, thereby enabling them to produce a greater quantity than they otherwise would.

8. Herring fishing is all inshore with very few exceptions. Americans fish herring inshore for bait.

9. Some mackerel spawn in Whitehaven Harbor and along the coast, but their principal spawning ground is in the North Bay. They always feed along the coast wherever they go.

10. It is a great privilege to the Americans to be allowed to land on our coast to dry their nets and cure their fish as well as to procure supplies, &c. The privilege of transshipping their cargo is of advantage to them enabling them to make more trips per season, catch more fish and thus compete with greater advantage with the Canadian fishermen.

11. I am of opinion that the privilege of being allowed to procure bait inshore is of very great advantage to the Americans. Without this privilege they could not fish with profit. They fish or buy as it pays them best. If they were not allowed the rights granted by the Washington Treaty they could not carry on their fishing operations at all.

12. To the best of my knowledge the privileges granted to Canadians by the Washington Treaty of fishing in American waters is worthless, as they have enough fisheries of their own. I never heard or knew of a Canadian vessel fishing in American waters.

13. It is an injury to Canadian fishermen that the Americans are allowed to land and fish inshore. Canadian fishermen have now to sink their nets for safety from vessels frequenting the inshore, and even with this precaution the nets are destroyed.

his
WILLIAM + MUNROE.
mark.

Sworn to at Whitehaven, in the County of Guysboro, this 24th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me, first having been read and explained.

JAMES A. TORY, *J. P.*,

For the County of Guysborough.

No. 257.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Matthew Munroe, of Whitehaven, in the County of Guysboro, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am acquainted with the fisheries during the last twelve years, and during that time I have been three years fishing with the Americans, both at cod and mackerel fishing.

2. I have seen as many as three hundred American sail fishing for mackerel during a single season at North Bay. Each vessel would, if allowed to discharge at the Strait of Canso, make from three to four trips per season. If not allowed to land they would not make more than from one to two. The vessel I was in one trip took only three hundred barrels. This was a very small catch. We fished round Bay Chaleur, on the north side of Prince Edward Island, on the west side of Cape Breton. The average crew of each American vessel would be fifteen men. The average tonnage would be from fifty tons to one hundred tons. I last fished five years ago with the Americans.

3. During the time I was fishing with the Americans we came into Canadian ports for bait and ice on an average four times each season. We bought ice and bait because we got it cheaper, and because it was of very great advantage to the American fishermen. If we could not land and procure the bait and ice in Canadian ports we could not have fished, and would have been compelled to have given up the voyage and returned to the United States.

4. I have known the American vessels raise schools of mackerel close inshore, and entice them out by bait. After they went out into deep water the fish were lost and the vessels had to work inshore to find others. I have known the American vessels to fish so near shore that there was not room to lie to for to fish, and were compelled to come to an anchor and spring up to their cables. I have known this take place on many occasions. The practice of enticing the mackerel by bait from the inshore is very bad for the people living on the Nova Scotia shores. I also think the practice of baiting the mackerel in the Bay keeps them from coming along the shore later than they otherwise would, and thus hinders our fishermen from catching them.

5. Almost all the mackerel is caught inshore. The Americans do all they can to fish inshore, and will run every risk to do so. Unless they were permitted to fish inshore they could not fish mackerel with any profit.

6. The privilege of fishing in American waters by Canadians is worth nothing. I believe the privileges granted to the Americans by the Treaty of Washington worth half the value of the fish they catch.

7. The right of the Americans to fish inshore is of loss to Canadian fishermen, as they catch the fish which the Canadians might otherwise catch, and compel them to sink their nets for the purpose of protecting them from injury by the American vessels. The nets thus sunk do not catch as many fish as they otherwise would.

MATTHEW MUNROE.

Sworn to at Whitehead, in the County of Guysborough, this 24th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me,

JAMES A. TORY,

J. P. for the County of Guysborough.

No. 258.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Isaac W. Rennels, of Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, master mariner, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fishing business for the past twenty-six years. For nine seasons I was engaged on board American fishing vessels, and fished in both American and Canadian waters. I have sailed in American fishing fleets on the coasts of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, Magdalen Island, Gaspé, Anticosti and the Bay Chaleur, and have had excellent opportunities during that period of understanding the whole fishing business. I am at present engaged in Canadian fishing on this coast.

2. While in the American fleet I carried on fishing on the coasts of the United States as well as British America, and found that the latter were much richer and better than the former. The Americans reckoned that they could catch twice as many fish in Canadian waters and make double the profits. When we fished in Canadian waters we chiefly took cod and mackerel, though sometimes other kinds of fish. We took from 300 to 500 barrels of mackerel at a cargo, and from 600 to 900 quintals of codfish, and made about three trips a year.

3. The inshore fisheries are much more valuable than those outside. We always took the great bulk of our mackerel inside of three miles of the shore. In the Autumn the fisheries are chiefly carried on inshore.

4. After the Reciprocity Treaty I was engaged in carrying on Canadian shore fishing, and we had the best fishing ever known when the American vessels were not allowed to come inshore, and were kept off by the cutters. The grounds were better preserved, the mackerel would bite freer, and we made better catches and more money. When the American vessels are allowed to come inshore, they come up to our boats where we are catching, and throw bait overboard and entice the fish away, so that our chances are ruined.

5. I believe the American fishermen have done and are doing great harm to our fishing grounds. Within two years I have seen Americans using the purse-seine within half a mile of the shore, and this cannot but injure the grounds. The number of fish is not diminished, but the catch is lessened.

6. The reasons that the Americans do not catch mackerel on these shores in as large quantities as formerly are two-fold. First, they have injured the grounds by their mode of fishing, so that the catch is diminished. This, I believe, will only be temporary. Second, the price of mackerel has so declined in American markets that they find it more profitable to devote themselves to cod-fishing. If the price of mackerel should go up, I have every reason to believe there would be as many Americans fishing there for mackerel as there were under the Reciprocity Treaty.

7. All the American fleet does not go through the Strait of Canso now. During late years I have known of American vessels going up the East side of the Island, around Scaterie and Cape North, instead of coming through the Strait. This is especially in the cod-fishing business, and I have understood there were some good fishing grounds in that part of the coast.

ISAAC W. RENNELS.

Sworn to before me, this 9th day of August, A.D. 1877, at Port Hood, in the County of Inverness.

JOHN MCKAY, J. P.

No. 259.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John McAdams, of Port Jollie, in the County of Queens, fisherman and dealer in fishermen's supplies, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for forty years. I have fished along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, on the eastern side of New Brunswick, around Prince Edward Island, on the Labrador coast, and on the banks off the Canadian coast. I have taken all the kinds of fish found on the above-mentioned coasts.

2. About ten years ago I have seen over four hundred American vessels in Port Hood Harbor at one time. I have often seen two hundred in one fleet fishing together at one time. These vessels were all engaged in taking mackerel, and took the most of their mackerel within three miles of the shore; and in my opinion it would not pay to send a vessel into the North Bay to fish mackerel, unless she could catch mackerel within three miles of the shore.

3. During the past twenty or thirty years there have been supplied to Canadian vessels in this harbor, large quantities of clams for bait; from forty to fifty vessels every year down to the present time. These vessels use the clams in taking codfish and mackerel. In codfishing they use the clams for hand-lining, and could not use them in trawling. The clams are used for mackerel in the North Bay.

4. Our Nova Scotia fishermen say that the clams that they get here are superior to American clams.

His
JOHN + McADAMS.
mark.

Sworn to at Port Jollie, in the County of Queens, this 18th day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

S. T. N. SELTON, J. P.

No. 260.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Donald Campbell, of Port Mouton, in the County of Queens, trader, make oath and say as follows:

1. I am well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in Queen's County, and have dealt largely in inshore fish in this County for twenty-four years.

2. During the past twelve years many American vessels are in the habit of running here for bait, and they have got ice here in which to pack their bait. During the last six years between twenty and

thirty American vessels, at the least, have got bait here yearly. The Americans say it is a great benefit to them to be able to procure this bait, for without it they could catch no fish. Six years ago an American vessel, commanded by Captain Randall McDonald, ran here for three trips of three weeks, to a day, taking fresh halibut on each trip, going to Gloucester and returning here within the said time.

3. The cod-fishing vessels have to return to get a new supply of bait, and they do this every fortnight or three weeks. The Americans take their codfish off on the banks, within fifteen or twenty miles from the shore, by trawling principally.

DONALD CAMPBELL.

Sworn to at Port Mouton, in the County of Queens, this 17th day of August, A.D, 1877, before me.

S. T. N. SELLON, *J. P.*

No. 261.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John Daniel Richard, of La Have Island, at present of Getson's Cove, in the County of Lunenburg, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been fishing for about forty-five years. I have fished around Cape Breton, on the eastern side of New Brunswick, around Prince Edward's Island, around the Magdalenes, on the Canadian coast of the Labrador, and on the southern coast of Nova Scotia. I have taken all the kinds of fish found on the above-mentioned coasts.

2. Six years ago on the Magdalene coast I saw four American vessels, each equipped with four trawls, and on each set of trawls were a thousand hooks. I asked the American skipper how many fish he had on his trawls, he said nine hundred, and of these nine hundred he only took seventy on board. The fish thrown overboard interfered with our fishing. These fish, to the best of my knowledge, were taken within three miles of the shore.

JOHN DANIEL RICHARD.

Sworn to at Getson's Cove, in the County of Lunenburg, this 9th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

BENJAMIN RYNARD, *J. P.*

No. 262.-

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Colin McLeod, of Brooklyn in the County of Queens, Merchant, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have during the present year supplied American fishing vessels with ice, about twenty tons. I have supplied about twenty tons to Canadian vessels. The Americans say that if they could get plenty of bait and ice in this harbour it would be of great benefit to them. They say that if they can get plenty of bait they would be more likely to get larger fares.

COLIN McLEOD.

Sworn to at Brooklyn, in the County of Queens, this 16th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me,
S. T. N. SELLON, *J. P.*

No. 263.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, James Bushen, of Port Mouton, in the County of Queens, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have fished for eighteen years, every season down to the present included, principally, inshore in Queen's County, and on the banks off this coast. I have also fished in an American schooner for two years on the Western Bank.

2. During the past six years from twenty to thirty American vessels run into this harbor for bait, and without this bait they could not carry on the cod-fishery, and they only get this bait around the Canadian coast. If they cannot get it in one place they run to another. They buy this bait because it pays them better than to catch it, as it would take too much time to do so, and it would be too much expense. These American vessels take from about eighteen to twenty-five barrels of bait each.

3. The codfish vessels run here about every three weeks, and do so for about three times before they make a full fare. They make a trip in from six to nine weeks. These vessels take from seven to fifteen

hundred quintals each when they make a full fare. They catch their fish from fifteen to twenty miles off this coast, and principally by trawling, which I consider a very injurious method of taking fish.

4. I have been fishing on the banks off the coast of Nova Scotia for eighteen years, and I have never seen so many American vessels fishing on these said banks as I have seen during the present summer.

JAMES BUSHEN.

Sworn to at Port Mouton, in the County of Queens, this 17th day of August, A.D. 1877, before me.

S. T. N. SELTON, *J. P.*

No. 264.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, John P. Gardiner, of Cape Sable Island, in the County of Shelburne, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in fishing for thirty-eight years mostly in the inshore fisheries on the Cape off here. We catch large quantities of codfish within three miles of the shore, and all the mackerel taken around here are within three miles of the shore and in large quantities. Last summer and this present summer I have seen American vessels trawling within three miles of the shore around here. The Americans get bait in this harbor which is a great advantage to them as it enables them to carry on the trawling on the Banks off shore. This trawling in my opinion is spoiling the grounds.

JOHN P. GARDINER.

Sworn to at Cape Sable Island, in the County of Shelburne, this 27th day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

D. G. DALEY, *J. P.*

No. 265.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Alexander Gillies, of Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, Justice of the Peace, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have lived in this place and been familiar with the fishing business here for fifty years. I have fished some myself and have had good opportunities of observing and knowing the general character and condition of the fisheries in these parts during the past half century.

2. I recollect well that previous to the Reciprocity Treaty in 1854, the few American vessels that used to come and fish in these waters on the coast of Cape Breton, complained all the time of the disadvantage of not being able to fish inshore, and the men used to say that they could not carry on a profitable business without it. As soon as the Reciprocity Treaty came into operation the number of vessels from American ports increased at once, until there was soon a large fleet. I am safe in saying that I have seen over four hundred American fishing vessels in Port Hood Harbor at one time during the Reciprocity Treaty.

3. After the Reciprocity Treaty terminated, there was at once a great falling in the American fishing fleet on these coasts, and their business was not nearly as lucrative and profitable, and I believe if they had not violated the law they would scarcely have been able to carry on fishing with profit at all.

4. The American fishermen catch all kind of fish in our waters. The larger part they take is mackerel and codfish; but they also take herring, halibut, hake and haddock. Their average cargo is about four hundred barrels of mackerel, and when they take codfish they do not average less than from six hundred to a thousand quintals each vessel. They will average three trips per season.

5. There has been something of a falling off in the mackerel catch in these parts during the past year or two; but I would not say that there had been any diminution in the number of mackerel in our waters. I regard the falling off as merely temporary, and I believe it will be as good mackerel fishing here if the grounds are not injured by the American fishermen during the coming eight years, as heretofore. I believe the falling off in the catch of late has been largely due to the mode in which Americans carry on the fishing.

6. The inshore fisheries are much more valuable than the outside, and more fish are caught within three miles of the shore than outside. More than half of all the fish which the Americans take from our waters are taken inshore.

7. American fishermen are doing great damage to our boat fishing by coming up near our boats and throwing bait overboard to entice the fish away and they leave at once, and thus seriously interfere with the profit of our own shore fishermen.

8. Our herring fisheries are the most important and valuable we have, and probably our fishermen derive more profit therefrom than from any other. All herring are caught inshore and nearly all taken within one half mile of the shore. If the American fishermen should go into the herring fishing along our shores they would be almost certain to ruin the grounds and would do great damage to our own fishermen.

9. It is undoubtedly a great advantage to American fishermen to be allowed to land and dry their nets and cure their fish. It is also greatly to their advantage to be able to trans-ship cargoes, and it enables them to make more trips and take more fish each season.

10. It is also the greatest advantage to American fishermen to be allowed to catch bait and procure it by purchase on our shores. All bait is taken inshore, and upon the privilege of getting bait at our ports and in our waters the very existence of the American cod-fishing depends, for it would be utterly impossible for the Americans to carry on the cod-fishery in these waters if they were compelled to get all their bait from American ports and waters. Bait for cod-fishing will only last three weeks on ice, and the ice used to preserve it is procured by the Americans from our own traders.

11. From a pretty careful estimate of the matter from its various points according to the best of my knowledge and experience, I would say that the privilege derived by the American fishermen from the use of our fishing grounds and the privilege of getting bait, outfit and supplies at our ports was worth at least half as much as the entire American fishing business on the coast of British North America every year. If all the privileges given by the Washington Treaty to American fishermen were taken away, they could only make fishing profitable here by violating the law.

12. I know of no advantage which Canadian fishermen derive from the use of American waters. Our own fishing grounds are well known to be more productive than the American. I have never heard of any Canadian vessel going to American waters for the purpose of taking fish.

13. The presence of American fishing fleets on our shores is undoubtedly very injurious to our own fishermen, who would be able to take larger quantities of fish and carry on a better business if they enjoyed exclusive rights. They would also take better care of the grounds and preserve them better.

ALEXANDER GILLIES.

Sworn to at Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, this 21st day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

ALEXR. McDONALD, J. P.

No. 266.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington :

1. Henry Henlow, Senior, of Liscomb, in the County of Guysboro, fisherman, make oath and say as follows :

I have been engaged in the fisheries during the last sixty years.

1. The principal fishing at Liscomb is cod and herring fishing. At times I have seen as many as forty or fifty American vessels going in and out at once. Each American vessel would catch, on an average, between six and seven hundred quintals per trip. They would make two trips each season, and afterwards fish on their own coast or on the coast of Newfoundland.

2. The cod fishing has improved lately ; so has the herring fishing, but they are not so good as formerly. The Americans do not fish for bait in Liscomb harbor, and this, in my opinion, accounts for the better state of the Liscomb fishery. When the American fishermen used to come in, they threw the fish guts, heads, &c., overboard and destroyed the eggs or young fish. This practice also drove out the fish from the harbor.

3. I consider the value of the outshore fishery much less than the inshore. Cod and halibut are principally caught outside, while all other fish are principally caught inshore. Formerly the Americans caught mackerel with hook and line ; now they are caught by them with seines and purse-nets. Fishing with seines and purse-nets is injurious to the fisheries.

4. Haddock, codfish and other fish caught inshore are fished by the Americans in the inshore waters. Canadian fishermen use the inshore fishery to a large extent, and it is of the greatest value to them. Very few herring are caught outside.

5. The food of the mackerel is found inshore. The privilege of landing, drying their fish, &c., I consider of great importance, as is also the opportunity of trans-shipping. This enables them to make more trips in the season, and also enables them to watch the best chances to fish. Without the privileges granted by the Washington Treaty, I am of opinion that the American fishermen could not fish with any profit to themselves.

6. I never heard of any Canadian fishermen frequenting American waters, but the American fishermen interfere with the Canadian fishermen by disturbing their seines and in other ways injuring the fisheries. It would be much better for the Canadians to have the sole right of the inshore fisheries, and no right to sell fish free in the United States than the rights they enjoy under the Washington Treaty.

7. Since 1871 an American lobster factory has been opened in Liscomb, and the lobster fishery has largely decreased. The canned lobsters are principally sold in England.

HENRY ^{his} X HEMLOW, SR.
mark.

Sworn to at Liscomb, in the County of Guysboro, this 19th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me, first having been read and explained.

JAMES A. TORY, *J. P. for the County of Guysboro.*

No. 267.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, William Watts, of Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been for eight years past engaged in fishing, and during two seasons I made trips in American fishing vessels, and made trips and caught fish in the Gulf and on various parts of the coast of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and the Magdalen Islands, and have had pretty good opportunities of judging of the fishing business done on this coast.

2. I have seen since the Treaty of Washington as many as four or five hundred American fishing vessels in the harbor of Port Hood, and I should say that the whole number engaged in fishing in the Gulf and around the shore has been as high as six or seven hundred in a season. These vessels were engaged principally in catching codfish and herring, although they take small quantities of herring, hake, haddock and halibut. The vessels rate from 50 to 80 tons and are manned by from twelve to twenty of a crew. They usually average about three trips during the season, and in the codfish season take from five to seven hundred quintals at a trip, worth from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per quintal. Their average cargo of mackerel would be about three hundred barrels, worth formerly about \$15.00 per barrel.

3. I do not know as there has been any great increase or decrease in the codfishing in these parts of late. It is about as good this season as usual. There has been something of a falling off in the catch of mackerel within the past year or two; but I don't think there has been any falling off in the numbers of the mackerel. They would not bite so well, that is all. I cannot tell why this should be, unless it is on account of the American fishermen using seines and throwing bait overboard and offal, which makes the mackerel less free to bite.

4. Within the last two or three years I have seen American fishermen using the purse seines in the mackerel fisheries, and I consider that this practice is very injurious to our fishing grounds. Sometimes as many as a thousand barrels of mackerel are taken in one haul, which cannot be cured or saved, and part of them have to be let out and many are killed. This must be destructive to the fishery. I have never known Canadian fishermen to take this course, and most of them catch mackerel in boats.

5. American fishermen to my knowledge have caught mackerel since the Treaty of Washington within one mile of the shore and even less. Within two or three years I have seen them catching in this harbor. It is always considered that the best fishing is within three miles of the shore. When I was on board of American fishing vessels we took nearly all the cargo inshore.

6. I have seen Americans catching bait within three miles of the shore; in fact all bait is caught inshore, being smaller fish which only live in shoal water. Now the Americans buy most of their bait, because it is more convenient and profitable for them to do so; and our fishermen catch it with greater facility than they do. Not less than fifty or sixty American vessels have baited here this present season already. Chiefly herring and squid.

7. The American practice of throwing bait to entice mackerel away is very injurious to our boat fishing. Their vessels often come along where we are fishing, and throw bait overboard and the fish leave us and go in the direction of their bait, which is very damaging to our catch.

8. Our herring fishery is one of the most important and valuable we have. Large quantities of this fish are taken by our shore fishermen now. I have known as many as one hundred and fifty barrels of herring to be taken by one boat in two days. If the Americans should enter into this branch of fishing under the Washington Treaty, and they do somewhat now, and use their seines, it would injure our business very seriously and damage the grounds very much.

9. To the best of my observation and experience as a fisherman, I say that the main body of the mackerel feed around the shore in shoal water. Their food being small fish, they must necessarily be obtained near the shore, and in the fall season especially the mackerel cluster near the shore, and it is there chiefly that they are caught.

10. I consider it a great advantage for American fishermen to be allowed to land in our ports and dry their nets and cure their fish, and still more to be allowed to trans-ship their cargoes. There can be no doubt about this. They do it continually, and say themselves that it is a great advantage, as it enables them to fit out for new voyages and ship men without going back to American ports. They can catch more fish in a season by means of this privilege and take more trips.

11. I regard the privilege of being able to catch and buy bait in Canadian waters as one of the greatest advantages the American fishermen get from the treaty. If they had not this privilege they would have to abandon codfishing in our waters and on our coast altogether. They begin the codfishing about the first of May and get bait continually all the season. When preserved in ice, which they get from our traders, the bait is allowed to last about three weeks. If they could not get it from us, and ice to keep it, the only way they could preserve it would be to salt it, and this injures the quality of the bait. If the Americans had to go back to their own waters and ports to get bait every three weeks they could do nothing with their codfishing, and it would be impossible to carry it on profitably.

12. I could not tell in figures just what the money value is to each American fishing vessel to be allowed to fish in our waters and get bait and supplies; but I do not think it is too much to say that it is worth nearly as much as their entire fisheries at present on these grounds, for without these privileges they would find it very difficult, without violating the law, to carry on fishing of any kind profitably in the Gulf or around the British American coast. They could not possibly take as many trips, nor could they carry on their business with any facility.

13. I know of no advantage of any kind which our Canadian fishermen gain from being able to fish in American waters. I have heard American fishermen admit that our grounds were the richest and best. I have never heard of any Canadian or British vessel going to American waters for the purpose of fishing, nor can I imagine any reason to induce them to do so.

14. If our fishermen had the exclusive right to fish in our own waters on the British American coast, and no American fishermen were allowed to compete, I am certain we would be able to catch more fish every year and make more profits out of the business. Our fishing grounds would also be better preserved, because our fishermen carry on their fishing with much greater care and do not destroy the grounds as the American fishermen do, by throwing offal overboard and using purse seines.

WILLIAM WATTS.

Sworn to at Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, this 21st day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

JOHN McKAY, J. P.

No. 268.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Joshua Smith, of Port Hood Island, in the County of Inverness, Cape Breton, fisherman, and trader, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am a member of the firm of J. & H. Smith, which has been actively engaged in the occupation of fishing and supplying fishermen for the past fifteen or twenty years, and I have had ample opportunities of becoming familiar with the general business done on the coast of Cape Breton. Our firm has dealt in mackerel, codfish, haddock, hake and herring to the value of over \$3000 annually.

2. I have known as many as five hundred sail of United States fishing vessels engaged in the fisheries around the Island of Cape Breton. This was during the Reciprocity Treaty from 1854 to 1864. After that Treaty terminated the number of American vessels was very much decreased. These have fished around the coast of Cape Breton, Antigonish Bay, Prince Edward Island, Magdalen Islands and the coasts of Nova Scotia proper. They take mackerel chiefly. Also codfish in large quantities and herring and halibut in smaller quantities.

3. The average tonnage of United States fishing vessels is 70 tons and each of them has a crew of about fifteen men. During the Reciprocity Treaty each vessel averaged about three hundred barrels of mackerel per trip and made from two to three trips per season from this coast. This average was much reduced after the Reciprocity Treaty.

4. During the past two or three years the catch of mackerel has been somewhat less than formerly on the coast of Cape Breton. But I regard this diminution as merely accidental and temporary. These grounds are exceedingly rich in fish, and I have no hesitation in giving it as my opinion that the mackerel fisheries on this coast will be as productive and valuable during the next eight years as during the eight years just past. The mackerel season for the present year has only just commenced but the prospects are favorable.

5. From what I have observed and from information received from American fishermen I should judge that at least one half of the cargoes taken from this coast were caught inside of three miles of the shore. And always late in the season as the autumn approaches much the larger part of the fish are taken within three miles of the shore. The privilege of the shore fishing is valuable on account of prolonging the fishing season.

6. The privilege accorded to American fishermen of taking fish within three miles of the coast is of very great value to them. I have no hesitation in saying that if they were restricted to the Treaty of 1818 they would be compelled to abandon the fisheries or nearly so.

7. The American fishermen do catch bait within three miles of the coast to some extent, but they

purchase a great deal of it now from traders. The privilege of catching and procuring bait from our ports I consider a very great advantage to the United States fishing fleet and enables them not only to carry on their operations with greater facility but to make more trips per season than if they were compelled to procure their bait exclusively from American waters and ports.

8. I consider it decidedly an advantage to American fishermen to land and dry their nets and cure their fish on our coasts.

9. A large number of American fishing vessels get supplies every season from our establishment, and from other establishments on the coast. They call here annually for outfits, men, and boats to land cargo, and to refit for other voyages. I certainly consider it an advantage to American fishermen to exercise this privilege. The United States fishermen also procure ice in our ports for preserving fish, and I have sold ice to Americans for that purpose during the present season.

10. I am not aware of any advantage that Canadians will derive from the right to fish in American waters, nor of any they have derived, under the Treaty of Washington, unless it is procuring pogies for bait.

11. I consider it would be a valuable advantage for British fishermen to carry on the inshore fisheries exclusively, and without competing with American fishermen, and this advantage I would estimate at one hundred per cent or equivalent to the entire value of our fisheries.

12. I would not like to state positively the cash value to each American vessel of the privilege of catching fish within our coasts and Bays, and of procuring bait and outfitting, but I am safe in saying it enables them to double their voyages at the very least. And without such privileges I don't know as American fishermen would be able to prosecute their business on this coast.

13. The privilege of trans-shipment enjoyed by American fishermen under the Treaty of Washington is important and valuable, and may become within the next few years a source of great profit.

Sworn to at Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, this 19th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

DUNCAN CAMPBELL, J. P.

JOSHUA SMITH.

No. 269.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Livingston Coggins, of Westport, in the County of Digby, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I fish out of this port in a schooner of forty-three tons, manned by eight hands, and we fish off to twenty miles off shore, and in the Spring close in shore. Large numbers of Americans fish on the same grounds, often seeing four and five in sight at one time, mostly trawling. In this County the Americans trawl halibut off from six to seven miles to close inshore. This trawling is very injurious to the fishery, as the mother fish are taken, which is not the case in hand-lining. On Bear Cove ground the Americans trawl inshore for all kinds of fish. The Americans which trawl on our grounds throw overboard their gurry, which is very injurious to the grounds. From this port, including Freeport, there are fishing out every year twenty vessels, from fifteen to forty tons each. The most of these vessels hand-line, and use kids on board for the gurry. These American vessels which trawl on our grounds get their bait inshore at Grand Manan and in this County.

LIVINGSTON COGGINS.

Sworn to at Westport, in the County of Digby, this 31st day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

H. E. PAYSON, J. P., *County Digby.*

No. 270.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, Martin Wentzel, Lower La Have, County of Lunenburg, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been upwards of twenty-five years engaged in the fishery, and have fished along the Southern coast of Nova Scotia, around the Eastern side of Cape Breton, around Prince Edward Island, the Eastern side of New Brunswick, and around the Magdalen Islands, and am well acquainted with the inshore fishery in Lunenburg County. I fished mostly as master, and am part owner of a vessel at present engaged in the fishery.

2. From three to four years ago I fished in the Bay of Chaleur, and have there fished mackerel and bait. About nine years ago I have heard persons in the Bay say that there were upwards of two hundred vessels there at one time fishing mackerel. The American vessels carried from fourteen to eighteen men, and some as high as twenty. The Americans fished the mackerel mostly all inshore, within three miles of the shore. If I had not been allowed to fish inshore in the Bay of Chaleur for mackerel, it would not pay me to go there, and I took more than three-fourths of my cargo inshore.

3. I have seen the Americans take codfish inshore in the Bay of Chaleur. The Americans fished inshore in boats for codfish, and wherever there was fish. The Americans made the fish scarce for us inshore, and they took large quantities.

4. In fishing mackerel the Americans often lee-bowed us, and threw over bait to take the fish away from inshore. I have often seen the Americans running into Nova Scotian vessels, and being so many, we were often afraid of them.

5. The Americans fit out their vessels to take from three to eight hundred barrels per vessel, and take on an average of from three hundred to four hundred barrels to each vessel on each trip, and make about three trips. Some years the Americans do better than this, and some not so well. Our vessels are not so large as the Americans, and I have taken three hundred barrels of mackerel in one trip. About four years ago I took codfish in the Bay of Chaleur, and took in my vessel eight hundred and twenty-five quintals, mostly all inshore.

6. The Americans carry on the fishing by trawling, and I think this kind of fishing should not be allowed.

7. The Americans fished inshore when the fishery was protected by the cutters, and used to run offshore when the cutters were round, and used to come in when they disappeared. It would not pay the Americans to fish unless they could catch fish inshore.

8. The Americans get bait here year after year, and this Spring have got bait at Mosher's Island, in this harbor, and have during the past five or six years got ice in this harbor in which to pack their bait.

MARTIN WENTZEL.

Sworn to at Lower La Have, in the County of Lunenburg, this 7th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

JAMES H. WENTZEL, J. P.

No. 271.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, William B. Christian, of Prospect, in the County of Halifax, and Province of Nova Scotia, at present of the City of Halifax, make oath and say as follows:

I keep a general store and do a general mercantile business at Prospect, supplying our fishermen and others with goods and supplies.

I also supply ice and bait to American cod and halibut fishermen, and advertise in the Gloucester *Advertiser* to that effect.

Several others at Prospect tried this last business but could not do it with success.

Another person at Prospect doing that business to the extent that I do it would render the thing of little or no profit or advantage.

I purchase goods in Boston every year, personally visiting that city; but the trade of the American fishermen with me, except for bait and ice, is very trifling. When in Boston, I usually each year go on to Gloucester to settle up with those who buy ice and bait, and arrange for further business in those things, and I am thus in frequent communication with American capitalists, whose vessels fish in our waters.

I am aware that it would be useless for the Americans to attempt to carry on the cod or halibut fishery in our waters without the liberty now enjoyed since the Washington Treaty, of procuring ice and fresh bait on our shores.

This year an American halibut fishing vessel came into Prospect, the *William Thompson*, a new vessel belonging to the well-known firm of Cunningham & Thompson, of Gloucester, and had sixty-five thousand pounds of halibut on board, which required immediately four or five tons of ice to save it from being destroyed. This ice could not have been supplied any where nearer than Cape Sable or Liverpool, and there would have been great risk of losing the fish in attempting to reach that place. I was the only one who could supply this at Prospect, and shipped it at the usual rate of \$2.50 per ton, and this whole fare of halibut was thus saved and \$3,700 at Gloucester. Two fares of halibut were saved in the same way by my supplying ice at Prospect last year.

I never carried on the mackerel fishery in the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, but I am aware from the United States fishermen themselves that they catch their mackerel within the three mile limit as they term it on our coasts. I never heard anything to the contrary from any mackerel fishermen.

About 100 American codfishermen on an average are supplied at Prospect with bait and ice and very often they run in from the codfishing ground on our coast in eight or nine hours for a fresh supply, and usually run in three or four times on an average from the Western Bank, and about twice on an average from the Grand Bank of Newfoundland. Many of the American codfishermen fishing on the latter Bank are supplied with fresh bait and ice at Canso, which is more convenient than the Newfoundland coast in May and June for that purpose.

Sworn to at Halifax, in the County of Halifax, this 31st day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOHN DOULL, J. P.

W. B. CHRISTIAN.

No. 272.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Alexander McDonald, of Port Hood Island, in the County of Inverness, fisherman and trader, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in fishing and in a fish-trading establishment for the past fifteen years, and have had large opportunities for personal observation and experience in the business.
2. Under the Reciprocity Treaty I have known as high as five hundred, or five hundred and fifty American vessels engaged in fishing on this coast during one season. After the Reciprocity Treaty the number became much less. These have carried on fishing on the coast of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island and the Magdalen Islands and Gaspe. Each vessel averages about 60 or 70 tons, and has a crew of about fifteen men. They fish for mackerel and codfish chiefly, but catch some hake, halibut and herring.
3. The American vessels usually carry about three hundred barrels of mackerel per trip each vessel, and from 600 to 1,000 quintals of codfish. They make on an average three trips per season. During the Reciprocity Treaty the price of mackerel was about \$15 American currency, per barrel.
4. The cod-fishery on this coast is about the same as usual. There has been something of a falling off in the mackerel fishery in this part during the past year or two, but I do not regard this as permanent. I believe that mackerel always exist in great quantities along our coast, and I know no reason why there should not be as productive a catch during the next eight years, as in the eight years past. The prospects for the present season, so far as I can learn, are good, and more American vessels are coming to these parts this season than for two or three years past.
5. The American fishing vessels begin to arrive here in May each year for bait to carry on the cod-fisheries. In July they come for mackerel and continue fishing along the coast until as late as November. The American fisherman are in the habit of throwing offal, &c., overboard, the effect of which is liable to glut the fish and injure the young. About here, so far as I have the means of knowing, Canadian fishermen are more careful in their mode of carrying on fishing than the Americans.
6. About two-thirds of the entire American catch during the Reciprocity Treaty was taken within three miles of the shore; and I think since the Washington Treaty the proportion is about the same.
7. The inshore fisheries are much more valuable than those outside, and the privilege of using them is very important, because when it comes late in the Autumn nearly all the fish are taken inshore, and if the American vessels could not fish inshore it would shorten their season.
8. After the Reciprocity Treaty, the practice of the American fishermen of throwing bait overboard to entice the mackerel outside was considered an injury to our boat fishermen.
9. The American fishermen do catch bait within three miles from the shores here, to some small extent, both herring and squid; but the larger portion of the bait used by them now is bought from our people.
10. It is a great advantage to American fishermen frequenting Canadian waters to be allowed to land and dry their nets and cure their fish, and it is so recognized by them.
11. It is also a great advantage to Americans to be allowed to trans-ship their cargoes. It enables them to take more fish and make more trips each season.
12. The privilege of procuring bait both by catching it and purchasing it in Canadian waters and ports, is a great advantage to American fishermen; and though they are getting in the habit of buying it rather than catching it, yet this is done simply because they find it more profitable to do so, and not because there is any difficulty or obstacle in catching it.
13. I do not see how the Americans could carry on the cod and other deep sea fisheries around our coasts without the privilege of resorting to our waters and ports to procure bait. It would compel them to make at least one less trip every season, and it would be less convenient for them in every way.
14. It is likewise a valuable privilege for Americans to be able to resort to our ports to procure ice and other supplies and outfits. Large numbers of American vessels are coming to Port Hood every season for this purpose, and I consider it a great advantage to them.
15. The value of the rights which the Americans acquired by the Treaty of Washington to fish in our waters and to get bait and supplies, is very great. I would not fix a money value, but it enables them to fish with much greater facility, to take more trips each season than they could possibly do otherwise. Without these privileges just referred to, they would have to abandon our fishing grounds altogether, or nearly so.
16. The privilege granted to Canadian fishermen to fish in American waters is no advantage that I know of whatever to Canadians. I never heard of a Canadian vessel using these waters, and know of no reason whatever why they should.

ALEXANDER McDONALD.

Sworn to at Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, this 21st day of July, A.D. 1877, before me.

ALEXANDER GILLIES, J. P.

No. 273.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington :

I, Angus Gillies, of Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, Justice of the Peace, make oath, and say as follows :—

1. For the past eighteen years, I have been a part of the time engaged fishing about the coasts of British America, and during all that period I have been familiar with the fishing business done here. I have been engaged on board of American fishing vessels during that time, and have been myself master of a vessel, and have otherwise had pretty large opportunities of becoming familiar with the general business.

2. I have known as many as five or six hundred American fishing vessels engaged in fishing on these coasts during one season under the Reciprocity Treaty. Each vessel would average about sixty or seventy tons, and was manned by from 12 to 15 men. The average cargo of mackerel would be three hundred barrels, and the average cargo of codfish would not be less than from five to seven hundred quintals.

3. After the Reciprocity Treaty, the American fishing fleet on this coast declined very much, and their business materially lessened. They were not able to take as many trips during the season. Their mackerel fishing, which was chiefly inshore, fell off very much.

4. Now, the American cod-fishing in the Gulf is about as large as ever. They get bait to carry it on in our waters, and from our traders. Their mackerel fishing has greatly fallen off, which has been caused chiefly by the result of their mode of fishing, which has injured the ground. This has been done by their system of seining, and of throwing bait and offal overboard, which has caused the mackerel to be less sharp in biting. The other cause of the falling off in the mackerel fishing is the low price of mackerel in the American markets, which makes the fishery less valuable and profitable. If the price of mackerel should go up, I believe the Americans would fish for mackerel now as much as ever.

5. The richest and best grounds for mackerel fishing are within three miles of the shore. Most of the mackerel are caught there. When I was on board of an American vessel, we took nearly all our mackerel inshore.

6. The best mackerel fishing we ever had along this coast was after the Reciprocity Treaty was terminated, and the American vessels were kept off our grounds by the cutters. Our Canadian fishermen had the best catch then that ever they had, because they were undisturbed. When the Americans have the right to come within three miles, they watch our boats taking mackerel, and come up close to us, and then throw bait overboard in large quantities, and entice the fish away from the boats. They could not do this, if they were not allowed to come inshore, because our boats take the fish in the bays and harbors, and within a mile from the shore; and it is only by coming close up to us that they can entice the mackerel away. Their vessels often run down our boats, and it is with difficulty that we escape out of the way.

7. The privileges which the Americans gain by the Treaty of Washington in being allowed to catch fish inshore, and to catch and buy bait, and to procure ice and outfits at our ports, I am safe in saying is worth at least half as much to them per season as their whole fisheries on this coast. I do not see how they could carry on their great cod-fisheries, if they had not the privilege of getting bait and ice from us. All bait is got inshore, and the great part of it very close to the shore.

ANGUS GILLIES.

Sworn to at Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, this 23rd day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,
JOHN MCKAY, J. P.

No. 274.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, James O. Fraser, of Saint John's, Newfoundland, having been duly sworn, do depose and say that I have carefully examined the accounts of the Government of the said Island, and compiled therefrom the cost of erecting and maintaining the Light Houses and Fog Alarms between Cape Ray and Cape Race; and from thence to Quirpon, and that the annexed statement marked A. contains a true statement of the average annual expenditure for the maintenance of said Light Houses and Fog Alarms, and as deponent believes of the original cost of the said Light Houses and Fog Alarms.

In answer to Mr. Foster's question, I say that caplin continue upon the Newfoundland coast for a period of from five to seven weeks.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, fourth day of September, A.D., 1877.

JAMES O. FRASER.

Maintaining Light Houses and Fog Whistles on the Coasts of Newfoundland, between Cape Ray and Cape Race, and from thence to Quirpon.

A.

	Cost of erection.	Cost of maintaining.
Fort Amherst.....	\$ 9,000	\$1,300
Harbor Grace Light.....	14,000	1,500
Harbor Grace Beacon.....	400	400
Baccalieu.....	12,000	1,600
Green Island.....	7,500	1,500
Bonavista.....	10,000	1,900
Wadhams.....	10,000	1,400
Cape Spear.....	11,000	1,500
Ferryland Head.....	12,500	1,600
Cape St. Mary's.....	12,000	1,700
Cape Pine.....	12,000	1,560
Dodding Head.....	12,000	1,500
Brunette.....	9,000	1,250
Toulongate, Long Point.....	12,000	1,900
Puffin Island.....	2,500	1,000
Rose Blanche.....	2,600	1,000
Channel Head.....	2,500	1,000
Cann Island.....	2,500	850
Boar Island.....	2,500	900
Pelloram.....	800	250
Fort Point.....	600	250
Garnish Beacon.....	400	220
Rocky Point.....	1,800	600
Carbonear Island.....	3,000	1,000
Cape St. Francis L. House and Alarm.....	20,000	5,000
General Repairs.....		2,150
Leading Lights, St. John's, H.....	1,000	300
Cape Race L. House and Alarm, Imperial Govt.....	40,000	9,000
Cape Ray Alarm, Imperial and Dominion Government.....		
	\$214,600	\$44,130

No. 275.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John Bethell, of West Barcrow, in the County of Shelburne, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in taking fish for the last seven years inshore, by means of a trap set one hundred and fifty fathoms from the shore, low-water mark. We take in this trap all kinds of fish, principally mackerel, pollock and herring. Last year we took one hundred quintals of haddock. We take in each year about five hundred barrels of both mackerel and herring. Out of this on an average each year there would be one hundred and fifty barrels of mackerel.

2. Last year I supplied thirty-three Canadian schooners with bait and ice, besides supplying seventy-eight boats engaged in the inshore fisheries. The Canadian vessels took on an average of twelve dollars worth of bait to each vessel. The boats take on an average of three dollars worth of bait. Last year we supplied about forty tons of ice to Canadian vessels; this year about the same. Last year is about an average years' supply to Canadian vessels and inshore boats. This year we would have sold double of this supply to Canadian vessels, if we had the bait. During the past four years I have supplied on an average ten American vessels. They took on an average between twenty and thirty dollars worth of bait. The Americans always are very anxious to get this bait, and if they have bait they are almost always sure of fish.

JOHN BETHELL

Sworn before me this 29th day of August, A. D., 1877.

D. SARGENT, J. P.

For the County of Shelburne.

No. 276.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Edward D. Tremain, of Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, Collector of Customs, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been, from information received from American fishermen and otherwise, somewhat acquainted with the fisheries on the coast of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, and the Magdalen Islands for some years past.

2. Among the last years of the Reciprocity Treaty I believe that about eight hundred American fishing vessels were yearly engaged in the fisheries along our coasts, from the Strait of Canso northward. I should estimate the total tonnage of the American fleet in these waters at that time to be over fifty thousand, and as many as ten thousand men engaged. Their occupations embraced principally mackerel and codfish, but I believe herring, haddock, hake and halibut were also taken.

3. The American fishermen begin to arrive on our coasts about the first of May each year, and continue their operations till about the tenth of November. Their vessels average about three trips per season.

4. American vessels were, under the said Treaty, in the habit of frequenting this locality for the purpose of landing, procuring extra bait, obtaining sets of sails, getting men and outfits for extra trips, and occasionally for re-shipping cargoes to the United States. I consider the privilege of doing this granted by the Treaty of Washington a very valuable advantage to American fishermen.

5. I estimate the average money value to each American fishing vessel taking advantage of the free access to Provincial ports, bays and harbors, for piling, shipping bait and supplies, &c., &c., at something between seven hundred and fifty dollars and one thousand dollars per season.

6. I believe the concession of the right to fish in American waters by Canadians is no advantage whatever to Canadians. I am not aware of any Canadians who have availed themselves of this privilege.

EDWARD D. TREMAIN.

Sworn to before me, at Port Hood, in the County of Inverness, this 23rd day of July, A.D., 1877.

JOHN McKAY, J. P.

No. 277.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Robert Currie, of Louis Harbor, in the County of Shelburne, Justice of the Peace, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in this County for forty years now past, and have had vessels engaged on the Labrador coast, and there is at present a vessel fishing out of this port on the Labrador coast. This vessel carries eighteen men and is fitted out to take two thousand quintals of fish.

2. The vessels fitted out here get bait in this harbor, both herring and clams, the latter principally. At Port LeBear, six miles from here, large quantities of clams are obtained for bait, and the Americans get these clams at Port LeBear for bait. In this harbor and at Port LeBear these clams are dug on the shore and barrelled, and sold principally at Lockeport. These clams are used in hand-lining.

ROBT. CURRIE.

Sworn to at Louis Harbor, in the County of Shelburne, this 22nd day of August. A. D., 1877, before me,

JACOB LOCKE, J. P.

No. 278.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Parker Matthews, of Black Point, in the County of Shelburne, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. About thirty years ago I fished in the schooner "Rapid" of Lockeport, in the North Bay, for mackerel, and in three months we only took eighty barrels, the said schooner carried a crew of ten hands.

I supply at the present time fishing schooners with ice. Last year I supplied three or four American schooners with ice; and the same number this present year. These vessels took about from eight to ten tons of ice last year, and the same amount this year. Last year and the present year I supplied from eight to ten Canadian vessels with ice, from four to five tons each.

The Americans could not carry on the fisheries on the Banks off this coast, without bait and ice. With the ice and bait which they procure here, the Americans fish on LaHave, Brown and Port Le Bear Banks. Until this year the Canadian vessels took codfish all by hand-lining. The Americans always trawled with the bait and ice, which they procured from me. I consider trawling a very injurious method of taking fish.

PARKER MATTHEWS.

Sworn to at Lockeport, in the County of Shelburne, this 22nd day of August, A. D. 1877.

AUSTEN LOCKE, J. P.

No. 279.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Robert Deagle, of Souris, in the County of Kings, and Province of Prince Edward Island, but at present of Harbor-au-Bouche, in the County of Antigonishe, and Province of Nova Scotia, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been a practical fisherman for the past twenty years. During ten years of that time I have been employed in American vessels from the port of Gloucester principally, and I have had large experience in and have a very perfect knowledge of seine fishing. I have fished both on the American coast and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and on the shores of Newfoundland and Labrador.

2. I am well acquainted with the codfishery as carried on by the American fishermen in our waters, and I believe the practice of trawling, followed by the Americans fishing for codfish, tends to destroy the mother fish when they are spawning, and otherwise is injurious to the fishery.

3. I estimate that there has been an average of three hundred mackerel catching vessels from United States ports in our waters during each of the last twenty years. I myself have known of four hundred sail of United States fishing vessels in our waters in a single season, and there would be a great many of which I would have no knowledge. It is impossible for any one person to know of all the American vessels fishing in our waters in any one season. The average catch of mackerel each season is about three hundred and fifty barrels per vessel. Last spring there were about one hundred vessels fishing for herring at the Magdalens, and they caught their usual catch of from seven hundred to one

thousand barrels per vessel. I have known one American vessel in the Gulf of St. Lawrence to get fourteen hundred barrels of mackerel in a single season.

4. I have been "scine master" of American fishing vessels, and have used seines in catching mackerel, both in American and Canadian waters, and I perfectly understand fishing with seines. In American waters I have used seines two hundred and twenty-five fathoms long and thirty fathoms deep, and in our shallower waters I have fished, while employed in American vessels, with seines one hundred and eighty fathoms long and twenty fathoms or less in depth. The American mackerel fishery has been almost destroyed by using these seines, and it will not take long to ruin our fisheries if the Americans are permitted to use them here. It is only during the last two or three years that these "purse seines," as they are called, have been used in our waters. Fish are uselessly destroyed and the schools broken up and driven away by this practice.

5. From 1871 to 1874 the mackerel fishery in the Gulf was fair. Their scarcity in 1875 and 1876, was owing to the variableness of the fish, which are sometimes scarce for a year or two and then come in again as thick as ever. The prospect this year is very good, and quite a fleet of American vessels is already in the Bay and in all probability there will be three hundred or four hundred of them here this season, as there are no mackerel on their own coasts. I saw an American vessel called the *Eastern Queen* take from their seine at one catch what I was afterwards informed by the crew amounted to one hundred barrels of mackerel. On Sunday last four American mackerelers got very good catches; two of them got one hundred barrels each, and the other two got eighty and fifty barrels respectively.

6. The inshore mackerel fishery is to a large extent within three miles of the shore, and I estimate that two-thirds of the mackerel caught by American fishermen on our coasts is taken within three miles of the shore; and I have no hesitation in saying that the inshore fishery is of far greater value than the outside, so far as the mackerel are concerned, and the herring fishery is almost altogether inshore.

7. Our boat fishery is much hindered by the Americans running in among the boats and drawing the fish off shore by means of throwing bait, and the bait they use is much better than what our fishermen have; thus they are enabled to entice away the fish, as the mackerel will follow the best bait. I think it would be better for our fishermen to have the inshore fisheries to themselves, even if the Americans put a heavy duty on fish.

8. The Americans cannot profitably carry on the cod and other deep-sea fisheries without resorting to our shores for bait, of which they buy a large quantity from our fishermen and merchants.

9. The privilege of fishing in American waters is of no advantage whatever to Canadian fishermen, and I have never heard of Canadians availing themselves of it.

10. The spawning and breeding places of the mackerel are principally in shoal water and inshore. I am of opinion that the great gale of 1873 may to some extent have caused the scarcity of mackerel in the Gulf during the years of 1875 and 1876, by driving out and destroying the small fish on which the mackerel feed.

11. Of late years the Americans are getting a good many halibut on the shores of Anticosti and near the Seven Islands, in the Lower St. Lawrence.

ROBERT DEAGLE.

The said Robert Deagle was sworn to the truth of this affidavit, at Harbor-au-Bouché, in the County of Antigonishe, this 28th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

EDWARD CORBET.

A Justice of the Peace.

No. 280.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

1, James Carey, of Port Mulgrave, in the County of Guysborough, and Province of Nova Scotia, fisherman and trader, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been a practical fisherman for twenty-five years of my life, and fishing was my sole employment up to the year 1871, since which time I have been both fishing and trading. I have fished for mackerel all around the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and in Chedabucto Bay. I have been herring fishing at the Magdalens, and on the shores of Labrador and Newfoundland. I have fished for codfish in the Straits of Northumberland. During about ten years of the twenty-five, I was employed in American fishing vessels.

2. I am of opinion that the American mackerel fishing fleet up to the year 1874 would average four hundred sail at least each season. In 1875 and 1876 they were not quite so numerous. These vessels carried a crew of about fifteen men each, and the tonnage ranged from fifty to one hundred tons. The American herring fleet has averaged about thirty or forty sail each season. These mackerelers fish all around the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the herring fishers go principally to the Magdalen Islands.

3. The average catch of mackerel per vessel during the whole twenty-five years that I have been acquainted with the fishery, has been about five hundred barrels each season, worth from ten to twelve dollars per barrel. The herring fleet catch each season between eight and nine hundred barrels per vessel.

4. I consider the herring fishery about as good as ever it was. The mackerel are a variable fish, and in some years they are scarce, and then become plenty again, after a year or two. In 1875 and 1876 they were somewhat scarce, but it is my opinion that they will come in again as plenty as ever they were.

5. The herring are caught almost altogether with seines. The mackerel are caught principally with hooks and lines, but of late years the American fishermen are using seines also to some extent.

6. During the Reciprocity Treaty the American fishermen fished for mackerel to a large extent within three miles of the shore. The herring fishery at the Magdalens is altogether inshore.

7. In my opinion, at least one-half the mackerel are caught within three miles of the shore, and almost all the herring are caught within that distance.

8. The principal breeding places of the mackerel, are, in my opinion, inshore in shoal water. Their coming inshore in the spring is, I believe, for the purpose of spawning.

9. It is an advantage to the American fishermen who supply the market with fresh fish to be allowed to procure bait on our shores. It is also very advantageous to them to procure ice on our shores to preserve their bait, and also to procure other supplies on our coasts.

The foregoing statements, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, are true in substance and fact.

his
JAMES + CAREY.
mark.

The said James Carey was sworn to the truth of this affidavit, the same having been first read over and explained to him, at Port Mulgrave, in the County of Guysborough, this 30th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

JAMES PURCELL,
A Justice of the Peace.

No. 281.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Thomas Pinkham, of Booth Bay, in the State of Maine, master mariner, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in fishing for thirty-four years. I have fished along the American coast down to Cape Harrison in Labrador, and have taken mackerel, codfish, and the fish found on the above-mentioned coasts. I have fished on the banks along the above-mentioned coast. Codfish on the banks is taken principally by trawling, which I consider a bad method of taking fish, as the mother fish are destroyed, which is not the case in hand-lining.

2. In taking mackerel, purse-seining is employed to a very large extent, which I also consider a bad way of taking mackerel. Large quantities are wasted, the schools of fish are broken up and frightened away. This year scarcely any mackerel are taken on the American coast. This I attribute to the large amount of purse-seining that has been done on that shore.

3. We get bait and ice in the Canadian ports to carry on the bank fishing, which benefits the inhabitants, and enables us to carry on the bank fishery.

THOMAS PINKHAM.

Sworn to at Sand Point, in the County of Shelburne, this 24th day of August, A.D. 1877, before me,

JOHN PURNEY, J. P.

No. 282.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Reuben Harlow, of Shelburne, in the County of Shelburne, merchant, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I am the proprietor of an ice house situated at East Point, in the above named County. I sold two hundred and fifty tons of ice this year and last. one hundred tons to Canadian vessels, and one hundred and fifty to American vessels. About fifteen American vessels have been supplied each year during the two now past. About one hundred have called which have not been supplied. The Americans say it is a very valuable privilege to be allowed to obtain this ice in our ports.

REUBEN HARLOW.

Sworn to at Shelburne, in the County of Shelburne, this 24th day of August, A.D., 1877, before me,

JOHN BOWER, J. P.

No. 283.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Judah C. Smith, of Barrington, at present of Lockeport, in the County of Shelburne, master mariner, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged since the first of May now past in the taking of fish by a trap, for the purpose of taking deep sea fish. At this trap large numbers of vessels are supplied with bait, most of whom are Canadian. During the past five days, six American vessels have run here for bait, none of whom we were able to supply. If the Americans do not get bait here, they run to other Canadian ports for this bait, for without it they could catch no fish. Since the first of May I have baited eight American vessels, which took, on an average, twenty-five barrels of bait each. Twenty Canadian vessels have been supplied with bait, and have taken on an average fifteen barrels each.

JUDAH C. SMITH.

Sworn to at Lockeport, in the County of Shelburne, this 24th day of August, A.D. 1877, before me.

AUSTEN LOCKE, J. P.

No. 284.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Amos H. Outhouse, of Tiverton, in the County of Digby, make oath and say as follows:—

1. Have been engaged in the fishing business for thirty years.
2. At least five hundred American vessels from all parts of the United States annually fish for mackerel, codfish and halibut, in the Bay de Chaleur, and on the shores of Nova Scotia; this is within my knowledge for the past thirty years.
3. The average quantity of mackerel taken by each American fishing vessel in the Bay de Chaleur is about three hundred barrels, and seven hundred quintals of codfish.
4. The present condition of the fishery is not as good as in the past, for mackerel, codfish, halibut, herring, hake and pollock.
5. The Americans use trawls chiefly for codfish and halibut; mackerel by hook and line, and seines.
6. Great injury is done to the fishing grounds by the American fishermen throwing overboard offal, it drives the fish from the fishing grounds.
7. American fishermen usually fish close to the shore, and have before and during the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854, and before and during the Treaty of Washington, at the Bay de Chaleur and Bay of Fundy.
8. The value of inshore fisheries are more valuable than outside.
9. American fishermen catch bait within three miles from the shores and in the bays, with nets, on the shores of Nova Scotia, to a great extent.
10. Halibut, codfish, haddock, hake and pollock, are caught by the American fishermen in the inshore waters of Canada, and the same kinds of fish are also caught inshore by Canadian fishermen.
11. Since the Treaty of Washington of 1871, the fish have decreased very much in the Bay of Fundy, for the last five years, as much as twenty per cent. which is caused by using trawls.
12. American fishermen have caused great injury to the fisheries in the Bay of Fundy, by the use of trawls, since the Treaty of Washington.
13. The herring fishery in Canadian waters is greater inshore than outside, and American fishermen catch herring for bait and for sale in the Bay de Chaleur, Bay of Fundy and St. Mary's Bay.
14. Mackerel caught in Canadian waters are as good, if not better, than those caught in American waters; take one year with another the price would be about the same in the United States market.
15. The opportunity of trans-shipping cargoes enjoyed by American fishermen since the Treaty of Washington is a great advantage to them. I have known American vessels to make three trips in one season, by trans-shipping their cargoes at the Bay de Chaleur.
16. It is a great advantage to American fishermen to procure bait in the Canadian inshores, and it is more profitable and causes them less delay to buy it than to catch it.
17. The American fishermen cannot carry on the cod and other fisheries of the deep sea around our coasts, without the privilege of resorting to our inshores to procure bait, and would have to abandon the business to a great extent, if they were deprived of the privilege.
18. It is a great advantage to American fishermen to resort to Canadian inshores for ice and other supplies required in their fishery business.
19. The privilege of fishing in American waters is of no practical advantage to Canadian fishermen. I never have known any of our Canadian fishermen to make any use of their fishing grounds.
20. The privilege to each American vessel of procuring bait and trans-shipping cargoes in Canadian inshores, would be at the least one thousand dollars.

21. The Americans having free access to our Canadian inshore fisheries, and the large quantities of all kinds of fish taken by them, hinders the Canadians from getting as good a market as they would if they had the exclusive right of the inshore fisheries.

The foregoing statement is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

CAPTAIN A. H. OUTHOUSE.

Sworn before me at Tiverton, in the County of Digby, this 13th August, A.D., 1877.

JOHN A. SMITH, J. P.

No. 285.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, John Merchant, of Hardwicke, in the County of Northumberland, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been fifteen seasons, or years, engaged in business as a fisherman in Bay Chaleur, Miramichi Bay, Gaspé, all through the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and all along the shore of Kent County; and was also five years as master on board of various American fishing vessels—say, three years in the *Oak Grove*, two years in *King Fisher*, both belonging to the port of Belfast, U. S. The balance of the fifteen years I was chiefly engaged in small and large vessels of Miramichi Bay and Prince Edward Island, and in different places around our coast.

2. During the years I was master of *Oak Grove* and *King Fisher*, the number of sail would average about 500 sail, would average about fifteen men each, and tonnage about 75; and the places fished were Prince Edward Island, Bay Chaleur, Miramichi Bay, Gaspé; the kinds of fish caught, mackerel.

3. I would say the average catch during the five years I was fishing was about 400 barrels each vessel, valued about \$12 per barrel.

4. Mackerel are as plentiful now as when I fished.

5. Modes chiefly used in capturing mackerel were seining and jigging.

6. I consider the fishing water injured by throwing overboard offal from mackerel; but offal from codfish is very injurious, as the bones swallowed by the mackerel penetrate the fish, causing a large quantity to die.

6. I would say, two-thirds of the mackerel, during the time I have fished, were caught within the three-mile limit.

7. I consider the inshore fishery of great value to American fishermen, and, in fact, could not do without it.

8. American fishermen still use the seine for taking mackerel. The manner used is: The seine is stretched out and around the school of mackerel, then hauled in together, then scooped out into the boats. I do not think the manner any way injurious, as when they find more than can be cared for, the seine is tripped and the mackerel let go. The seines are used inside the limit the same as other places—in fact, any place where mackerel is seen.

9. Mackerel have not decreased since '71, as in some places. They are plentiful. The winds and feed is the cause of their scarcity in different localities.

10. Herring are caught entirely inshore.

11. Mackerel caught in Canadian waters are fully one-third better than caught in American, and bring prices one-third more than American mackerel caught in American waters.

12. The food of mackerel is about equally divided within the limit and outside. They feed on shrimps, smelt, fry and smaller fishes. Their breeding places are around the sheltered bays and estuaries, during the months of May and June.

13. I consider the privilege to land by American fishermen very great. If deprived of this privilege they could not carry on their business.

14. It is a great advantage to be allowed to trans-ship cargoes. It saves great loss of time and expense to owners. It enables them to make two trips during the season, sometimes three; and once I knew of five shipments of two hundred and fifty barrels each.

15. I consider it a great advantage to be enabled to buy bait from Canadian fishermen, and much easier and more profitable than fishing for it, as the bait is not procurable always when wanted.

16. It is considered impossible to carry on deep sea fishing in Canadian waters without being enabled either to catch or buy the bait inshore.

17. I consider the privilege of fishing in American waters of no value to Canadian fishermen. I never knew of a Canadian fisherman resorting to American waters to fish.

18. I have known instances where United States citizens have carried on considerable trade with the inhabitants of the localities where they fish.

19. Do not consider that it hinders the operation of Canadian fishermen.

J. S. MERCHANT.

Sworn to before me, at Hardwicke, this 14th day of August, 1877.

ALEXANDER MILLS, J. P.

No. 286.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Wallace Trask, of Little River, in the County of Digby, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in fishing for twelve years now past, and am still so engaged altogether on the inshore grounds in this County. I fish from close inshore to off six miles, and catch most of the fish I take within three miles of the shore. I fish every year on the north and south side of Digby Neck, and take codfish, haddock, hake, pollock, halibut, and herring, the latter principally for bait.

2. On the north side of Digby Neck, the place at which we fish, is called "Whale-Cove," on the south side the port is called Little River.

3. At Whale Cove, I have counted forty sail of fishing vessels at one time, in the latter part of June, most of these vessels were American, from the State of Maine. These American vessels are from five to forty tons each, and carry from five to twelve men on each vessel. They take fish altogether by trawling, and do so close inshore among our boats, within three miles of the shore.

4. These American vessels set their nets for bait inshore, close into the shore, and so many of them take up the grounds, and carry away the bait from us.

5. These American vessels take from two to six hundred quintals of fish to each vessel. They throw their gurry overboard on our inshore boat grounds, and sometimes among our nets.

6. Our fishermen all bring their gurry inshore, in order to protect the grounds.

7. At Little River, on the south side of Digby Neck, from fifteen to twenty American vessels have fished inshore for the same kinds of fish as we take. They set their nets for bait, and throw "gurry" overboard on the inshore grounds.

8. Since Eighteen hundred and seventy-one, the Americans have come upon our inshore grounds, and interfered with our fishing.

9. American vessels come around here with purse seines for mackerel.

WALLACE TRASK.

Sworn to at Little River, in the County of Digby, this 1st day of September, A. D., 1877, before me,

J. W. DENTON, J. P.

No. 287.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, George E. Mosley, of Tiverton, in the County of Digby, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in fishing for twenty years now past, and am still so engaged. I fish from inshore to off-shore three miles, and take codfish, haddock, hake, pollock, halibut and herring, the latter principally for bait.

2. From eight to ten American vessels come here on our inshore grounds on which we fish, and trawl for the same kind of fish that we do. They have come on our inshore grounds since eighteen hundred and seventy-one.

3. These American vessels are from nine to sixty tons each, and carry from eight to ten men each. These American vessels carry away four hundred quintals of fish each.

4. They set their nets for bait on our inshore grounds, which interferes very much with the setting of our nets, as they take up the ground and take the bait away from us. They keep their nets set both day and night, a whole week at a time.

5. They throw overboard their offal from their fish on our inshore grounds, which is very injurious to our grounds. Our fishermen, of which there are about two hundred out of this place, bring their gurry inshore on the gurry grounds set apart for this purpose—both boats and vessels. There are from eight to ten vessels, from fifteen to twenty-five tons, engaged in fishing out of this port, besides a large number of boats. The vessels bring their gurry ashore, having kids on board to keep the gurry.

6. Large numbers of Americans come into St. Mary's Bay every spring for fish. Thirty at least come and trawl around here for all the kinds of fish found in St. Mary's Bay. American vessels also come with purse seines on board for mackerel.

GEORGE E MOSLEY.

Sworn to at Tiverton, in the County of Digby, this 1st day of September, A. D., 1877, before me,

JOHN A. SMITH, J. P.

No. 288.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Charles H. Payson, of Westport, in the County of Digby, merchant, make oath and say as follows :

1. I have during three years now past supplied American vessels with ice—about thirty tons each year, and about twenty tons to Canadian vessels. These vessels use this to preserve their (? bait), and with this ice and bait they fish on the coast along here.

C. H. PAYSON.

Sworn to at Westport, in the County of Digby, this 31st day of August, A. D., 1877, before me,

H. E. PAYSON, J. P.
County of Digby.

No. 289.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Eleazar Crowell, of Clarke's Harbour, in the County of Shelburne, merchant, make oath and say as follows :—

1. I have been engaged in the buying and selling of fish for twenty years. I have gone fishing for seventeen years, mostly in the inshore fisheries in this County.

2. Large numbers of American vessels run in here for bait, they come and go here every week. With the bait the Americans get here, they trawl for codfish and halibut.

3. Around this harbor large quantities of mackerel are taken principally in traps, and the Americans purchase them for bait. The selling of these mackerel to Americans is of no advantage to us, as we can sell them in other markets. Thousands of barrels of mackerel are taken around in this vicinity, as many as six thousand barrels at least last year were taken. The mackerel taken in here bring better prices in American markets than the mackerel taken in American waters. I have been informed of Americans being interested in traps for mackerel around here. The Americans purchase the most of their bait here, because by so doing they save time. All the American vessels which run here carry nets to catch bait.

4. American vessels run in here and sell their small fish, by so doing they are enabled to purchase bait and supplies, and carry home a cargo of large and valuable fish. The Americans run in here for supplies when they run short, sometimes for salt, by so doing they are greatly benefitted.

5. The trawling carried on by the Americans on the banks off the shore is, in my opinion, very injurious to the fisheries. Trawling has been carried on to a considerable extent lately by our fishermen. They have been compelled to do so, in order to compete with the Americans.

6. The Americans also get large quantities of herring here for bait. These herring are all taken inshore within three miles of the shore. On this island there is a population of over two thousand, and there are upwards of four hundred boats engaged in fishing around this island. Many of these boats take one hundred and seventy-five quintals of fish each.

ELEAZAR CROWELL, MERCHANT.

Sworn to before me, this Twenty-seventh day of August, 1877.

D. G. DALEY, J. P.

No. 290.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Daniel V. Kenny, of Cape Sable Island, in the County of Shelburne, fisherman, make oath and say as follows :—

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for twenty years now past, mostly in the inshore fisheries in Shelburne County, and have been engaged in American vessels in bank fishing from '70 to '74. We got our bait in Canadian ports, and we could not have carried on the bank fishing successfully unless we got this bait in Canadian ports inshore. When fishing in the American vessels we took codfish on the banks by trawling, which I consider very injurious to the fisheries, as it destroys the spawn fish. When fishing in the American vessels we trawled inshore around Cape Breton, on Anticosti, and around Newfoundland within three miles of the shore. In getting bait our supply is interfered with by American vessels, as they often gobble up the bait from us and make it dearer.

DANIEL V. KENNY.

Sworn to at Cape Sable Island, in the County of Shelburne, this 27th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me.

D. G. DALEY, J. P.

No. 291.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington :

1, Gilbert Merritt, of Sandy Cove, in the County of Digby, fisherman, make oath and say as follows :—

1. I have for seven years now past been engaged in fishing in this County all inshore, off to six miles from the shore. The most of the fish I take is within three miles of the shore. I take codfish, haddock, hake, pollock, halibut, and herring, the latter principally for bait.

2. Since 1871, large numbers of American vessels come around here to fish, and fish upon our inshore grounds, within three miles of the shore. In this harbour many American vessels come. I have seen here this last spring, from eight to ten American fishing vessels at one time. They buy and catch bait—they catch more than they buy, by setting their nets inshore, within three miles of the shore.

3. These American vessels which come here are from ten up to sixty tons each, and carry from six to twelve men, and are fitted out to take from one hundred to four hundred quintals each. They generally take full fares.

4. The American vessels which get bait here, fish in this Bay, (St. Mary's), which is here only five miles across.

5. Last summer and this, American purse seiners were here for mackerel, and have hove their seines and taken them here.

6. Out of this port there are twenty-seven boats engaged in fishing inshore, and three vessels which fish part of the time offshore. These boats and vessels carry seventy-four men, and bring their gurry inshore, and use it on their farms for manure. The Americans, who fish around here on our inshore grounds, throw their gurry overboard, which is very injurious to the grounds.

7. Inside Sandy Cove, and the outside Sandy Cove, the latter being on the Bay of Fundy, from eight to ten American vessels fish on our inshore grounds every year. These vessels are of the description already stated.

GILBERT MERRITT.

Sworn to at Sandy Cove, in the County of Digby, this 1st day of September, A. D., 1877, before me,

SAMUEL SAUNDERS, J. P.

No. 292.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington :

1, Charles W. Denton, of Little River, in the County of Digby, fisherman, make oath and say as follows :—

1. I have been engaged in fishing on the inshore grounds in Digby County, for seven years, and am still so engaged. I have always taken the most of my fish within three miles of the shore, and have taken codfish, haddock, hake, pollock and halibut—herring we take principally for bait.

2. On the north side of Digby Neck, the place at which we fish is called "Whale Cove"; on the south side of Digby Neck, the port is called "Little River."

3. At Whale Cove I have counted forty sail of vessels in June last, the most of whom were American, all engaged in fishing inshore, within three miles of the shore. These American vessels are mostly from the State of Maine. They are from five to forty tons each. They carry from five to twelve men on each vessel. They take fish altogether by trawling, and do so close inshore among our boats within three miles of the shore. At Whale Cove there are upwards of sixty Digby fishermen engaged in fishing, and there would be more if the Americans were not allowed to fish on our inshore grounds. These American vessels set their nets for bait inshore, close in to the shore, and so many of them take up the grounds and carry away the bait from us.

4. These American vessels take from two to six hundred quintals of fish to each vessel. They throw their gurry overboard on our inshore grounds and sometimes among our nets.

5. Our fishermen bring their gurry all inshore in order to protect the grounds.

6. At Little River, on the south side of Digby Neck, where we commence fishing in April and fish until June, then going to Whale Cove, from fifteen to twenty American vessels fish inshore for the same kinds of fish as we do. They set their nets for bait, and throw gurry overboard on the inshore grounds within three miles of the shore.

7. American vessels come around here with purse seines for mackerel, and I have heard they took two hundred barrels in one day.

CHARLES W. DENTON.

Sworn to at Little River, in the County of Digby, this 1st day of September, A.D. 1877, before me,

J. W. DENTON, J. P.

No. 293.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington :

I, Joseph E. Denton, of Little River, in the County of Digby, fisherman, make oath and say as follows :—

1. I have been engaged in fishing for 15 years now past, and am still so engaged altogether on the inshore grounds in this County, going off sometimes six miles from the shore. I fish every year on the North and South side of Digby Neck, and take codfish, haddock, hake, pollock, halibut and herring, the latter principally for bait.

2. On the North side of Digby Neck, the port at which we fish is called "Whale Cove"; on the South side the port is called "Little River."

3. At Whale Cove I have counted forty sail of fishing vessels at one time, in the latter part of June, most of whom were American vessels from the State of Maine. These American vessels are from five to forty tons each, and carry from five to twelve men on each vessel. They take fish altogether by trawling, and do so close inshore among our boats.

4. These American vessels set their nets for bait, and so many of them take up the grounds and carry away the bait from us.

5. These American vessels take from two to six hundred quintals of fish to each vessel.

6. These American vessels throw their gurry overboard on our inshore grounds, within three miles of the shore, among the nets sometimes.

7. Our fishermen bring their gurry on shore in order to protect the grounds.

8. At Little River, on the South side of Digby Neck, from fifteen to twenty American vessels have fished inshore for the same kinds of fish as we have fished. They have set their nets for bait, and thrown their gurry overboard on the inshore grounds.

9. Since 1871 the Americans have come on our inshore grounds, and this summer more numerous than ever before.

10. American vessels come around here with purse-seines for mackerel, and one is said to have taken two hundred barrels of mackerel in one day within three miles of the shore. The Bay here is only six miles across. I mean by the Bay, St. Mary's Bay.

JOSEPH E. DENTON.

Sworn to at Little River, in the County of Digby, this 1st day of September, A.D. 1877, before me.

J. W. DENTON, J. P.

No. 294.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, John McKay, of Tiverton, in the County of Digby, master mariner, make oath and say as follows

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries in this vicinity for ten years, and am well acquainted with the fisheries around St. Mary's Bay. We take around this bay codfish, haddock, hake, pollock, halibut and herring, mostly all within three miles of the shore.

2. Large numbers of Americans come around here since eighteen hundred and seventy-one, and have fished on our inshore grounds. They have also set their nets for bait in this harbor and around here within three miles of the shore, which interferes with our supply to a large extent.

3. From eight to ten American vessels fish around this harbor on our inshore ground, and from twenty to thirty at least in St. Mary's Bay. These are from the vessels in this harbor and in St. Mary's Bay are from ten tons to sixty tons, and carry from five to twelve men. (Sic.)

4. So many Americans coming here interferes with our inshore fishery to a large extent, by taking away the fish from us, by trawling and catching bait, and by throwing overboard their gurry.

5. Our boats and vessels bring their gurry ashore on to gurry grounds set apart for this purpose.

6. American vessels come here every year with purse seines for mackerel.

JOHN MCKAY.

Sworn to at Tiverton, in the County of Digby, this 1st day of September, A.D., 1877, before me,

JOHN A. SMITH, J. P.

No. 295.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Whitefield Outhouse, of Tiverton, in the County of Digby, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in fishing inshore in this County for thirty years now past, and am still so engaged. I fish from inshore, off to three miles, and there are about fifty boats here so engaged. We take codfish, haddock, hake, and pollock, and herring, the latter principally for bait.

2. From eight to ten American vessels since Eighteen Hundred and Seventy-one come here on our inshore grounds, and take fish in our harbour, and within three miles of the shore. These vessels are from nine to sixty tons, and carry from five to nine men each. They take fish mostly by trawling. They trawl in this harbour close inshore. They get bait by setting their nets, which interferes very much with the inhabitants here, as they take up the grounds, so that we find it difficult to get a place for our nets and take away the bait from us. They set their nets Saturday, and keep them set on Sunday, which the inhabitants here do not. They keep their nets set during the day time, which is injurious to the herring fishery.

3. The Americans here throw their "gurry" overboard, which our small vessels and boats do not do. We have a gurru ground here laid out, where our fishermen throw their "gurry."

4. There are eight vessels owned here which fish off to four or five miles from the shore, and from that into the shore. These vessels are from fifteen to twenty-five tons each, and carry from six to ten men. These vessels take on an average each year eight hundred quintals of fish each, and bring all their gurru inshore.

5. Every spring, from 1871, American vessels, at least thirty sail, come into St. Mary's Bay, and around here, and trawl for fish, which is a great injury to us fishermen. These vessels come mostly from Eastport, Maine. Every summer American vessels come here with seines—purse seines—for mackerel.

WHITEFIELD OUTHOUSE.

Sworn to at Tiverton, in the County of Digby, this 1st day of September, A. D., 1877, before me,

JOHN A. SMITH, J. P.

No. 296.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, John W. Snow, of Digby, in the County of Digby, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for thirteen years now past, and am still so engaged. I fish in Annapolis Basin and in the Bay of Fundy. I take fish within three miles of the shore: codfish, haddock, pollock, hake, halibut, and herring, the latter principally for bait, and get this herring all inshore, within three miles of the shore.

2. Since 1871 I have seen in this harbour at one time from eight to ten American vessels. These vessels come here to harbour, and for bait. They set their nets here in Annapolis Basin and along the Bay of Fundy. They all set their nets for bait inshore, the same as our own fishermen. With this bait they trawl for fish both inshore and offshore around the coast in this vicinity.

3. These American vessels which fish around here throw all their "gurry" overboard, which is a great injury to our fisheries.

4. Since 1871 American purse seiners come around our inshore grounds for mackerel. There were two American purse seiners in this harbour this summer.

5. The American vessels which come around here nearly all trawl, which is a very injurious way of taking fish. Our fishermen have only commenced trawling to any considerable extent within the two years now past, and have been compelled to do so in order to compete with the Americans.

JOHN W. SNOW.

Sworn to at Digby, in the County of Digby, this 3rd day of September, A. D. 1877, before me,

JOHN DAKIN, J. P.

No. 297.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, James Patterson Foster, of Port Williams, in the County of Annapolis, merchant and dealer in fish, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been acquainted with the fisheries along the coast of this County for twenty-five years now past, and am at present acquainted with them.
2. I have dealt in codfish, hake, and herrings.
3. Since 1871, about half a dozen American vessels come in here, principally for bait, which they get by setting their nets inshore within three miles of the shore, mostly within a mile of the shore. This number have come here every year since 1871. Some of them take cargoes of herring.
4. Some of these American vessels take from four to five hundred barrels of herring around this port, and in this vicinity, inshore within a mile of the shore, at least four or five do so every year since 1871. These American vessels are from twenty to fifty tons each.
5. The herring taken in this vicinity range in price from two to four dollars per barrel.
6. The American vessels fish offshore beyond three miles from the shore, for codfish, haddock, hake, halibut, and pollock, and get the bait which enables them to do so inshore by setting their nets for it.
7. The American vessels which fish around here come early in April, and remain until the last of August.
8. It would be a great advantage to the fishermen in this vicinity and along the coast of Annapolis County if the Americans were excluded from our inshore grounds, as they take large quantities of herring for bait, and also cargoes of herring from our inshore grounds, and injure our inshore grounds by throwing "gurry" overboard.
9. I have never known nor heard of any of our fishermen going to fish on the American coast, and this right given us by the Treaty of Washington is of no value to us.

JAMES P. FOSTER.

Sworn to at Port Williams, in the County of Annapolis, this 6th day of September, A. D. 1877, before me,

JOHN ANTHONY, *Justice of Peace,*
Acting in and for the County of Annapolis.

No. 298.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Byron P. Ladd, of Yarmouth, in the County of Yarmouth, merchant, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in trading and outfitting fishermen for the last twenty-five years; at Westport from 1848 to 1870, the remainder in Yarmouth.
1. The fishing by American vessels in Canadian waters varies very much from year to year, from from fifteen to twenty vessels yearly usually put in at Westport for supplies, &c., during my residence there, have known years when mackerel were plenty, as many as seventy or eighty American fishing vessels fishing in St. Mary's bay, the number of American vessels in other waters on the Canadian shores, I have no personal knowledge.
3. There is an improvement in the inshore codfishery for the past four years.
4. American fishermen use trawls chiefly for codfishing, seines and hook and line for mackerel. Nets for herring.
5. I consider the value of the inshore fisheries much greater than the outside, particularly for mackerel.
6. American fishermen use purse seines and they are considered very injurious to the mackerel fishery.
7. American fishermen yearly catch codfish, halibut, hake, haddock and mackerel on the inshores of Nova Scotia.
8. Americans buy herring for bait from our inshore fishermen. Do not think they fish very much for them.
9. My opinion is that the mackerel caught in the Bay de Chaleur are better than those caught in American waters and would command a higher price in the American markets.
10. Mackerel feed inshore.
11. It is a very great advantage to American fishermen to land their fish in Canadian waters.
12. The privilege of trans-shipping cargoes of fish by Americans in Canadian waters is very great, particularly the mackerel fishery, it enables them to prosecute that fishery to much greater advantage and profit.

13. It is more profitable to the Americans to buy bait when they can, they only fish for it when they cannot buy it.

14. The Americans could not carry on the codfishery with any profit, without having access to our Canadian inshores to procure bait and other supplies.

15. The privilege of fishing in American waters is of no practical value or advantage in any way to Canadian fishermen.

The foregoing statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

BYRON P. LADD.

Sworn, before me, at Yarmouth, in the County of Yarmouth, this 10th day of September, A. D. 1877.

ENOS GARDNER, J. P.

No. 299.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, Abram Thurston, of Sanford, in the County of Yarmouth, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. Have been engaged shore fishing for the last twenty-eight years, mostly boat fishing for codfish, halibut, pollock, herring and mackerel.

2. Inshore boat fishing for halibut and codfish is not as good as it was in the past, haddock is much more plenty; herring are about the same; mackerel are much more plenty, particularly the present year. The increase in the catch of mackerel is very large in the County of Yarmouth.

3. I believe that the practice of throwing fish offal on the fishing grounds is very injurious, and is practised to a large extent.

4. Some few years ago, American fishermen fished close in to our shores in the Bay of Fundy for halibut.

4. The value of the inshore fisheries are much greater value than the outside.

6. American fishermen catch halibut in the inshore waters of Canada; they catch some codfish inshore. Halibut, codfish, haddock, hake and pollock are caught inshore by Canadian fishermen.

7. I can only speak of the locality in which I reside for boat fishing, mostly since 1871. Codfish are not so plenty; halibut has also decreased; and my opinion is that trawling in the past by American fishermen, and some also by our own fishermen, have injured the halibut fishery very much.

8. The food of mackerel is chiefly inshore. The first mackerel that comes on our shores are full of spawn; their principal feeding and breeding places are inshore.

9. Should think the privilege of trans-shipping cargoes enjoyed by American fishermen since the Treaty of Washington is a very great advantage to them; it certainly would allow them to catch more fish and make more trips.

10. It is a very great advantage to Americans to be able to procure bait in the Canadian inshores, bays, creeks and harbors, and it is more profitable for them to buy it than catch it themselves. I supplied two American vessels with fresh mackerel for bait this present year, for \$120.

11. I do not consider or believe that the American fishermen could carry on the deep sea fisheries around our Canadian coasts without the privilege of resorting to our inshores to procure bait.

12. It is a great advantage to Americans to resort to Canadian inshores for ice to preserve bait, and other supplies to carry on their fishery business.

13. The privilege of fishing in American waters is no practical value or advantage to Canadian fishermen; do not believe our fishermen make any attempt to fish in the American waters.

14. I know that it must be very much to the advantage of American fishermen to procure bait and trans-ship cargoes in Canadian inshores, but cannot give an estimate of the value.

15. American fishermen in their operations do not hinder Canadian fishermen, but the large quantities of fish caught by them would certainly make a lower market for Canadian fish than if they were excluded from our inshores.

The foregoing statement is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

ABRAM THURSTON.

Sworn before me at Sanford, in the County of Yarmouth, this 8th day of September, A. D. 1877.

ENOS GARDNER, J. P.

No. 300.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Samuel M. Ryerson, of Yarmouth, in the County of Yarmouth, merchant, make oath, and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged since 1861 in outfitting fishermen for cod, mackerel, and herring fishery, and am at present engaged in that business as one of the firm of Ryerson and Moses to a small extent.

2. I know that there are several hundred American vessels yearly engaged fishing in Canadian Waters, they average from ten to fifteen men per vessel. They fish in the Bay of Fundy and St. Mary's Bay for codfish, halibut, and mackerel.

3. They take from 800 to 1500 quintals codfish per trip. Halibut is taken to their market in ice, in small quantities—cannot give estimate of mackerel trip, as their fares are generally carried to their ports without stopping here.

4. The American fishermen use trawls mostly for codfish, halibut, and haddock; mackerel on the Nova Scotia shores are mostly taken by seines by them.

5. Most of the mackerel caught on the Canadian inshores are caught close inshore, from half-a-mile to three miles from shore. The Americans catch large quantities of halibut inshore, from one to three miles from the shore.

6. The value of the inshore fisheries are as valuable as the outside—for bait they would be more valuable.

7. I know that American fishermen use purse seines for taking mackerel, and have taken large quantities in that way, and they are very injurious to the fishery wherever they are used.

8. I know that American fishermen set their nets along our shores for the purpose of catching bait, and get all they require.

9. Large quantities of halibut, codfish, pollock, haddock, hake, and mackerel are caught by American fishermen in the inshore waters of Canada, the same are caught inshore by Canadian fishermen.

10. There has been a large increase in the cod-fishery since 1871. Mackerel has also increased in the County of Yarmouth the past few years.

11. If American fishermen had been prohibited from fishing in Canadian waters, the Canadian fishermen would have probably caught double the quantity.

12. The herring fishery in Canadian waters is nearly all inshore. American fishermen catch hering for bait—they buy them for sale.

13. I do not think there is any difference in the quality of the mackerel caught in the Canadian or American waters, and the value in their markets would be about the same.

14. The mackerel follow the shores and feed.

15. It is a great advantage to American fishermen to trans-ship their cargoes at Canso, it enables them to catch two fares during the fishing season.

16. American fisherman could not carry on their fisheries, or make profitable voyages, without the privilege of buying and catching bait from the Canadian inshores.

17. It is a great advantage to Americans to have the privilege of purchasing ice to preserve their bait, from Canadian inshores, large quantities of which is furnished to American fishermen during the fishing season. They also employ large numbers of our men for crews, which they also find is greatly to their advantage.

18. Do not think Canadian fishermen use American waters for fishing purposes, it is of no practical use, our own fishery being so much better.

19. Should think the privilege to American fishermen procuring bait, and being allowed to trans-ship their cargoes in Canadian inshores would be at least from six to eight hundred dollars per vessel yearly.

20. I do think that fishing by American fishermen hinders the fishing operations of Canadian fishermen, our vessels would take many more fish if they had the exclusive right to the inshore Canadian fisheries.

21. Our fishermen are employed largely by American fishermen, and take their supplies in American ports. The American vessels land the goods to the families of the fishermen without paying duties, and in the fall the wages are mostly expended for supplies, which come over in some of our coasters, and landed in the same way.

The foregoing statement is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SAMUEL M. RYERSON,

Sworn before me at Yarmouth, in the County of Yarmouth, this 11th day of September, A. D., 1877,

ENOS GARDNER, J. P.

No. 301.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Robert S. Eakins, jr., of Yarmouth, in the County of Yarmouth, merchant, make oath and say as follows:—

1. Referring to my memorandum made 12th August, 1873, as then I have some indirect knowledge of the fisheries from 1865 to 1876.
2. The extent of American fisheries in Canadian waters during the (11) eleven years, from 1865 to 1876, was very great, I should say from 1000 to 1500 vessels from all ports of the New England States fished in Canadian waters, averaging about twelve men to each vessel during years 1865 to 1870.
3. The quantity of fish usually average—if codfish, two thousand quintals; if part of year codfish, fourteen hundred quintals; balance year mackerel, three hundred barrels for trip.
4. As far as my knowledge goes the American vessels usually trawl their codfish, halibut and haddock, partly in our waters and partly outside. The mackerel are principally caught in seines, purse seines, dressed on board the vessels, the offal being thrown overboard.
5. For mackerel, in Bay de Chaleur, they always fish with hook and line, or used to during the years I named, and always inshore quite close to the land, near Magdalen Islands, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton and Nova Scotia.
6. I should say the value of the shore fisheries was much greater than outside, more especially for mackerel fishing.
7. The American fishermen use purse seines by means of large boats, sweep it around a school of mackerel, draw in the bottom, and have the fish in a sort of large bag, from which they are taken on board the vessel and dressed at leisure.
8. American fishermen yearly catch more or less fish inshore, in our water such as halibut, codfish, and haddock, besides mackerel which are almost entirely caught inshore.
9. Do not think the Americans trouble themselves much about catching herrings they buy them when they can from our people for bait.
10. We formerly considered our Bay de Chaleur mackerel the best in America, but for some years past the quality has not been so good as formerly. I have known our mackerel to sell by the cargo in the United States at \$26 per barrel gold in the years 1859 and 1860.
11. I am of the opinion that the mackerel feed principally inshore.
12. It is considered a great advantage to American fishermen that they are allowed to fish, land and dry their nets and cure and trans-ship their fish in the Canadian inshores.
13. The trans-shipping of cargoes by Americans has been carried on for many years and much to their advantage, as it allows them to make more trips for the fish during the season. This I think is principally done in the mackerel fishery department.
14. The Americans, while codfishing, buy large quantities of bait from the Canadians. They only take time to catch bait when they cannot buy it to advantage.
15. It would seriously injure the American fisheries if they were prevented from using our shores to buy bait and catch it.
16. It is considered a great benefit to the American fishermen that they have the privilege of procuring ice to preserve their fish, and to procure supplies such as trawl lines and hooks, which they often lose, also to procure other articles and salt.
17. I never knew of an instance where our people fish in waters of the United States.
18. Could not say what value would accrue to American vessels by being allowed to procure bait and trans-ship fish, but it must be very considerable, perhaps from \$400 to \$800 to every vessel making use of these privileges.
19. Cannot say that Americans being allowed to fish in our waters prevents our fishermen in their general operations, except that it affords larger and more valuable cargoes to be taken by the Americans than they would get were they deprived of our fisheries; and the catch being by them large, generally reduces the price of fish, which, of course, injures our fishermen indirectly.

The foregoing statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

ROBERT S. EAKINS, JR.

Sworn before me at Yarmouth, in the County of Yarmouth, this 11th day of September, A.D., 1877.

ENOS GARDNER, J. P.

No. 302.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

QUEEN'S COUNTY to wit:—

I, Daniel Ross of North Rustico, in the said Island and Dominion, fish merchant, make oath and say:—

1. That I reside at North Rustico, in Prince Edward Island and have resided and carried on the fishery business there for the past eleven years, previously to which I had for about six years been engaged in the fishing business as an employee of Captain Marshall and others.

2. That my knowledge of the fishing business as carried on at and near Rustico covers a period of about twenty years.

3. That during the past eleven years while carrying on business for myself I have owned each year four or five boats and employed about thirty men each season.

4. That the average catch per season of my boats has been about one hundred barrels of mackerel each, and each boat takes a crew of about five men.

5. That I myself am a practical fisherman and engage personally in the catching and curing as well as in the sale of the fish.

6. That the best mackerel fishing is about one mile or one mile and a half from the coast line of the shore and very frequently the best catches are made much closer to the shore than that.

7. That the mackerel fishing prosecuted in boats from the shore is chiefly within the limits of two miles, at times the schools of mackerel go further out, extending as far as three miles and beyond that, but I have no hesitation in positively swearing that at least nine tenths (9-10ths) of the mackerel caught by the boat fishermen are taken within the three mile limit.

8. I have known good catches to be taken as much as five miles from shore in the fall of the year, but that is a very rare occurrence.

9. The American fishing fleet are frequently during the season fishing off Rustico shore. The fleet follow the schools of mackerel and consequently fish within the limits of three miles, but I have never fished on board any of them. When out fishing in my boats, however, I have found the fleet frequently all round us prosecuting the work and catching the fish. With an off shore wind they approach as closely to the shore as they can with safety and then throw bait and drift off, catching fish all the time and drawing the fish off shore to sea. Sometimes they would drift away from the school and then beat up to windward and again drift over the school. This practice is adopted within the three mile limits, and it is with reference to these limits alone I am now speaking.

10. My experience has been that the presence of the fishing fleet tends to break up the schools of mackerel and our fishing is consequently injured. I mean the boat fishing. The boat fishers all look upon the arrival of the fleet among them as the signal for good fishing to cease, one cause is that too much bait is thrown from the vessels, and the boats which are anchored have to make way for the vessels which are drifting. It's universally looked upon among the shore fishermen as a great injury and loss when the fleet arrives to fish among them.

11. In the month of May from the opening of navigation till about the tenth of June. I prosecute with dories the herring fishery. These herrings are all taken within about half a mile from the shore. My average catch of herrings per season would be a little over one hundred barrels. These herring are used by me for mackerel, and such is the custom all around the shores. If put up in barrels for sale they are worth about three dollars a barrel.

12. As soon as the herring fishery is over we fit up our large boats for the codfish and follow them. My catch is small, averaging per season from one to two hundred quintals. This would be the catch of my five boats. The codfishing lasts from one month to five weeks or until the mackerel strike, and then we at once turn our attention to mackerel, which we follow the rest of the season.

Sworn to at Charlottetown, this 18th day of June, A. D. 1877, before me.

JAMES D. IRVING,
Commissioner, &c.

DANIEL ROSS.

No. 303.

I, John Artemas McLeod, of Kensington, in Prince County, in Prince Edward Island, merchant and fish dealer, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing since the year 1867, both in vessels and boats, and know the fishing grounds from Boone Bay, Newfoundland, round this Island, Cape Breton, New Brunswick shores, and up the St. Lawrence to Seven Islands Bay, and the Labrador shore, Newfoundland from Boone Bay to Cape Ray.

2. That at the present time and for five years past I have been engaged in fishing at New London Harbour, and there are about one hundred and fifty boats engaged in fishing out of that harbor and round

the sand hills and beach, and the number is increasing fast and has doubled within the last year; and three years ago there were not more than thirty boats where the hundred and fifty are now. The boats are now larger, better built and equipped, and, in fact, superior in every way to what they were three years ago. I should say, from my own actual knowledge as an owner and employer of boats, that the capital invested in the boat-fishing has increased from fifteen to twenty fold in New London and neighborhood during the last three years. Where three years ago I could sell one hundred bushels of salt for curing fish, I can now sell five thousand bushels, and where I had five hundred dollars invested then I have ten thousand invested now. Three years ago there was only one fishing-stage doing business on New London beach—doing business with three boats—and now there are eleven stages doing business on the beach, giving employment to about fifty boats and about two hundred and fifty men.

3. That the causes of the increase in the boat fishing is that men found it paid, and that they could make money easier in that than in any other way; it also gives employment to the men at home, as there is a surplus population growing up who have no lands for farming, and who are able to find remunerative employment in boat-fishing, while they would not be able to get employment in other ways without leaving the country.

4. That the average crews of the boats taking one with another, are about four men to each boat, clear of the stage and shore men. There is generally one stageman employed for every boat. Besides these, there are also coopers, cooks, and clerks, and sometimes inspectors employed, the number of whom vary, and it would be difficult to give an estimate of their number, although they are a good number.

5. That the boats, as a rule, catch about ten quintals of codfish before the mackerel come, and when the mackerel strike, the boats, taking small and large together, catch, on an average, one hundred barrels of mackerel each during the season, worth about \$1,000.

6. That nine-tenths of our mackerel are caught within one and one-half miles from the shore, and I may say the whole of them are caught within three miles of the shore. There may be an odd catch of mackerel got more than three miles from shore, but that does not often happen. The greater part of the codfish caught by hand-line are caught at from two to five miles from the shore, and all the codfish caught by the trawl or set-lines are caught within three miles from the shore. There are no mackerel or codfish at all caught by the boats outside of the three-mile limit—that is, outside of a line drawn from points three miles off the headlands; while the herring are all caught close inshore, within two miles of the shore.

7. That I have fished about five years in the Bay, in schooners. I fished in five British vessels in the Bay, and in one American. I was master of four of the British vessels, and I was master of the American vessel after we cleared from Boston. An American had to clear her out of Boston.

8. That in the British vessels I have taken, on an average, three hundred barrels of mackerel each year.

9. That in the year 1870 I fished in the American schooner "Ida E. Davis," of Harwich, in the United States, a schooner of about fifty tons burden, and carrying thirteen hands. In her we were out about two months, or about half or two-thirds of the mackerel season, and caught two hundred and thirty barrels of mackerel. Nine-tenths of these mackerel were caught within two miles of the shores of the Magdalen Islands and of this Island. The Dominion cutters were round that year, and we risked the vessel and outfit in order to fish near the shore. The outfit belonged to me.

10. That it would not be worth while for vessels to fit out for the Bay fishing, if she could not fish within three miles of the shore. During the five years that I was fishing in schooners, I never saw a schooner get a good catch more than three miles from the shore.

11. That I should put the average catch of the American schooners in the Bay during the last ten years, at the least, at from three to four hundred barrels of mackerel each.

12. That the American schooners do harm to our boat fishing, because, when they see the boats getting fish, they come in and drift down upon and lee-bow the boats, taking the fish away. They come inshore and drift down on the boats, and off the shore, throwing bait and carrying the fish off with them. The boats have often to get under way to avoid being run down by the schooners drifting. When the American fleet comes, fishermen look upon their arrival as the end of the good fishing. They break up the boat fishing; they also do harm by cleaning their fish on the fishing grounds and throwing the offal overboard. Fish will not stay on the grounds when the offal has been thrown over.

13. That I have been engaged for seven years herring fishing at the Magdalen Islands, Anticosti, Labrador and Newfoundland, and the herring are all caught within one mile of the shore. That there is a large fleet of American fishing vessels getting herring at the Magdalen Islands every year. They seine the herring and ship them off to the States and West Indies. At the Magdalen Islands and at Anticosti the Americans do a lot of trawling for halibut near the shore. At Labrador and Newfoundland the Americans have from one hundred and fifty to two hundred vessels fishing herring every year. These herring are all taken in the rivers and bays, and are sent to the States, to Sweden and to the West Indies. They use these herring for baiting their Georges and Bank fleets.

14. That we find that the mackerel strike in here from the Northward and work up towards the South and along the shore, and towards the end of the season they work back. The Americans, and all experienced fishermen, know about the way the fish go, and are able to follow them up.

15. That the right of trans-shipment is a very valuable privilege to the Americans, as they save thereby about a fortnight each trip, which would amount to about a trip saved for the year. I have made a trip in the Bay in eight days. They can also refit here as cheap or cheaper than they can at home, and

in less time. By being able to trans-ship they are able to watch the markets; they can send the fish in time to get good prices when the prices are up. They can get the fish in quicker by steam than if they took them on themselves. The mackerel market is more fluctuating than any other market, and therefore it is a great advantage to be able to watch it. The fish also get worse by being kept in the hold of a vessel, as they have to be re-handled and re-pickled; they lose in weight, don't look so well, and they weigh less by being kept on board, and do not bring such good prices.

JOHN A. McLEOD

Sworn to at Kensington, in Prince County, Prince Edward Island, this 14th day of July, A.D. 1877, before me.

THOMAS H. SIMS,

Justice of the Peace for Prince County.

No. 304.

I, James McDonald, of Chepstow, in King's County, Prince Edward Island, master mariner, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing in one way or another, ever since I was old enough to fish, in both boats and schooners, some of the schooners belonged to this Island, and the rest of them belonged to the United States. That I have been fishing in schooners for seventeen years, and have fished all round this Island, from North Cape to East Point, and from Schimenac to St. Annes, on the Canada shore, and then to Seven Islands, the Labrador shore, up Bay Chaleur, Gaspe Bay, and all round the Magdalen Islands.

2. That taking one year with another, since 1860, the average fleet of American fishermen in the Bay would be fully five hundred sail; there were not so many last year, but this year they are coming down again. This year they are coming down seining. I was on board one this year, and they had seines for both deep water and for shallow.

3. That in the American schooners, in which I fished, we used to catch, on an average, five hundred barrels of mackerel each year. I have fished on both this shore and the American shore, and this is much better than the American fishing. That two-thirds of the fish caught in American and other schooners, are caught within a mile and one-half from the shore, the best fishing is generally close into the shore. I was master of an American vessel about five years ago, and have sailed in Americans as fisherman at other times. I have been part of three seasons fishing on the American shores, and the other part fishing in the Gulf, and there are more mackerel in the Gulf round our shores, than there are round the American shores.

4. That in the spring of the year, vessels from all parts go to the Magdalen Islands to catch herring. I have been there often. It is the best herring fishery in the Gulf. There are Americans, Nova Scotians, and others. There are, on an average, about two hundred sail of American vessels getting herring down there every year. The herring are all caught right-close in on the beach, There are large catches made there. The Americans send a great part of these herring to Sweden now, that being their market.

5. That in the fall of the year, there are large numbers of vessels down in Newfoundland, at Boone Bay, and other places, getting herring. There are about one hundred sail of American herring-fishermen which go down to the northward of Newfoundland every fall. In the winter about two hundred sail of Americans go down to Bay Fortune to get herring, to freeze for the New York and other markets.

6. That the right of trans-shipment was of considerable advantage to the Americans, as they could send their fish on in the steamers, without having to go home in their own vessels with their fish, and they could in this way save much time. They save about four weeks in this way, which would be equal to a trip saved. They can also fit out here as cheap, or cheaper than they can at home. The great advantage is, however, that it enables fishermen to watch and take advantage of the markets, they can find out what the prices are, and sell their fish "to arrive." In the schooners in which I fished, we several times trans-shipped in Charlottetown, and sent the mackerel on by the *Alhambra* and other steamers. We never lost anything by sending the fish on in this way, and we made money, by catching good prices.

JAMES McDONALD.

Sworn to at Souris, King's County, Prince Edward Island, this 21st day of July, A. D., 1877, before me, the words opposite my initials being first interlined or erased.

JAMES R. McLEAN, J. P.

No. 305.

I, Daniel McCormack, of Black Bush, in Township Number Forty-five, in King's County, Prince Edward Island, fisherman, make oath and say :—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing in schooners for ten or eleven years, in both Island and American schooners, and have fished all down this Gulf, and for three years mackerel and codfishing on the American coast, and I know the fishing grounds well.

2. That the first five years I was down here in Americans we used to get from seven to nine hundred barrels of mackerel each season. I was in a small vessel. In 1871, or the year the cutters were around, I was down in the *Annie Lewis*, from Maine, and we only got one hundred and forty barrels; the reason we got so few was that the cutters kept us away from the shore, and the mackerel were on shore so we could not get good catches.

3. In the year 1874 I was down here part of the year on board the *Clytie*, and that season she got five hundred and forty barrels of mackerel. These fish were caught right in as close as we could get to the shore.

4. That I fished for some time on the American coast, and the seining there has destroyed the fishing. The seines both frighten the fish and kill large quantities of them. This year and last there have been no fish to be had there, they having been frightened away or destroyed by the seines. The seines take a large body of fish, both large and small, and they can only cure a small quantity of them, and the rest, including all the small fish, are thrown overboard and sink to the bottom. These fish rot at the bottom and poison the other fish or drive them away. I believe, and all practical fishermen believe, that this seining has been the cause of the breaking up and destroyed of the American fisheries. Their fisheries are not now worth much for that reason. They are only now beginning to seine round here now. When we left their shores on the fourth of this month, the Americans were intending to come down here with their whole fleet, as they could not get any mackerel on their own grounds.

5. That the right to trans-ship here is of great advantage to the Americans, as they save nearly three weeks, as a rule, by being able to land and trans-ship here instead of having to take their fish home in their own vessels. This would be equal to another trip in the Summer. They can also refit here cheaper than they can at home. I have known some of them come down here and fit out instead of doing so at home, on account of its being cheaper.

6. That judging from my own experience of the two coasts, I am of opinion that it would not pay the Island or Canadian vessels to fit out for fishing on the American shores.

DANIEL McCORMACK,

Sworn to at Souris, in Kings County, Prince Edward Island, this 24th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

JAMES R. MACLEAN,

Justice of the Peace for Kings County.

No. 306.

I, Angus B. McDonald, of Souris, in King's County, in Prince Edward Island, fisherman and trader make oath and say :—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing out of the United States, off and on, for the last twelve years. I fished one summer in an Island schooner, and traded one summer in an Island vessel, the rest of the time I was in United States vessels. I have not much acquaintance with the boat fishing. In the schooners I have fished round this island principally, also at the Magdalen Islands, and for herring at Newfoundland, and also up Bay Chaleur and on the New Brunswick and Quebec coasts.

2. That there are large fleets of Americans numbering from eight hundred to one thousand sail engaged in the different codfishing waters, and these all get their bait along the shores of the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland, and without the bait got on these shores, they could not go codfishing. They can only get bait on their own shores for a couple of months in the year, and that bait won't suit the codfishing on the Banks, as it consists of pogies, and they get spoiled before they get down to the Banks, so that now they must get herring for bait on our shores, or they cannot get cod-fish. From Gloucester, and other places in the United States there are about four hundred sail in the winter season engaged in fishing herring at different parts of the Dominion and Newfoundland shores. They freeze these herring for bait and also for their city and country markets. From Bay of Islands and other parts of Newfoundland there are about fifty American vessels engaged in carrying herring in bulk. The vessels engaged in codfishing use about four hundred barrels of herring each, during the run of a year, and these have all to come from our shores. These herring are all caught right in on the shore, all of them within a mile of the land. They are seined and netted. Large quantities of the herring, are also sent away, by the

Americans from those shores to the Swedish and other foreign markets. I have been engaged myself for two winters in Boston, putting up Newfoundland herring for California and other States. At the present time and for years past the Bank codfishing is entirely dependent on the herring fishery. I have fished a great deal on the Banks; at one time I fished on the Banks of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia for three years in succession, winter and summer, and as soon as our herring were done we had at once to start for the British possessions for more, or our voyage would have been at an end.

3. That on an average each cod-fisherman takes three thousand five hundred quintals of codfish in the year, or three hundred and fifty thousand pounds of weight of pickled fish, all of which are caught with the herring, caught as mentioned in the last section. Even the codfish caught on the George's Banks are taken with herring caught on the British shores, as also the haddock caught for the Boston and other markets. I have been engaged at that business a great deal.

4. That I lived in both Boston and Gloucester, and fished out of both places, and boarded many of the American fishermen, and my own personal experience and what I learnt from other practical fishermen with whom I came in contact, all pointed to just what I have said about the herring and cod-fishing.

5. That many of the British fish are better than the American, such as the Strait salmon, and help to sell the American fish.

6. That I was engaged in mackerel fishing in American vessels for four years in the Gulf; the first year I was out mackerel fishing was in 1865, on board the "B. D. Haskins," of Gloucester, of about sixty tons, and carrying fifteen men. We got within a few barrels of eight hundred barrels of mackerel in her that year. The greater part of these, I should say three-quarters at the least, were caught within two and three miles of the shore. Near the shore is always the best mackerel fishing.

7. That in 1866 I was out in the "Helen M. Woodward," of Gloucester, of about eighty tons burden, and carrying about eighteen hands. We caught six hundred barrels of mackerel in her. These were all caught in close to shore, half of them were caught when we were sprung up to anchor at the Magdalen Islands, not having room to drift.

8. That in 1871 I was fishing in the Gulf in "Adele," a Charlottetown vessel, chartered by Americans. She was about seventy tons burden, and carried sixteen hands. We took seven hundred barrels of mackerel in her, all of which were caught inshore; after the mackerel fishing was over she went to Newfoundland for the herring fishery.

9. That I was out part of the season of 1872 in the yacht "Rambler," for two months and a half; she was an American, and carried nineteen hands. We caught four hundred and seventy barrels of mackerel in her. They were all caught right round the shore of this Island and close inshore. We used to have to watch the cutters close that year.

10. That I was out in the "River Dale," the fourth American vessel, in the Gulf for about a month and one half, after the 5th of September. We caught three hundred and twenty barrels of mackerel in her. She was about sixty-five tons burden and carried fifteen hands. Before coming in her that season I had made two trips to the Banks in the "Yossemite," and in her we took over three hundred thousand pounds weight of codfish.

11. That when I was in the Gulf there used to be a fleet of five hundred sail of American schooners fishing down here in the Gulf, and nearly all their mackerel were caught close to the shore. It would not have been worth while to come down to the Gulf at all for fish, if they were not allowed to fish close to shore.

12. That the cutters interfered a great deal with the American fishing when I was out, as at sight of the cutter's smoke the schooners had to leave the fishing grounds and clear out, sometimes losing the fish for a week on that account. The sailing cutters were better than the steamers, as the smoke of the latter could be seen a long way off and we could either salt our fish or throw them overboard before the cutters reached us.

13. That the American seiners are now seining down here already, they have left their own shore because the fish on their own coast have been destroyed or driven away by the seines. The seiners take a school of mackerel or other fish in their purse seines and scoop as many of them on board as they can, and then the rest of the mackerel get smothered in the purse of the seine and sink, and the seiners have to let go their lines and empty the fish out, or lose their seines. These dead fish sink to the bottom and rot, and poison or drive away the other fish whether mackerel or codfish. There are large quantities of herring killed in the same way. The opinion of fishermen, even the seiners themselves, is that the seining destroys the fishery.

14. The Americans clean their fish on board and throw the blood and gurry overboard, and that poisons and kills the fish. That kills the boat fishing altogether, it does not hurt the schooners much, as they can run somewhere else for another school.

15. That the right of trans-shipment is a very valuable privilege to the Americans as they can re-fit here as cheap or cheaper than they can at home, and they save on an average at least two weeks the trip by not having to run home, which would amount to another trip during the season. They also gain a great deal by being enabled to get their fish down quick to market and being thereby able to watch and take advantage of good prices. When there is a large quantity of mackerel on board, the barrels get knocked about and get damaged so as to lose the pickle and then the fish get rusted and

spoiled so that they lose their quality and are sometimes entirely destroyed. The right of trans-shipment prevents this, as the fish can be taken out of the holds of the vessels and shipped away without getting damaged.

ANGUS B. McDONALD.

Sworn to at Souris, in Kings County, in Prince Edward Island, this 24th day of July, A.D., 1877, before me, the words opposite my initials having been first interlined.

JAMES R. MACLEAN,

Justice of the Peace for Kings County.

No. 307.

I, Peter McDonald, of Souris, in Kings County, in Prince Edward Island, master mariner, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been four seasons fishing in British vessels, and four seasons in American schooners—always mackerel fishing.

2. That I fished in the “Mary Ellen” of this port for part of one season, or about four weeks. We got about one hundred and eighty barrels of mackerel. She carried sixteen or seventeen hands.

3. That I fished about eight weeks one season in the “Comus” of this port, and we got two hundred barrels of mackerel. She was about fifty tons burden, and carried fifteen hands.

4. That I fished in the “Dominion,” and was master of her one season, until August the 24th. We had then landed two hundred barrels of mackerel. She was sixty-nine tons burden, and carried sixteen hands.

5. That I fished in the “Florence Silver” of Charlottetown, the rest of the season that I was out in the “Dominion.” We got over two hundred barrels while I was in her. She was sixty tons.

6. That the first American vessel I fished in was the “Abbie M. Heath.” I fished about half the season in her. We got three hundred and twenty barrels of mackerel in her in that time. She was about sixty tons, and carried sixteen hands.

7. That the next American schooner I fished in was the “Oriental,” a schooner of about fifty-five tons and carrying fourteen hands. We were out from September till the end of October in her in the same year that I was in the “Abbie M. Heath,” and in her in that time we caught three hundred and fifty barrels of mackerel.

8. That I sailed two seasons in the “John Smith,” and the first summer we got six hundred and fifty barrels, and the next season we got four hundred and fifty. We only made one trip the second season and two the first, taking our fish home ourselves. She was about sixty tons and carried fifteen hands.

9. That I was out in 1871 in the “Cadet,” an American schooner and got six hundred and fifty barrels. That was the year the cutters were round. Part of the time I was master of this schooner. We trans-shipped at Canso, and were in that way enabled to make three trips.

10. That three quarters of all the fish caught by us in any of these vessels were caught within three miles of the shore. In the “Cadet” they were all caught close into shore, in fact two of her trips were almost entirely caught while she was sprung up to anchor off Nail Pond and other places along the shore. The cutters disturbed us a great deal, otherwise we would have caught more fish. We had to watch the cutters close, and had continually to hoist sail and leave the grounds on their account.

11. That for my own part I would not fit out a vessel for fishing if I had not the privilege of fishing within three miles of the shore.

12. That the American schooners, to my own knowledge, interfere considerably with the boat fishing, as when they see the boats getting fish they make up and lee-low them taking away the fish. I have often seen that done and have been in vessels myself that used to do that. That of course spoils the fishing for the boats.

13. That the Americans clean their mackerel on board their vessels and throw their gurry overboard. That spoils the boat fishing as the mackerel will not bite when there is any blood or gurry about. It does not hurt the schooners as they work away from the gurry.

14. That the seining breaks up the schools of mackerel and frightens them off. That in seining fish, large quantities of fish are taken that cannot be cured or are too small for use, and these are lost entirely. I have seen large quantities of herring destroyed in this way. Seining is the destruction of the fisheries. This Bay is now beginning to be full of seiners. Seven seiners have come into this harbor (Souris) this evening. They destroy the boat fishing entirely.

15. That the right of trans-shipment is of considerable value to the Americans, as they can fit out here and in Canso, except for bait, cheaper and just as well as they can at home. They also save enough time in the summer when fishing is good to make another trip. They can save about a fortnight each trip.

16. That there are considerable numbers of American vessels engaged every season at the Magdalen Islands seining herring. They get as many herring there, as a rule, as they want. These herring are salted or smoked, and numbers of them sent to the West Indian market.

17. That I have been on the Newfoundland coast when the American cod-fishermen came in to get bait and ice. They get large quantities of herring and ice there for the codfishing. At that season they could not get bait for the codfish anywhere except on the Newfoundland or Nova Scotian shores, so that the codfishing is dependent on the herring fishery. If the codfishermen could not get bait on the British coasts they could not get it anywhere else, and consequently could not get any codfish.

18. That in the spring of the year the codfish and mackerel come into the Bay from the southward and strike the Magdalens, and the then mackerel go towards the Bay Chaleur, and then they strike up towards Bank Bradley and North Cape, and towards the middle of the summer they begin to work back again. The American fishermen understand the routes and customs of the fish, and know where to strike them at the different parts of the season. The mackerel season lasts from about the beginning of July till about the middle of October, here.

PETER McDONALD.

Sworn to at Souris, in King's County, in Prince Edward Island, this 24th day of July, A.D., 1877, before me, the words opposite my initials having been first interlined.

JAMES R. McLEAN,

Justice of the Peace for Kings County.

No. 308.

I, John McIntyre, of Fairfield, Township Number Forty-Seven, in King's County, Prince Edward Island, master mariner, make oath and say:—

1. That I have had experience in the mackerel-fishing for the last thirty-five years, and also in the cod-fishing, in both boats and schooners, in both Island and American schooners, having fished all round the Gulf-fishing grounds, and also on the United States coasts, and I know the fishing grounds well.

2. That from East Point to Black Bush, there are about one hundred boats, besides dories, engaged in fishing, that is in a distance of fifteen miles. The number is increasing fast. The number has doubled in the last year, and are still increasing; there are not yet enough boats for the crews.

3. The reason I give for the increase in the boat-fishing is, that fishing pays better than anything else, and it affords employment to people who can get no other employment. It is a ready money business, and puts a lot of money into circulation.

4. That these boats take, on an average, crews of three men to a boat. The boats along here are small, as we have to beach the boats.

5. That the boats get as many herring on this shore as are required for bait through the season, and also for home use. They do not try for more than that. They might take quantities to export, if attention were given to the business. There are any quantities of them along the shore. These boats for the whole season, taking one season with another, take on an average, one hundred quintals of cod-fish and hake to a boat, some years more, and some years less. They also average fifty barrels of mackerel in the season to each boat. The herring are taken right inshore, within a couple of hundred yards of the shore; in the summer season they are taken as far as a mile-and-a-half from the shore. The cod-fish are all taken at from half-a-mile to three miles from shore. All the mackerel here are taken inshore, within a mile of land.

6. That I was fishing round this Island shores in the Island schooners *Aeneas McIntyre*, and in the *Emerald*. In the former of these I fished two years, and was master of the her. We packed out the first year three hundred barrels of mackerel—we were only out six weeks that season. The second year we were also out six weeks, and got two hundred barrels. She was a schooner of sixty-two tons burden, and carried fourteen hands. In the *Emerald* we were out not more than five or six weeks, and we got about two hundred and sixty barrels of mackerel. These fish were all caught inshore, none of them more than three miles off.

7. That I fished for seven or eight seasons in American vessels, among which were the "Isabella," "Robert D. Rhodes," the "P. H. Corliss," the "Horatio Babson," "Albert Clarence," "B. S. Young," the "Lucinda," and the "Native."

8. That I was on board the "Isabella," the same year that I was in the "Emerald," for ten days and in that time we took two hundred and sixty barrels of mackerel. She carried thirteen men.

9. That I was in the "Robert D. Rhodes," for three weeks and in that time we took two hundred and seventy barrels of mackerel. She was about sixty tons burden, and carried thirteen hands.

10. That I was three weeks in the "P. H. Corliss," during which time we took two hundred and sixty barrels of mackerel. She was about fifty tons burden and carried twelve hands. She fished round this island, between here and North Cape.

11. That I was fishing in the "Horatio Babson" about four weeks, during which time we took two hundred barrels of mackerel. She was about seventy tons burden, and carried fourteen or fifteen hands.

12. That in the "Albert Clarence," we fished about the Magdalen Islands. I was in her for five weeks. We took two hundred and eighty barrels of mackerel. She was a vessel of one hundred and ten tons burden and carried nineteen hands.

13. That I was out in 1873, the year of the big August storm, in the "B. S. Young," for four weeks. We did very little in her, only taking one hundred barrels of mackerel. She was a vessel of eighty tons burden and carried seventeen hands.

14. That in the "Lucinda" and "Native" we fished principally on the American shore. We fished principally out ten or twelve miles from the coast, and on the Banks. We did pretty well in the "Native," but not in the "Lucinda."

15. That in all the vessels in which I fished in the Gulf, we fished along the shore of the bend of this Island, and at the Magdalens right in shore. From one to three miles off is the best fishing ground.

16. That including the whole Gulf, the American fishing fleet for the past ten years, has averaged good six hundred sail. I have counted over three hundred sail of them, within sight, at one time. They begin to come down here about the middle of June and stop till November, making two or three trips each season.

17. That the American fishermen, both cod and herring fishermen, clean their fish on the fishing grounds and throw the offal overboard. That hurts the fish. It sickens and poisons the fish, and drives them away from the grounds.

18. That the Americans are now coming down on our shore seining. Some of them have already caught large quantities of fish by seining. Seining destroys the fisheries, as it scares the fish, and kills a great many; that is what has injured the fishing on the American shores.

19. That from what I know of both shores, it would not be worth while for Canadian or Island fishermen to fit out for the American shores. It would not pay them to do so.

20. That the privilege of landing their fish, trans-shipping and refitting is a great advantage to the Americans, as they lose so much time, I should say, on an average three weeks each trip, by having to go home with their fish. They can also refit here as cheap as they can at home. The time saved during the season would be at least equal to a trip saved during the year. It is also a great advantage, as enabling them to watch and take advantage of the fish markets, which are very changeable.

21. That I believe the fish come into the Gulf through Canso and by Cape North, and then strike for the Magdalen Islands, and from there they strike up towards the North Cape of this island, and towards the north shore generally. The American fishermen understand all about the routes of the fish and follow them up.

Sworn to at Fairfield in King's County, Prince Edward Island, this 26th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me, the words opposite my initials, having been first interlined or erased:

JAMES McDONALD,
Justice of the Peace for Kings County.

JOHN McINTYRE.

No. 309.

I, Michael McDonald, of French River, in New London, in Queens County, Prince Edward Island, fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing for about twenty-five years in both boats and schooners. I have been in Island, New Brunswick, and American schooners, and I know the fishing grounds well, having fished up the Bay Chaleur, round this Island, Cape Breton, the Magdalen Islands and elsewhere.

2. That there are about one hundred and fifty boats fishing out of New London, the harbour and beach, and the number is increasing fast, it is only about six years since the boats began to go in for fishing to any extent.

3. That the boats take on an average, crews of four men each, besides the men employed at the stages of whom there are a good number.

4. That the boats are now better built, better modelled and better fitted out than they used to be, people are paying more attention to the business than they did a few years ago, they find that the fishing pays and that is why people go in for it. There is a class of men now coming on who give their whole attention to fishing and attend to nothing else.

5. That I have been fishing in Island vessels for the last eleven years. On board these vessels we used to get from two hundred and fifty to three hundred barrels of mackerel a trip, and we used to make on an average two trips a summer, making for the whole summer, average catches of from five to six hundred barrels of mackerel.

6. That we caught about three-quarters of our fish close to shore, within three miles from land. The best fishing is from one mile and one half to three miles from shore. We used to catch our fish up the Bay Chaleur round the Island coast, and Cape Breton.

7. That I sailed out of Portsmouth in New Hampshire, in the United States, for two years, one year on board the schooner *Commonwealth*, and the other year on board another schooner, both of which fished down in the Bay. They did not do very well, as they did not get more than sixty barrels of mackerel each year. The reason for the smallness of their catch was that they were not well acquainted round the Bay and fished too far from the land, catching most of their fish about nine miles off the shore. They would have done better in closer to the shore. At that time the cutters were about and the Americans were afraid of them, some of their schooners were taken by the cutters those years.

8. That I was out one season in the schooner *Water Lily*, of Carlton, New Brunswick, and on board of her we did pretty well, getting over six hundred barrels of mackerel. She was of about seventy tons burden, and carried seventeen or eighteen hands. These six hundred barrels were nearly all caught round the island shore, mostly all at from one and one-half to three miles from shore.

9. That there have been large fleets of American vessels down in the Gulf fishing every year, I have seen as many as two hundred at one time in Port Hood, and that would be only a part of their fleet.

10. That the right to refit and trans-ship the fish is a great advantage to the American fishermen down here in the Gulf. They are able to land their fish, send them away in the steamers, and take in another outfit without losing much time. By being able to trans-ship here and refit instead of going home with their fish, they save a fortnight each trip and that right in the fishing season. That would amount to another trip in the course of the season as a general thing.

11. I do not think it would be worth while for the Americans to fit out and come down here to fish, unless they were allowed to fish within three miles of the shore.

Sworn to at French River, in New London, Queen's County, Prince Edward Island, this 12th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOHN SHARPE,
Justice of the Peace.

MICHAEL McDONALD.

No. 310.

I, Thomas Walsh, of Souris, in Kings County, Prince Edward Island, master mariner, make oath and say :

1. That I have been connected with the fishing business, as a practical fisherman, since the year 1851; that is, twenty-six years, in both boats and vessels. I fished for seven years out of Gloucester, United States, in vessels; thirteen years I fished out of Rustico, in boats. I ran a fish-stage there and I am well acquainted with the fishing and the fishing grounds. I have fished down to Seven Islands, up the Bay Chaleur, at Anticosti, the Magdalen Islands, and in fact all over the Gulf fishing grounds; and I fished for herring for two winters, in an American vessel, on the coast of Newfoundland.

2. That out of Rustico, New London, and round that side of the Island, there is a vast increase and improvement in every way in the boat fishing. There are now twenty boats on that side engaged in fishing, to the one there was when I went there in 1852. The boats themselves have improved two hundred per cent.; they are better, in every way. There is now a very large capital invested in the business there now, and it has all been put in during the past few years. These boats, taking large and small together, take crews of four men to each boat, besides stage-men and others employed on shore, who are a large number.

3. That these boats average about fifty quintals of codfish each, and about one hundred barrels of mackerel each, during the season, besides large quantities of herring. There are also plenty of hake in about six fathom of water, or about two miles from shore. The fish caught in Rustico are nearly all, in the spring, sent to Charlottetown and Summerside, and the country, while fresh, and there sold for good prices. Over there they catch as many herring as they want for mackerel bait, besides what they sell fresh and what they salt for the winter.

4. That the mackerel are nearly all caught from one to four miles from the shore. The greater part of the mackerel, fully two-thirds, are caught within three miles of the shore. The herring are all caught within a few hundred yards of the beach. In the spring the codfish are caught about two miles from land, as the season advances they go further off.

5. The reasons for the big increase in the boat fishing are, that people find there is money in the business, and consequently go into it. There is now also a large class of men whose number is constantly increasing, who have not got any land, and who depend entirely upon fishing. The boat fishing affords employment to these men, which they could not get in any other way. The business, in fact, keeps these men home; it is the support of their families.

6. That I was out for seven years in vessels belonging to the United States. We used to catch from three to eight hundred barrels of mackerel in the season; we would average good five hundred barrels during the season, taking one with another. These fish we caught nearly altogether close to shore, within three miles of the land. The truth is, there are not many caught more than three miles off, the good fishing is all near the shore. Here this week, the Americans are taking the mackerel with seines close to the shore. The mackerel are now schooling close in, and there are few or none more than three miles off. These seines do a great deal of harm, as they kill a great many small mackerel and other fish, which are thrown away, the seiners only taking the large mackerel. I saw twenty sail of Americans fishing in one bunch within about two miles of the land, on Thursday last, some of them seining. They were fishing between East Point and Saint Peters. The seining destroys the fisheries. The Americans are now scattered all down the coast; they are just now beginning to arrive. There will be a large fleet of them here this summer. There are already about forty sail of them along this shore, and they are coming all the time.

7. If the Americans were not allowed to fish in near the shore, they would not be able to get

enough fish off shore to pay the expenses of the crew while out. They might get an odd catch, but that would be all, and they know this.

8. That when the cutters were about these coasts, they prevented the Americans fishing near the shore to a great extent, and consequently damaged their fishing. There were not enough cutters around to keep the vessels off altogether; they used to watch the cutters, and when the smoke was seen the schooners would clear out. I have known some of the Americans leave the Bay and fish on their own shore, on account of the cutters.

9. That I fished one summer and four or five falls on the American shore, and there are more fish here than there are on the American shores, and the Bay mackerel generally command a better price than the others. There is very poor hook-fishing on their shore, they can only seine.

10. That I have been four or five times down at the Magdalen Islands herring fishing, and there are often a hundred sail of Americans down there for herring. Their cod-fishermen get much of their bait at the Magdalenes, and they catch large quantities for the Swedish and other foreign markets. These herring are all seined close inshore. That is about the best paying branch of the fishing business.

11. That I was two winters at Fortune Bay, in Newfoundland, in American vessels, getting herring. The last winter I was there (1862) there were forty-two sail of Americans in Fortune Bay. In the fall they go up to the Bay of Islands. The last winter I was in Gloucester, there were over twenty sail from that port alone, down at Newfoundland after herring. In the winter time they freeze the herring and send them down to bait their Georges fleet; and they also send them to their towns and cities to retail. That is a big business down there for the Americans.

12. The right of trans-shipment is a very great advantage. I look upon it as the greatest privilege the Americans have got. They can run in from the fishing grounds, land their fish and ship them away to market, without loss of time. They thus save, on an average, three weeks in the trip, and when they have to go home, it is generally right in the good fishing. It is also a great advantage to be able to refit here, as they can buy all their general stores here cheaper than at home.

The right of trans-shipment is also of great advantage to the Americans as they are thereby enabled to keep themselves well posted up in the markets, and can send their fish in so as to catch good prices. This is a very great thing, as I have known a rise of three and four dollars a barrel in two days for mackerel. The mackerel market is a very variable one.

13. The mackerel, I believe, in the spring and first part of the summer, strike in to the northward first, and then work up to the westward along by Bay Chaleur, the North Cape, and the Bend of this Island. The Americans and all skilful fishermen know about the habits of the fish and follow them up.

THOMAS WALSH.

Sworn to at Souris, in Kings County, Prince Edward Island, this 21st day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

JAMES McDONALD,

Justice of Peace for Kings County, P. E. I.

No. 311.

I, Dominick Doviant, of North Rustico, in Prince Edward Island, farmer and fishermen, make oath and say:

1. That I have been engaged in fishing for over twenty years at North Rustico aforesaid, both in boats and schooners, but principally in boats, and am thoroughly acquainted with the fishing business, and best grounds for catching fish.

2. That there are about eighty boats used in fishing out of North Rustico, with an average of from five to six men in each boat, besides one man to each boat engaged in attending to the stages and fish on shore.

3. That within the past ten years the number of boats has more than doubled, and are very much better in build and outfit, as well as larger.

4. That this increase is owing to more attention being paid to fishing now than was formerly — men now using it entirely as a means of livelihood, whereas some years ago they combined fishing with some other occupation.

5. That the average catch of each boat is, taken one year with another, from one hundred and forty to one hundred and fifty barrels of mackerel, and about fifteen quintals of codfish — the codfishing being only followed about one month before and after the mackerel.

6. That a small schooner of fifteen tons will catch about one hundred and eighty quintals of cod in a season.

7. That on this Island there are very few schooners employed in either the cod or mackerel business, the American vessels principally doing that kind of fishing.

8. That the American fishing fleet around this Island generally numbers about five hundred schooners, averaging a catch of between four and five hundred barrels of mackerel each in a season.

9. That the Americans generally fish between two and two and one-half miles from the shore, sometimes nearer. The great bulk of their mackerel being caught inside of three miles from the shore.

10. That invariably the American fishermen spoil the boat-fishing when they come near them, leebowing the boats and drawing the fish away, and after a catch throwing the offal overboard and sickening the fish so that none can be caught in the same place for a day or two after.

11. That the right of trans-shipment is valuable to the Americans, both on account of the time saved between landing the fish here and taking them home, and from the cheapness of fitting out here and the better opportunities of "catching" the market.

His
DOMINICK + DOVIANT.
mark.

Sworn to at North Rustico, in Queens County, Prince Edward Island, this 10th day of July, A.D., 1877, before me, having first been read over and fully explained to the said Dominick Doviand.

WM. S. McNEILL, J. P.
Queens County.

No. 312.

I, Robert Carson, of North Rustico, in Queen's County, in Prince Edward Island, fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing in Rustico for about six years, and that my experience has been mostly in boat-fishing, and I am acquainted with the fishing grounds on this side of the Island.

2. That there are about eighty boats fishing out of North Rustico, averaging about five hands to each boat as crew, besides the men employed on shore at the stages, curing the fish, the men on shore being about one man for each boat, so that each boat gives employment to about six men.

3. The boats catch on an average, about one hundred barrels of mackerel to each boat, besides hake and codfish. About two-miles from the shore is the best part for mackerel fishing, they are sometimes caught further off.

4. The boats have doubled in number in the last five years, the boats themselves are much better than they were, both in hull and rigging, and they are still increasing in number, and improving in outfit and in every respect.

5. That there is a class of men about here who are entirely devoted to fishing, and go in for nothing else. The reason people go in for fishing about here, is that it is found to pay, and it affords employment to men who otherwise would be unemployed.

6. There are large numbers of Americans fishing off this coast every year. They often fish close inshore. Fishermen look upon the coming of the Americans as an injury to the fishing, they draw off the fish. They come inshore, throw bait, and drift off, taking the fish with them. Their coming is looked upon as an injury to the boat-fishing. They dress their fish on the fishing ground, and throw the offal overboard, thus causing great injury to the fishing. Fishermen never want to see them around.

7. The right of trans-shipment is invaluable to the Americans, as they are thereby enabled to come in and refit, and ship away their fish without loss of time, so that they are nearly able to make another trip, while they would have been away carrying their fish home. They are also enabled to take advantage of the markets, if there is a good price for mackerel—the schooners can come in, land their fish, and ship them away without loss of time.

8. The Americans generally fish at from two to three miles from the shore, although at odd times they fish further off.

9. The fish generally come down from the Magdalen Islands to our shore, and the Americans follow the fish.

ROBERT CARSON.

Sworn to at North Rustico, Queen's County, Prince Edward Island, this 10th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

WM. S. McNEILL, J. P., *Queen's County.*

No. 313.

I, Charles McEachan, of Township Number Forty-six, North Side, Justice of the Peace and manager of fishing stage, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in boat fishing on the north side of this part of the Island for the last twenty-four years, and am well acquainted with the fishing on that side.

2. That from the North Lake to Saint Margarets, on the same side, a distance of fourteen miles, there are, this year, at least sixty boats engaged in fishing. The boats are increasing in number and improving. The number of boats has trebled in the last three years. The reasons that I would give are that there is now good encouragement given to men to go in for fishing; the business pays now; and many men who formerly went to the States to fish on the American shores, found they could not do so well there and returned here, and many of them have taken to boat

fishing. The fishing employs a great many people who could not get employment, and could scarcely exist in any other way. The fishery is a ready-money business and puts a lot of cash in circulation. The boat fishing for the past two years, when the Americans were not so numerous on the shore as they were before and as they were this year, has been better than it was when they were around.

3. That the boats, in the distance mentioned above, take from three to five hands each as crew, they would average four. That does not include the men who are employed on shore, who are a considerable number. These boats get herring enough for mackerel bait and for home use every year; if attention were directed to that branch, there could be as many herring taken as could be required. The average catches of the boats are at least sixty quintals to the boat, some boats double that number and others do not get so many. A great many more codfish might be taken, only the owners of a large number of the boats are farmers as well as fishermen, and only fish when they have time from their farming, and that lowers the average all round. The boats also take at least thirty-five barrels of mackerel for the season, and the average is greatly lessened by the same reason given for the codfish: that the men farm as well as fish.

4. That nearly all these fish are taken at from one to three miles of the shore; along the shore is the best fishing ground.

5. That there are nearly every season over five hundred sail of American fishing schooners fishing in the Gulf. We can see them passing along by where we are fishing. I have some days seen two hundred of them passing by in a day. These vessels fish very much close in to the shore.

6. That the Americans do a lot of harm to our boat fishing by coming in shore and lee-bowing the boats, and taking the fish away from the latter. They come in, throw bait near the shore, and drift off, drawing the mackerel after them. We always look upon the coming of the Americans as the end of the good fishing. They clean large quantities of fish on the grounds and throw the offal overboard, this glut and poisons the fish so that they won't bite, and our boat fishing is thereby spoiled.

7. The year the cutters were about they kept the American schooners off to a great extent, and we were very sorry when the cutters were taken away.

8. That the American seiners are coming round here this year; one of them took a hundred barrels at one throw of the seine, off my farm shore the other day, and they kill more fish than they use. The fish that are killed in this way are thrown out and rot in the water, and that goes still further to ruin the fishing. Fishermen believe, by what they see, that this seining will destroy the fishing in a short time.

CHAS. McEACHAN.

Sworn to at Souris, in Kings County, in Prince Edward Island, this 24th day of July, A.D., 1877, before me,

JAMES R. MACLEAN,
Justice of the Peace for Kings County.

No. 314..

I, Daniel C. McLean, of Black Bush, Township Number Forty-five, in King's County, in Prince Edward Island, fisherman, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing, in both boats and schooners, in both Island and American schooners. I have fished in both, in the Gulf and on the American shore.

2. That this year there are more boats in the fishing on our side than there were ever before, and the number is increasing very fast. The reason for the increase is that the fish are becoming more valuable and it is a better business than anything else to engage in.

3. The boats along our side take crews, on an average, of three men each. These boats get, in the Spring, all the herring they want for bait in the other fisheries during the season. These boats, last year, averaged fully forty quintal of codfish each, but they were only at codfish for three weeks last season. They also get large quantities of mackerel. This year promises to be a good year. I have not seen as many mackerel in the Bay for the last twenty years as there are now.

4. That three-quarters of the fish caught by the boats are taken within three miles of the land, along the shore is the best fishing. In the fall of the year they are further off.

5. That I was out one trip in the Island schooner *E. Hodgson*, we did very well in her, but I forget the exact amount. The fish were all taken within three miles of the shore.

6. That I was out one trip one season, at the end of the season, in the *Queen of the Cape*, an American schooner, we got about one hundred and eighty barrels in her. We were only out in her a short time.

7. That I was out part of one season, in fact for a trip of ten days, in the *Ida D. Spoford*, in the Gulf. We got over two hundred barrels in that time; she carried fourteen hands.

8. That I fished all the early part of one season in the *Queen of the Cape*, on the American shore. The fish there were small and not worth catching, the fishing was so bad that we left and came down to the Gulf, where we did well.

9. That the American schooners are now going in for seining here, and that destroys the fishing

on the coast; it scares and kills the fish. They purse the mackerel up in the seines and the fish smother there, and quantities of them are destroyed in this way, that cannot be cured and are thrown into the water again. This is the ruin of the fisheries. There are a lot of seiners down here now.

DANIEL C. McLEAN.

Sworn to, at Souris, in Kings County, Prince Edward Island, this 25th day of July, A. D. 1877, before me.

JAMES R. McLEAN,

Justice of the Peace for Kings County.

No. 315.

I, Daniel McIntyre, of Black Bush, Township Number Forty-four, in King's County, Prince Edward Island, master mariner, make oath and say:—

1. That I have been engaged in fishing since 1859, in vessels all the time, except two years. Five years I fished in American schooners, and the rest of the time in Island vessels. I fished all round the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in the herring fishery, on the Newfoundland shores, and one fall on the American coast, mackerel fishing.

2. That there are now about seventy-five boats engaged in fishing between this and the East Point, a distance of about eighteen miles. The number has increased very much this year—last year there were about forty or fifty boats. These boats take crews of from three to five men each. They get a large quantity of both cod-fish and mackerel, and what herring they want for bait.

3. That the mackerel are caught by the boats, at within two, and two and one-half miles from the shore; the cod-fish are further off.

4. That I have fished in schooners belonging to this Island for twelve years. In the *P. Aeneas McIntyre*, I fished one season after August, and we caught three hundred and forty barrels of mackerel. She carried sixteen hands. The next year I was in her for four weeks when we got one hundred and sixty barrels. The same year I was in the *Jane* for five days when we got one hundred and ten barrels. The year following, I was in the *Mary Ellen* for about six weeks, we took one hundred and seventy barrels; she carried sixteen hands. After that, I was in the *Amateur* for about six weeks in one season; we took a hundred and thirty barrels, that was a bad year. After her, I was in the *Willie*, and we took one hundred and seventy barrels. The next year I was one of the crew of the *Dominion*, in her we brought in about four hundred and fifty barrels of mackerel. She was a schooner of sixty-four tons burden. The year following, I was in the *Tyro*, and we got four hundred and seven barrels. She was forty-one tons burden, and carried fourteen hands, that was six years ago. After that, I was in the *Florence Silver*, and we took four hundred and twenty barrels of mackerel. She was sixty-eight tons burden, and carried sixteen hands. After her, I fished in the *Lion*, in her we got four hundred and thirty barrels of mackerel. She was thirty-eight tons burden, and carried fifteen hands.

5. That these fish, caught in the Island vessels, were caught along the Island shore, the Bay Chaleur, at the Magdalens, and in the Gulf generally. The greater part of the fish were taken within three miles of the shore. Along shore is the best fishing ground.

6. That I fished one season in the *Alfaretta*, an American vessel—we took two hundred and fifty barrels of mackerel; that was in 1859. After her, I was in the *Daniel McPhee*, another American, and we got one hundred and ninety barrels. After her, I was in the *Daniel Webster* for one trip of five weeks; we caught two hundred and fifty barrels of mackerel; she was seventy-four tons, and carried fifteen hands. After her, I was in the *Navalaha* one season, and we got two hundred and fifty barrels; she carried fifteen hands. After her, I was in the *Grape Shot* for the season, when we took in eight hundred and forty barrels of mackerel; she was about sixty-five tons, and carried sixteen hands; she made three trips, landing twice in the Gut of Canso.

7. The most of these mackerel were caught within three miles of the shore, a good many up the Bay Chaleur, and at the Magdalens. I do not believe that it would be worth while to fit out for fishing in the Gulf, if fishermen were not allowed to fish near the shore.

8. That one fall I fished in the *Isaac Walter*, on the American coast, but we did nothing.

9. That the Americans hurt the shore fishing, as they come in, heave a lot of bait, and drift off, dragging the fish after them. They also clean their fish on the grounds, and throw the gurry overboard, and that injures the fishing; that frightens the fish away from the grounds, and they won't bite while the gurry is about, it sickens the fish and poisons them.

10. That the right to land here, trans-ship, and re-fit, is a great advantage to the American schooners, as they can save about two weeks and-a-half each trip, right in the heart of the season, which I should think equal to a trip saved in the summer. They refit here just as cheap as they can at home.

11. That I was two falls down at Boque Bay and Bay of Islands herring fishing; the fish are netted there. The Americans go down there for herring, which they send out to the Southward. The Fortune Bay herring they freeze for bait, and for market. The bulk of the bait for their cod-fishing vessels comes from the shores of these Provinces; in fact their cod-fishery is dependent on the herring fisheries of these Provinces.

12. That the Americans are now beginning to seine in this Bay, and that destroys the fishing. The seiners frighten the fish and break up the schools, so that line fishermen cannot get fish. Large quantities of fish are also killed by the seines. Large quantities of herring are taken in the seines, and these are killed and all thrown away. Besides herring, they kill large quantities of other fish and mackerel which cannot be cured, and are thrown away. These fish sinking to the bottom, rot there, and further injure the fishing. There are, I should say, fifteen or twenty seiners down here already, and they are only just beginning to arrive.

13. That there is a large fleet of American fishing vessels down here every year. Last year, there were not more than one hundred sail; this year, a large fleet is reported to be coming.

14. That the mackerel, in the spring, come into the Gulf from the southward, and work from the south towards the north. Skilful fishermen know about the courses the fish take, and follow them.

DANIEL MCINTYRE.

Sworn to at Black Bush, in King's County, in Prince Edward Island, this 26th day of July, A. D., 1877, before me,

JAMES MACDONALD.

Justice of the Peace for King's County.

No. 316.

In the matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax under the Treaty of Washington:

I, Thomas Milner, of Parker's Cove, in the County of Annapolis, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been acquainted with the fisheries on the shore of this County for forty years. I have taken pollock, hake and haddock and large quantities of herring, about two thousand barrels of herring being taken in this vicinity every year.

2. Twenty-five American vessels come along the coast of this County for the same kinds of fish as we take. They get their bait inshore within a half a mile of the shore by setting nets in which they take herring. With this bait they fish off to twenty miles and take codfish, haddock, hake and pollock and early in the spring large quantities of halibut by trawling which is injurious to our fisheries.

3. These American vessels average from sixty to sixty-five tons registered tonnage and carry from eight to fifteen men each. They take codfish, haddock, hake, pollock, halibut and herring and fish all along the coast of this County. They take from four to twelve hundred quintals each. They take about one hundred barrels of herring to each vessel for bait.

4. These Americans get all their herring within half a mile of the shore for bait, and without this bait they could not carry on the fishing in this vicinity. The most of them bring their ice with them in which they preserve bait.

5. These American vessels come here in April to trawl halibut, and remain on our coast until August included.

6. The Americans which come on our coast bring their own supplies. They obtain bait which enables them to carry on the fishing in this vicinity. They have to get a fresh supply of bait every week.

7. If the Americans were excluded from our coast it would be a great benefit to our fishermen as their supply of bait would not be interfered with and fish would be more plentiful.

8. The right of fishing on the coasts of the United States is of no benefit to the fishermen of this County as I have never known nor heard of any of them fishing there while large numbers of Americans come on to our coast to fish.

Sworn to at Parker's Cove, in the County of Annapolis, this 4th day of September, A. D. 1877, before me.

JOHN ANTHONY, *Justice of Peace.*

Acting in and for the County of Annapolis.

THOMAS MILNER.

No. 317.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington:

I, James W. Cousins, of Digby Town, in the County of Digby, fisherman, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged in fishing for eighteen years now past, and am still so engaged. I am at present in charge of a vessel of thirty-two tons register, and manned by ten men, and can take five hundred quintals of fish in one cargo.

2. We catch bait in Annapolis Basin and in the Bay of Fundy, all inshore, within three miles of the shore. American vessels get bait upon the same grounds, by setting their nets and by buying, mostly by setting nets.

3. We take codfish, haddock, hake and pollock, halibut and herring, the latter for bait. We take this fish from close in shore to off fifteen miles. We get the most within five miles of the shore, and I have this year, up to this date, taken in my vessel nine hundred quintals.

4. The Americans take fish the same as we do on the same grounds. Twenty sail at least of American vessels fish on the same grounds as we do.

5. These American vessels are from ten to thirty tons each, and carry from five to ten hands, the average would be from seven to eight men to each vessel. They are fitted out to take on an average at least three hundred quintals of fish, and more often make full fares than fall short.

6. These American vessels are a great injury to us, as they catch the bait, carry off the fish, and throw their "gurry" overboard on the grounds. By gurry I mean the offal of the fish.

7. American purse-seiners come into this harbor on Annapolis Basin; this harbor is on Annapolis Basin. I have seen two American purse-seiners in this harbor this summer.

JAMES W. COUSINS.

Sworn to at Digby, in the County of Digby, this 3rd day of September, A. D., 1877, before me,
JOHN DAKIN, J. P.

No. 318.

I, David Swain, of Port Clyde, in the County of Shelburne, trader, make oath and say as follows:—

1. I have been engaged and am acquainted with the fisheries on the coasts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Prince Edward's Island for over fifty years and have been engaged in catching, curing and trading in fish in this Province and on Labrador.

2. I have dealt chiefly in codfish and mackerel.

3. The American schooners which run into this harbour average about sixty tons and carry about twelve men each. They take codfish, halibut and mackerel.

4. These American vessels fish for cod, halibut and mackerel, for mackerel principally in the North Bay. Fifteen hundred quintals is a small average take for these vessels. The value of their cargo is about nine thousand dollars.

5. I cannot say how much they take within three miles of the shore except mackerel which is mostly all taken within three miles of the land.

6. These American vessels fish along our coast from May till November, inclusive, and some all winter.

7. In this vicinity from twenty to thirty American vessels come and go yearly in order to procure men, bait and small stores.

8. It is of very great value to Americans to come into our ports to land, dry nets, cure and repack fish, trans-ship cargo, obtain bait and supplies, and is worth twenty-five per cent of their whole catch, including the herring and mackerel fisheries in the North Bay is worth from seventy to eighty per cent.

9. It would be a great benefit to our fishermen if they could carry on the inshore fisheries without local competition on the part of the Americans. This summer inshore boat fishermen have complained to me of Americans trawling on their grounds. If the Americans were excluded it would be worth forty per cent to our fishermen on their present catch.

10. The privileges ceded to the Americans by the Treaty of Washington is worth twenty-five per cent of their entire catch.

11. The privilege of fishing in American waters I consider of no value to Canadian fishermen as our own grounds are better and nearer.

12. From 1854 to 1864 I never knew nor heard of any Nova Scotian vessels fishing in American waters.

DAVID SWAIN.

Sworn to at Clyde, in the County of Shelburne, this 28th day of August, A. D. 1877, before me,
WM. HY. COFFIN, J. P.

No. 319.

In the Matter of the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, under the Treaty of Washington.

I, Robert Henry Bolman, of Sand Point, in the County of Shelburne, make oath and say as follows:

1. I have been engaged in the fisheries for twelve years. I have bought codfish from American vessels and sold them herring for bait. I am well acquainted with the inshore fisheries in Shelburne County.

2. During the last three years I have supplied American fishermen with bait and ice — about one hundred during the three years now past. Last year I have given orders to American vessels to get one hundred and seventy-five tons; the year before two hundred and seventy-five tons. The American vessels take from fifteen to forty barrels of bait to each vessels. Each American vessel takes from three to five tons at each baiting. They bring a considerable quantity of their ice from home, and if the weather is bad at home and they have a long passage, it is more profitable to buy it here.

3. The American vessels which are baited here fish on the Western Bank, on LaHave, Roseway and Brown's Banks, and must have fresh bait if they trawl, which the greater part of them do. These vessels take fish along the coast in this county within three miles of the shore, during the last two years in particular. Last summer and this, American schooners have fished inshore within two miles of the shore. These vessels bring in here cusk and small fish, which enables them to procure funds for ice and bait, instead of drawing on their owners, and they are enabled to go home with a cargo of large and valuable fish. Formerly the Americans threw their cusk and small fish overboard. The American vessels which run in here for bait require to be baited three or four times during the trip, and unless they got this bait in Canadian ports they could not carry on successfully the fishing on the banks along this coast. Last year and this, the number of small American vessels have increased in our inshore waters. These American vessels carry about twelve men each, and go home with from four to six hundred quintals of fish each.

ROBERT HENRY BOLMAN.

Sworn to at Sand Point, in the County of Shelburne, this day of August, A. D., 1877,
before me,

JOHN PURNEY, *J. P.*

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