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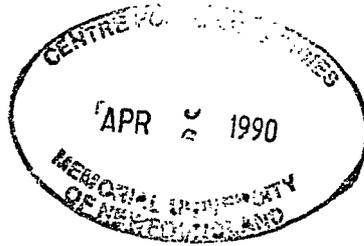
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CONFIDENTIAL

(3160.)



EVIDENCE

COLLECTED BY

MR. JAMES OLIPHANT FRASER

IN

FORTUNE AND PLACENTIA BAYS,

NEWFOUNDLAND,



IN CONNECTION WITH THE

WASHINGTON TREATY.

1876.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Evidence collected by Mr. James Oliphant Fraser in Fortune and Placentia Bays, Newfoundland, in connection with the Washington Treaty.

PHILIP HUBERT, aged 46 years, Sub-Collector of Her Majesty's Customs, residing at Harbour Briton, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith :—

“ 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 Decamber the following vessels entered at the Customs to enable them to sell part cargo ; they being engaged on a vcyage for the purchase of frozen herrings in Fortune Bay, viz. :—

Name of Vessel.	Burthen.	Captain.	
	Tons.		
J. R. Lane	72	S. Jacobs	Goucester.
General Grant	86	Jas. Bowel	Ditto.
Landseer	99	P. Malady	Ditto.
Mary M.	101	M. B. Murray	Ditto.
Crown Point	103	W. H. Burne	Newbury Port.

“ I believe there have been fully 150 United States fishing vessels in this bay during the past summer.

“ In the fall of 1874 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 season, came to purchase bait; not one of these vessels entered at the Customs at Harbour Briton, I am strongly of opinion that two-thirds of these vessels have not entered at any Customs office, 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. Captain Jacobs, of schooner “ _____,” is said to have been offered 9,000 dollars for his load.

“ 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 10,000 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, herring, and squid used for bait, are always taken inshore, generally in the coves and harbours along our coast.

“ 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

cod-fish in this bay; some vessels sold 100 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 is from 500 to 800 barrels.

“American fishermen do not now fish for halibut about Pass Island as they formerly did, because, I believe, 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 of re-fitting their vessels in this bay when they come from the banks. I have not heard of American fishing vessels transshipping 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 of 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 south-west 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. Pierre from Fortune Bay I estimate as follows:—

“About 30,000 barrels herrings, and about 10,000 hogsheads caplin.

“The quantity of squids supplied the French I cannot state.

“The value would be about 16,000*l.* annually for bait supplied the French.

“There are five or six ice houses in this neighbourhood where ice is stored for sale to the Americans to preserve fresh bait.

“American fishing vessels each make two or three trips to the banks, and take each trip from forty to sixty barrels fresh herrings per vessel, for which they pay from 50 to 100 cents per barrel.

“These American fishing vessels take each from three to five tons of ice per trip for preservation of their bait, for which they pay 3½ dollars per ton.

(Signed) “PHILIP HUBERT, *Sub-Collector.*”

Sworn before me at Harbour Briton, Newfoundland, this 14th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Henry T. Hollman, aged 40 years, residing at Harbour Briton, Manager of the trading business there carried on under the name of “Newman & Co.”:—

“I have had twenty-four years’ experience of the fisheries of Newfoundland. I have observed several American fishing vessels in this harbour 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 crew 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 cod-fish also, all on bultows. The quantity and value, as nearly as I could learn, I have furnished to Mr. Hayward of Her Majesty’s Customs, St. John’s.

“United States vessels do not now fish within three miles of our shores, as they find fish more plentiful further off, where on the banks, with fresh bait, they make good catches. Newfoundland fishermen catch fish from inshore to five 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 further 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 600 to 800 barrels per vessel, and salt from 1,200 to 2,000 barrels. I do not know of Americans fishing for turbot in these waters. American vessels purchase ice in the neighbourhood for the preservation of fresh bait, for which payment is made in small cod-fish, and in cash.

"I only know of American vessels having transhipped cargoes in this bay from one American vessel to another. I think the supply of fresh herrings in summer to United States fishermen lessens 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 harbours, as they otherwise would do. I am of opinion that the presence of the large numbers 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 cod fishery. I am also of opinion that the scarcity of cod fish this year along our south-west coasts has been caused by the Americans fishing on the outer banks as aforesaid.

"By a careful comparison of the yield 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 45 quintals, or 225 dollars for each fisherman in the bay, there being about 1,500 fishermen in the district of Fortune Bay.

"The estimate of fresh herrings sold to the French at St. Pierre in April each year amounts to 50,000 barrels, the price paid from 1 to 16 francs, an average of about 10 francs per barrel would be fair. In some years twice the quantity of herrings sold are destroyed, being thrown away as useless.

(Signed) "HENRY T. HOLMAN."

Sworn before me at Harbour Briton this 15th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Henry Camp, aged 57 years, Sub-Collector Her Majesty's Customs, residing at Push Through Hermitage Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith, that:—

"I have in various ways been connected with the fisheries of Newfoundland for forty years.

"I have observed American fishing vessels fishing off both east and west of Pass Island. I cannot name the vessels, nor state the number, nor particulars of tonnage. I know they come there to fish. I know also that the United States fishing vessels come to Great Jéovis to purchase bait. I never knew any to catch bait for themselves, because they can purchase cheaper.

"The description of fish taken by United States fishing vessels in this locality is confined to halibut and cod-fish.

"I have only seen United States fishing vessels fishing within the 'three miles' limits off Pass Island.

"Newfoundland fishermen catch fish (cod) from thirty yards to three miles from the shore. The Newfoundland fishery is, generally, an inshore fishery. Herring, caplin, are always inshore fisheries; squids, invariably inshore, but occasionally taken on St. Peter's Bank. As regards the fishery of Newfoundland, squids are always taken inshore.

"I never knew of a Newfoundland vessel prosecuting the fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

"I have heard that the United States fishermen sold small cod-fish to the Messrs. Burke, of St. Jacques, but as to quantity, I cannot give particulars.

"From forty to sixty—averaging fifty—United States vessels frequent Fortune Bay for the purchase of frozen and salted herrings—principally frozen. They have not caught herrings, but purchase.

"United States fishermen have not within the last three years fished for halibut or other fish on this section of the coast; they having previously swept that ground. American fishermen have not fished for turbot in this neighbourhood.

"I do not know of any United States vessels here about transhipping cargo.

"I am of opinion that the system of seining herrings has the effect of making it more difficult to catch in nets.

"I am of the opinion that the constant supply of fresh bait to United States fishing vessels tends to reduce the local catch of cod-fish materially.

"I also think that the scarcity of fish this summer on our south-west coasts has been caused by the Americans fishing on the outer banks. Americans do greater harm than the French in this way; the former always using fresh bait, whereas the latter fish with salt bait. Americans, too, fish much nearer our shores than do the French.

"The quantity of bait annually sent to St. Peter's from this immediate locality would be about 5,000 barrels of herrings.

"I consider the value of the bait supplied to the French to be about 100,000 dollars per annum.

(Signed) "HENRY CAMP, *Sub-Collector.*"

Sworn before me at Great Jeovis the 11th of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

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 marked B contains the names of American fishing vessels visited by me in 1876, and known by me to have called at this neighbourhood 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 fisherman 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.

(Signed) "GEO. T. R. SNELLGROVE, *Sub-Collector.*"

Sworn before me at St. Jacques, Newfoundland, this 6th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

(A.)

STATEMENT of American vessels, as far as ascertained, loaded with frozen and salted herrings, in Fortune Bay, between Boxy and Long Harbour, 1876:—

Name of Vessel.	Name of Master.	From Where.	Frozen	Salted
			Herrings.	Herrings.
			Barrels.	Barrels.
Bunker Hill	J. M. Dowell	Gloucester .. ..	..	1,200
Cornelius Stokes	Curvey	Salem .. ..	..	900
Sattorgan	Gabill	Gloucester .. ..	..	500
S. R. Lane	Jacobs	Ditto	450	..
Ontario	Joseph Bowie	Ditto	600	..
Martha C.	Martin	Ditto	550	..
Rattler	McPherson	Ditto	500	..
Bellerophon	H. M. Donald	Ditto	600	..
Maracaybo	Nicholson	Boston	200	900
H. N. Rogers	Warren	Gloucester	500	..
J. P. Whitman	J. McDonald	Ditto	675	..
A. K. Dawson	Cunningham	Ditto	700	..
W. E. McDonald	Wm. McDonald	Ditto	550	..
Hereward	Pennington	Ditto	450	..
Laura Nelson	Williams	Ditto	450	..
J. H. Sawyer	Orchard	Ditto	400	..
General Fiars	R. McDonald	Ditto	450	..
Chas. C. Warren	Peter Smith	Ditto	400	..
General Grant	Jas. Bowie	Ditto	500	..
Colonel Aysworth	Penticost	Salem .. ..	..	700
Concord	Deygo	Gloucester	Failed to get load.	..
Landseer	Malady	Ditto .. ..	..	1,000
Edw. F. Webster	Nato	Ditto	Failed to get load.	..
Moro Castle	Noss	Ditto	Ditto.	..
Fred P. Fry	Sidney Smith	Ditto	Ditto.	..
Mary E. Chisholm	Chisholm	Ditto	Ditto.	..
Chas. P. Thompson	Ryan	Ditto	Ditto.	..
Wild Fire	Pearce	Ditto	Ditto.	..
Boanza	Smith	Ditto .. ..	..	1,800
Seth Stockbridge	Smith	Ditto .. ..	..	950

Name of Vessel.	Name of Master.	From where.	Frozen Herrings.	Salted Herrings.
			Barrels.	Barrels.
Reporter	Doyle	Gloucester ..	Failed to get load.	
Eben E. Parsons	Doyle	Ditto	Ditto.	
Viking	Stapleton	Ditto	Ditto.	
Moses Adams	Adamson	Ditto	320	..
Flash	McGuire	Ditto	Failed to get load.	
Beil Barriett	Hutchins	Ditto .. ..	..	750
Crown Point	Byrne	Ditto	Failed to get load.	
Mary M.	Murray	Ditto	Ditto.	
Bunker Hill	McDonald	Ditto .. ..	..	1,000
Cornelius Stockim	Kirby	Ditto .. ..	..	1,400
Hattie A. White	Batello	Boston .. ..	..	1,500

Doro S. Pringle, minor, master, hails from Boston; the skipper belongs to Gloucester; his name, H. A. Babstow; cleared, and sailed for Gottenberg, in Sweden, with 4,000 barrels of pickled herrings.

(Signed) "GEO. T. R. SNELLGROVE, *Sub-Collector.*"

Sworn before me at St. Jacques, Fortune Bay, Newfoundland, this 6th day of November, A.D. 1876,

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

(B.)

STATEMENT, giving particulars, as far as ascertained, of American fishing vessels and their cargoes visited by me in Fortune Bay, 1876:—

Date.	Names of Vessels.	Names of Owners.	Names of Masters.	Tonnage.	From where.
April 10	Wm. T. Smith	Dan. Sayard	Chs. Keen	82	Gloucester.
" 23	J. P. Whitman	Ditto	McDonald	94	"
" 24	Moro Castle	Ditto	Nano	89	"
" 26	Grace C. Hadley	Chs. Putting and Co. ..	Ed. Hart	67	"
May 4	Traquabizanda	Jos. Winsor	Wm. Mortley	68	"
" 4	Ed. E. Webster .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	99	"
" 10	Grace L. Fears .. ..	.. ..	McDonald	88	"
" 12	Elisha Crowell .. ..	.. ..	W. Wells	67	"
" 15	W. E. McDonald	W. McDonald	W. McDonald	98	"
" 20	Proctor, Brothers .. ..	.. ..	Ed. Trevooy	77	"
" 25	Bellerophon .. ..	.. ..	Gardiner	85	"
" 25	Ocean Bell .. ..	.. ..	Thomson	67	"
" 29	Mary Carlyle .. ..	.. ..	Greenleaf	66	"
" 29	J. P. Whitman .. ..	.. ..	McDonald	94	"
" 29	Grace C. Hadley .. ..	.. ..	Hart	67	"
" 31	Josephine .. ..	.. ..	Wilson	50	"
" 31	Ed. E. Webster .. ..	.. ..	Noto	99	"
" 31	Viking .. ..	.. ..	Stapleton	73	"
" 31	N. H. Phillips .. ..	.. ..	McDonald	66	"
" 31	J. H. Roberts .. ..	.. ..	Connelly	73	"
" 31	E. C. Parsons .. ..	.. ..	Daglo	91	"
June 1	Martha C. .. ..	.. ..	Martin	79	"
" 4	Elisha Crowell .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	67	"
" 4	Chs. P. Thompson .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	73	"
" 5	Laura Nelson .. ..	.. ..	Hall	89	"
" 5	Moses Adams .. ..	.. ..	J. Anderson	100	"
" 8	Frank Williams .. ..	.. ..	Lyons	66	"
" 9	Lizzie B. Knight .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	68	Marble Head.
" 9	Herman Babston	Babston and Co. ..	Lawson	100	Gloucester.
" 10	Bunker Hill .. ..	.. ..	McDonald	100	"
" 10	W. E. McDonald	W. McDonald	W. McDonald	98	"
" 16	Reporter .. ..	.. ..	Kelly	83	"
" 16	Webster Saunders .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	75	"
" 16	Dan. Webster .. ..	.. ..	Wilkinson	60	Bucksport, Maine.
" 21	J. P. Whitman .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	94	Gloucester.
" 24	W. H. Phillips	W. McDonald	McDonald	66	"
" 26	Frank A. Withams .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	66	"
" 26	Lizzie B. Knight .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	68	Marble Head.
" 27	Henry S. Philips .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	64	Gloucester.
" 28	Triton .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	71	"
" 28	Baracortaeau .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	68	"

Date.	Names of Vessels.	Names of Owners.	Names of Masters.	Tonnage.	From where.
	Isaac Portet .. ..	..	..	72	Gloucester.
	Ad. K. Daymond .. ..	..	..	94	"
	Jno. T. Preason .. ..	..	..	92	"
	Sterling .. ..	..	..	62	"
	Peter D. Smith .. ..	..	Taylor	69	"
June 29	Magie . .. ..	..	McLaren	67	"

(Signed) "GEO. T. R. SNELLGROVE, *Sub-Collector.*"

Sworn before me at St. Jacques, Fortune Bay, Newfoundland, this 6th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASEB, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

George Simms, aged 49 years, Stipendiary Magistrate and Preventive Officer, residing at Grand Bank, Newfoundland, 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 the neighbourhood, especially during the past season. The number would be from 200 to 300 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 this country, particularly those referring to light dues, which all Newfoundland vessels have to pay. The six United States vessels that paid light dues at my office the past two years, are the following:—

Names of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Names of Masters.	From where.
Ed. Driver	77	Frank Wheeler	Gloucester.
Lizzie B. Knight	67	Morrissey	"
Howard	74	Collins	"
Frank Williams	66	Lyons	"
Proctor Brothers	77	Ed. Trevoiy	"
Elisha Crowell	67	Wills	"

"These vessels purchased 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 are 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 600 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 catching codfish on the Newfoundland inshore fishery-grounds, but cannot state the number, having made no record. Am not aware whether United States vessels refit in this Bay, nor of their having transhipped 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 numbers of United States fishermen fishing on the banks of our coasts 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 numbers of American fishermen on the banks off our coasts.

"United States vessels frequently foul nets along the coasts, 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.

(Signed) "GEORGE SEMMS, J.P.,
"Stipendiary Magistrate, Grand Bank."

Sworn before me at Grand Bank, Newfoundland, this 24th November, 1876,
(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

James Philip Snook, aged 29 years, Preventive Officer, residing at Fortune, in the district of Benin, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—

"I have observed a number of United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood 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 on paper marked "Fortune A," with "P" before their names, denote that these vessels paid light dues; those marked "C" denote that these vessels paid light dues elsewhere; those marked "O" denote that these vessels did not pay light dues—they refusing to do so; the Master of "Gertu J. 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 "Viator," and David M. Hilton, not to pay their light dues.

"The vessels all came into this bay to purchase fresh bait, 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 Dantzick Cove, now South Point of Fortune Bay.

"I estimate the bait annually sold by fishermen of this harbour to the French at St. Pierre to be as follows:—

5,000 barrels herrings	..	..	..	..	valued at	Francs.
10,000 hhds. caplin	..	..	..	..	"	60,000

"Besides this, there is an average destruction of the herrings; thrown overboard annually, of about 10,000 barrels being found unsaleable at St. Pierre.

(Signed) "JAMES P. SNOOK,
"Preventive Officer, Fortune, Newfoundland."

Sworn before me at Fortune, Newfoundland, this the 27th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

FORTUNE A.

NAMES OF VESSELS of the United States of America, in Fortune Bay, for the purchase of bait, boarded by me :—

Mark.	Name of Vessel.	Name of Master.	Tonnage.	Where from.
O.	W. F. Foye	L. W. Smith	Tons. 70	Gloucester.
C.	Sygnel	Unknown .. ..	..	Unknown.
C.	Proctor Brothers	Ditto .. ..	..	Ditto.
C.	Lizzie B. Knight	Ditto .. ..	..	Ditto.
C.	Frank A. Williams	Ditto .. ..	..	Ditto.
O.	S. Sanbourne	Ditto .. ..	..	Ditto.
P.	Wachusette	Hawkins	79	Gloucester.
O.	George W. Stetson	John Daniels .. ..	..	Unknown.
O.	Gertu F. Foster	Campbell .. ..	..	Ditto.
O.	Victor	Latham	70	Gloucester.
O.	Daniel M. Hilton	Parkham	66	Ditto.
P.	Chester Lawrence	McDonald	90	Ditto.
O.	G. Hamilton	M. Stephens	69	Ditto.
O.	Came S. Doyle	Coombs	74	Ditto.
C.	Mary Carlyle	Grimlette	63	Ditto.
C.	Bauracuta	Newbury	68	Ditto.
C.	Triton	G. W. Curtis	71	Ditto.

(Signed) JAMES P. SNOOK,
Preventive Officer, Fortune, Newfoundland.

Sworn before me at Fortune, Newfoundland, this 27th day of November, 1876.
(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Samuel George Hickman, aged 36 years, Planter, residing at Grand Bank, Newfoundland, maketh oath, and saith that :—

“ He is acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland, having been a fisherman himself the past twenty-five years.

“ I have annually observed United States fishing vessels in this bay, but especially last year, when there were about 300 of such vessels in the bay. I name among them “Lizzie V. Knight,” Wm. Morrissey, master; “Procter Bros.” Edward Trevoy, master, and a large number of others too numerous to delay naming, my time being fully occupied. These vessels came into the Bay to purchase fresh herrings for bait, which they purchased from our fishermen. I have sold United States fishermen fresh bait. I have with others under me supplied over a 100 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 cod fishery 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 harbours along the coast, 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 neighbourhood to our people—sometimes at St. Peirre, and sometimes in the harbours 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 600 to 700 barrels each, for which they pay our fishermen nominally one dollar, but allowing for measure

exacted, 75 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 the neighbourhood. I am certain that the supply of bait to the United States fishermen has decreased the supply of bait to our local fishermen. I estimate that 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 1st to 10th 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 of herrings.

"During the baiting season as aforesaid, it generally happens that many seines will have large quantities of herrings inclosed, say from 500 to 1,500 barrels and retained as long as two months. Sometimes herrings rotting where inclosed, and where washed on shore, impregnating the air through all the stages with putrefaction.

"These large seines 'bar' herrings, wherever they meet them in coves, creeks, and along shore, and during such inclosures, it stands to reason that so great a number of captives lessens the number 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 of 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 south west Coasts this year, has been caused by the Americans fishing on the outer banks.

"The average catch of fisherman of this harbour 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 more correctly stated. The price of fish this year, averaging all round, would be about 5 dollars and 20 cents per quintal.

"The bait sold at St. Pierre by the people of this harbour will be about 5,000 or 6,000 barrels herrings, value 45,000 fr.; 10,000 hogsheads caplin, value 60,000 fr.; and about 10,000 barrels herrings thrown away, being unsaleable, also from 500 to 600 hogsheads caplin.

(Signed) "SAMUEL G. HICKMAN."

Sworn before me at Grand Bank, this 24th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Henry John Hickman, aged 54 years, residing at Grand Bank, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—

"I have become acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by having prosecuted the same since I was seven years of age.

"I have seen a great many United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood. I have seen fully 300 sail of these vessels, the bay was all the season lined with them, as many as from fifteen to thirty vessels at a time being seen. I can name among these, Edward Grover, Howard, Frank A. Williams, Elisha Crowell, Concord, Glyttie, Proctor Brothers, all from Gloucester. There are very many other vessels I could name.

"These fishing vessels come from April to September in each year. They come here to purchase fresh herrings for bait. I know that they did get bait, and scarcely ever fail in getting bait. I have sold herrings to United States vessels for exportation, but not for bait. I have seen these vessels baited on the "bar" at Grand Bank. The price paid by these vessels for herrings average about 60 c. per barrel. United States vessels used to fish off Parg Island for halibut and cod fish; they do not do so now because they exhausted the fishery in that locality. They used to fish within three miles of the headland, Newfoundland fishermen catch cod-fish along the shores of the different bays.

"On the western shore the fishery is after the caplin, prosecuted from four to six miles off the shore. The Newfoundland fishery is certainly an inshore fishery; the herrings and caplin with the squid are inshore fisheries. The squid also is generally taken along the shores within a quarter mile to a mile distant, and is sometimes taken on the inside fishing grounds.

"I never heard of a Newfoundland fishing vessel prosecuting the fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

“American fishing vessels do sell cod-fish in the neighbourhood. I cannot say what quantity or what price they sold for; they have sold such at St. Jacques and Beeloram in this bay.

“From thirty to forty American United States vessels frequent Fortune Bay in winter for herrings to freeze. These herrings they purchase from our people. They always take a cargo when they can get it, from 600 to over 1,000 barrels. I do not know of United States vessels fishing for turbot in this neighbourhood. I have seen United States vessels fishing about ten miles off Cape Pine. American vessels generally refit at St. Pierre; anything in this way, in this bay, is confined to wood and water. I do not know of their transshipping cargo in a Newfoundland port, except what I heard that they sometimes do ship off fish from vessel partly laden, to form a cargo for a vessel dispatched for United States.

“I know that the ‘barring’ of herrings to supply bait to the Americans decreases the supply of bait to our own fishermen. I am of decided opinion that the United States fishermen fishing on the banks with fresh bait acts very injuriously on our local fishery.

“I believe that the short fishery the past summer along our south-west coast has been caused by United States fishermen fishing on the outer banks. The average this year of cod-fish caught by the Grand Bank fishermen is fifteen quintals per man. Formerly, the average ran to fifty quintals per man.

“The quantity of bait sold at St. Peter’s by fishermen belonging to Grand Bank average per annum 5,000 barrels herrings, and 10,000 hogsheads caplin. The price paid for the bait will average, viz.—for herrings 40,000 fr., for caplin 60,000 fr.

“The bait thrown overboard by vessels of this harbour will average 4,000 barrels herrings.

“There is one ice-house at Grand Bank, where ice is kept for sale to United States vessels for the preservation of fresh bait. About thirty tons were sold to United States vessels this year at three and a-half dollars per ton.

“Ten herring seines belonging to Grand Bank are employed in seining herrings for United States fishing vessels every year. They begin on 12th April, and end in August. The quantity inclosed in these seines runs from 200 to 1,500 barrels. The longest time I have known a seine inclose herrings retained for sale for bait was about two months.

“Grand Bank seines do not keep herrings ‘barred’ over about a week. Herrings are ‘barred’ sometimes along the straight shore, and sometimes across coves. There is a large destruction of herrings in all cases of ‘barring.’

(Signed) “HENRY J. HICKMAN.”

Sworn before me at Grand Bank this 23rd day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

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 neighbourhood from time to time. This summer there have been over 300 such vessels in this bay. These vessels come to purchase bait, and they did so purchase fresh herring 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 neighbourhood 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 La Hune to Port May.

“Newfoundland fisherman catch codfish within three miles of the shore, except in exceptional instances when they go off in 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 neighbourhood.

"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 600 barrels.

"I know of United States vessels having transhipped 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 of 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 manured 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 coast on the occasion of such withdrawal.

"About 5,000 barrels herrings, averaging 40,000 fr., and 10,000 hogsheads caplin, averaging 60,000 fr., will be a fair estimate of the bait sold at St. Pierre annually by fishermen belonging to Grand Bank, in addition to which over 10,000 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.

(Signed) "GEORGE A. HICKMAN."

Sworn before me at Grand Bank, this 25th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

John Lake, senior, aged sixty 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 this bay. These vessels came to purchase fresh bait which they procured from our fishermen, the chief supply being from fishermen residing at Belleram, St. Jacques, Bay de Nord, in Fortune Bay.

"United States fishing vessels two years ago fished about Brunette; two years ago they were fishing between Dantzick Cove and Green Island, when one of them nearly lost their dory.

"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 are inshore fisheries, generally taken along our coves and harbours, squids sometimes at the capes.

"I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel having engaged in 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 neighbourhood; they have done so at Belleram and St. Jacques, in Fortune Bay, but I cannot give particulars.

"About 300 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 the United States. The price obtained for their 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 2,000 barrels of herrings,

kept enclosed till the 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 of the present season along our south west coasts is owing to the operation of the United States fishermen on the outer banks.

“Previous to the last two years the fishermen of this harbour averaged from eighty quintals and 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 5,000 barrels herrings, valued at 40,000 fr., and 10,000 of caplin valued at 60,000 fr. About 10,000 barrels herrings are annually thrown away, being unsaleable at St. Pierre.

“There is no ice-house at Fortune Harbour where ice is preserved.

(Signed) “JOHN LAKE, Sen.”

Sworn before me at Fortune, Newfoundland, this 27th November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

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 neighbourhood, 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 20 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 herrings 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 the 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 vessels, 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 south-west coasts is chiefly caused by Americans fishing on the Outer Banks as aforesaid.

“Signed by his mark, he having a sore thumb,

“WM. GEORGE BENNETT, his ✕ mark.”

Sworn before me at Fortune, this 27th day of November, 1876,

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Aquillar Francis, aged 62 years, trader, residing at Hermitage Cove, Newfoundland, maketh oath, and saith:—

“I know the fisheries of Newfoundland by being connected therewith constantly during the last twenty-five years. I have seen several United States vessels about Great Jervis, and Grole, and Pass Island looking for bait; I have seen them looking for bait to fish for halibut about Pass Island; I cannot state the number of such vessels, but think I have seen upwards of twenty.

" The United States fishermen purchased the bait they require from Newfoundland fishermen, never catching for themselves as far as I know.

" I never sold any bait to United States fishing vessels. United States fishing vessels fished off Pass Island, as I have said, where they caught halibut and codfish. There is no doubt in my mind but that these United States fishermen fishing off Pass Island destroyed the halibut fishery in that locality, which used formerly to be a lucrative source of employment to our fishermen, who caught large quantities formerly, but now catch none worth speaking of.

" Newfoundland fishermen catch codfish within one and a-half mile of the shore. The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery.

" The caplin, herring, and squid fisheries used for bait by Newfoundland fishermen are inshore fisheries.

" I never knew of a Newfoundland vessel prosecuting the fishery, or any fishery on any of the coasts of America.

" I have not heard of American fishermen selling small codfish, or cod-oil, in this neighbourhood.

" I believe over fifty United States vessels frequent Fortune Bay for the purchase of frozen herrings; these herrings they purchase from our people. They take a full cargo of frozen herrings when they can get them.

" I know that there were over fifty United States fishing vessels fishing this spring off the mouth of this bay, but cannot speak as to exact distance.

" The supply of bait to the United States fishermen decreases the supply of bait to Newfoundland fishermen. Thousands of barrels of herring are seined for these United States fishermen, and are kept inclosed in such seines for as long as two months. I know this spring large quantities of herring being barred (inclosed in seines) from April until July, when one of Her Majesty's ships-of-war took up and emptied. One seine was given up to the owner, who pleaded ignorance of the law. It is of frequent occurrence to keep herrings inclosed in seines from April to August for sale to United States fishermen and to the French. While herrings are thus barred it generally happens that Newfoundland fishermen fail to catch herrings in their nets. A very large quantity of herrings thus barred are destroyed.

" I am of decided opinion that the presence of the large number of United States fishing vessels fishing on the Banks off our coasts supplied with fresh bait, interferes with, and reduces the local catch by Newfoundland fishermen, and that the scarcity this year in the catch of codfish by our fishermen is caused by the Americans fishing on the Outer Banks.

" Formerly, large fish used to be taken along the south-west coasts; now, the catch is confined, generally, to small fish; this year being smaller than I have known in my experience.

" It is my opinion that if the Americans continue fishing on the Banks, as they have done this year, using fresh bait supplied by our fishermen, that our cod-fishery will be destroyed.

(Signed) " AQUILLAR FRANCIS."

Sworn before me at Hermitage Cove, in Hermitage Bay, Fortune Bay, this 13th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Jacob Jensen, of Harbor Briton, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—

" That he is 29 years of age, and is a fisherman. I know the Newfoundland fisheries from being reared to them ever since I was 11 years of age.

" I have observed United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood. I have seen about thirty of such vessels this year. One was named the 'T. G. Zanby,' of Cape Ann, United States, America, commanded by Captain Malloy, of about seventy tons; another named 'J. P. Whitten' or 'W. P. Whitten,' of Cape Ann, commanded by _____, of about sixty or eighty tons. Captain Degon, commander of third, hailing from Gloucester, the name of which I do not remember. These vessels all came to this neighbourhood for bait, and did purchase bait as they required.

" I have sold bait to United States fishing vessels, and have supplied bait to two this year, giving each fifty barrels of herrings at one dollar and a half per barrel.

" I have seen American vessels fishing for halibut and cod-fish half way between Pass Island and Brunette Island. I have seen two or three of such vessels there at a

time fishing, but cannot say what their catch would be. Newfoundland fishermen generally catch their fish inshore.

"The caplin, herring, and squid fisheries for bait are each inshore fisheries, being caught close to shore, except squids, which are occasionally taken outside three miles, but partially, the bulk of what is caught is close to shore in the coves and harbours.

"I never heard of a single Newfoundland fishing vessel prosecuting the fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

"From eighteen to twenty-five American vessels frequent Fortune Bay in winter for the purchase of frozen herrings, and they have always succeeded in purchasing what they required, it being found by them less expensive to purchase than to seine what they require.

"I have seen American fishermen fishing for halibut between Brunette and Pass Island within the 'three-mile limit.' Can't say how many, but have seen them so fishing during the last four or five years.

"American vessels refit in Fortune Bay from time to time as found necessary. I am of opinion that the extra supply of fresh bait supplied to American fishing vessels interferes with and tends to reduce the local catch of fish, which are attracted to the supply of bait on the banks, and thus prevented from striking in upon these shores.

"I am of opinion that the scarcity of fish (cod) along the south-west coast this summer is caused by the Americans fishing on the outer banks. There are four or five ice-houses in this bay, where ice is kept for the Americans, who purchase it for preserving the bait purchased from Newfoundland fishermen. I cannot say to what extent this has been availed of. These ice-houses were erected specially for the American fishermen to supply them with ice from time to time as they might require, and chiefly used on this account.

(Signed) "JACOB JENSEN."

Sworn before me at Harbor Briton this 4th day November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Hugh Vavasseur, aged 65 years, Preventive Officer, residing at St. Lawrence, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—

"That I have resided at St. Lawrence during the past thirty-six years, during all which time, and ten years previously at Gaultois and Harbor Briton, 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 of Vessel.	Name of Master.	Tonnage.	Where from.
1876	Ernest F. Norwood	Nath. Greenleaf	74	Gloucester.
	Gertie Lewis	J. W. Print	72	"
	Carrie S. Doyle	J. F. Conniber	74	"
1875	Tragabizanda	W. Molloy	68	"
	Lizzie B. Knight	Wm. Morrissey	67	"
	John Dodue	Solomon Frost	68	"

"These vessels among the many that called at this harbour were the only ones that paid light money. The above-named vessels with the other United States fishing vessels that called at this harbour, 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 drive the squids from the ground.

"Newfoundland fishermen catch cod-fish generally within two miles of the shore, the only exceptions being on the West Coast, where fishermen sometimes fish off from six to nine miles from the shore.

"The caplin, herring and squid fisheries for the purposes of bait are all inshore fisheries, and never prosecuted further than a mile from the shores, being invariably prosecuted in the coves and small harbours 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 their vessels in our harbours, and have done so in this harbour. I remember that the *Tragabizanda* did so refit 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. Cod-fish 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 cod fish in the harbour was eighty quintals per man, during the last two years it has not exceeded twenty quintals per man. The quantity of bait annually exported by craft belonging to St. Lawrence and Lawntrell average 3,000 hogsheads, for which the average price would be 24,000 fr., and herrings taken in Fortune Bay by these same craft will average 3,000 barrels herrings, realizing 18,000 fr.

“There are no ice-houses at this harbour for the preservation of fresh bait.

(Signed) “HUGH VAVASSEUR, *Preventive Officer.*”

Sworn before me at St. Lawrence, Newfoundland, this 5th day of December, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

James Reeves, aged 68 years, planter, residing at St. Lawrence, Newfoundland, 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, and which they generally procure. I have baited two United States vessels with fresh herrings; cannot remember their names.

“Newfoundland fishermen generally fish within two miles of the shore. The caplin, herring, and squid fisheries, used for bait by the Newfoundland fishermen, are inshore fisheries, being followed in the coves and harbours along the coast. I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel prosecuting any fishery voyage on any of the coasts of the United States of America, and do not 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 for freight to Gloucester, New York, and Boston. These herrings the Americans 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. Mary's. I have not seen any fishing in this neighbourhood.

The supply of bait to United States fishermen shortens the supply of bait to our local fishermen.

“I am of the 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 become more abundant than before.

“I am of opinion that the scarcity of fish the past summer along our south and west coasts is owing to the United States fishermen fishing on the banks off our coast.

(Signed) “JAMES REEVES.”

Sworn before me at St. Lawrence, this 5th day of December, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Henry Benning, aged 37 years, Sub-Collector of Her Majesty's Customs, residing at Lamaline, 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 neighbourhood, but can only name two, namely, in the year 1874 :—

Name of Vessel.	Name of Master.	Tonnage.	Where from.
D. E. Woodbury ..	D. E. Collins	65	Gloucester.
G. P. Whitman ..	J. McDonald	94	..

“These vessels came here to purchase fresh bait, which they procured, and then sailed away for the Grand Banks. No American vessels take fish in the immediate neighbourhood 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 are taken in the land-wash, herrings frequently so, and squids from half to quarter mile from the shore, but generally in the coves and harbours.

“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 cod-fish in this neighbourhood. From thirty to forty 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 600 to 1,000 barrels. The price paid is about a dollar per barrel, and when very scarce one and a half dollar per barrel.

“I am positive that the presence of the large number of United States vessels fishing on the banks of 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 harbour I estimate as follows per annum :—

“Herrings taken at Fortune Bay, viz., 3,400 barrels of herrings, value 23,800 fr.; 7,000 hogsheads of caplin taken at Lamaline, value 70,000 fr.

“The average catch of cod-fish 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.

(Signed)

“HENRY BENNING, *Sub-Collector.*”

Sworn before me at Lamaline, this 1st day of December, 1876.

(Signed)

J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

John Pitman, aged 54 years, residing at Lamaline, planter, maketh oath and saith :—

“I have become acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by close connection therewith in supplying and otherwise for upwards of twenty years.

“I have occasionally observed United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood, and I know that a large number of such frequent Fortune Bay.

“These vessels all come to purchase bait, they catch very little themselves, they purchase from our people. I do not believe they could supply themselves.

“Newfoundland fishermen generally catch cod-fish within two or three miles of the shore, the average being within two miles. The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery, the caplin, herring, and squid fishery used for bait by Newfoundland fishermen are all inshore fisheries.

“I never knew of a Newfoundland vessel engaging in a fishing voyage on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

“American fishermen have sold small cod-fish in Fortune Bay, but not in this immediate neighbourhood; when large fish are abundant on the banks, they are in the habit of throwing away all fish under twenty-two inches.

“I am decidedly of opinion that the presence of the large number of United States fishermen fishing on the banks off our coasts, supplied as they are with fresh bait, tends greatly to reduce the catch of cod-fish by our local fishermen, and that the

short catch this year by our fishermen is mainly owing to the Americans fishing on the outer banks as aforesaid.

“Previous to the last two years the average catch by fishermen of this locality averaged eighty quintals per man, this year the average is reduced to fifteen quintals per man.

“If United States vessels increase on the banks in the ratio of increase marking the two past years, a very few years only will be required to exhaust the shore fishery of Newfoundland.

“There are thirty decked craft of Lamaline engaged in supplying fresh caplin to the French at St. Pierre; the quantity sold them annually will be about 7,000 hogsheads of caplin, value 56,000 fr., and 150 barrels of herrings, valued at 1,500 fr.

“There are no ice-houses in this locality for the preservation of ice.

“One peculiarity in the cod-fishery has been remarkable the last two years; I refer to the small run of the fish caught, whether by bulltows or cod-nets, or hook and line, all alike prove in a small run of fish.

(Signed) “JOHN PITMAN.”

Sworn before me at Lamaline, the 30th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Thomas Haley, aged 46 years, master mariner, residing at Lamaline, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith that:—

“I am acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by having followed the same since I was 15 years of age in catching and directing crews in catching.

“I have observed three United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood, and have seen a large number of such vessels chiefly in Fortune Bay, but cannot number them. These vessels came to this coast to purchase fresh bait, which they always succeed in purchasing from our people. I have baited two United States fishing vessels at Lamaline; Captain McDonald commanded one vessel, Captain Collins commanded the other; this was in 1874. These vessels took forty barrels of herrings between both. The price paid was one and one-half dollar per barrel.

“Newfoundland fishermen, generally, fish within two miles of the shores. The herrings, caplin, and squid, used for bait by the Newfoundland fishermen, are all inshore fisheries, and are never taken more than a mile from shore, except on rare occasions, when squids are jigged in the fishing-grounds. Caplin and herrings, generally, are taken along the land-wash.

“I never heard of a Newfoundland fishing vessel prosecuting any fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

“I cannot say whether American fishermen sell small cod-fish in this neighbourhood.

“From thirty to forty American vessels frequent Fortune Bay every winter, to purchase herrings to freeze and freight to Cape Ann, Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. These herrings are always purchased from our people at the rate of one dollar per barrel, large measures reducing the price to about eighty cents per barrel. The average cargo of these vessels has been about 600 barrels.

“A small number of American vessels come to Fortune Bay in winter for salted herrings, the price being about one dollar per barrel for fresh herrings, which are salted in bulk by these Americans. Vessels carrying frozen herrings generally carry a deck load of about forty barrels salted herrings.

“I cannot say that the supply of bait to United States fishermen has decreased the supply of bait to local fishermen, who are never refused bait out of the seines—generally free of charge. I work a seine myself to supply United States fishing vessels, and speak of what I know.

“I am of opinion that the presence of the large number of United States fishing vessels on the banks off our coasts, well supplied as they are with fresh bait, has the effect of reducing the local catch of cod-fish, and I really think that the short catch of cod-fish along our south and west coasts during the past season is owing to the presence of United States fishermen along the Outer Banks, as aforesaid.

“The quantity of fresh bait annually sent to St. Pierre from this neighbourhood I estimate as follows:—For the 35 craft engaged in this traffic, say, 7,000 hogsheads caplin, value 56,000 francs; 150 barrels herrings, value 1,500 francs. The quantity of caplin thrown away being considerable at St. Pierre, will average 1,000 hogsheads per annum.

“There are no ice-houses at Lamaline where ice is kept for sale.

“There are about forty-five vessels, nearly all registered craft, frequenting Lamaline ground in summer for fresh caplin for bait, which never fails between the 10th and 20th of June.

(Signed) “THOMAS HALEY.”

Sworn before me at Lamaline this 30th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Thomas Winter, aged 61 years, Sub-Collector Her Majesty's 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 neighbourhood—about sixty in 1875, and twelve or thirteen the past summer. Of those in this neighbourhood in 1876, I can name the following, viz:—

Name of Vessel.	Name of Master	Tonnage.	Where from.
Gleaner	Lyons	63	East Gloucester.
Epestais	R. G. Grand	70	Gloucester.
David W. Hilton	Parkham	59	..
Massasoit	Gorman	73	..
Mary Carlyle	Greenleaf	66	..
Viking	E. Stapleton	73	..
Addison Centor	Jas. Jamieson	74	..
Mist	M'Carty . . . .	..	..
Moro Castle . . . .	.. . . .	89	..

“These vessels came here for ice and bait.

“Every United States vessel calling in this neighbourhood systematically arranges to avoid the Customs authorities, and the 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 fishing produce for cash, which they said they required to purchase bait.

(Signed) “T. WINTER, *Sub-Collector.*”

Sworn before me at Burin, Newfoundland, this 8th day of December, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Francis Berteau, aged 53 years, merchant, residing at Burin, Newfoundland, maketh oath, and saith, that:—

“I have been 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 craft was fouled near the ‘Bull and Calf’ by a United States fishing vessel.

“Newfoundland fishermen catch codfish generally within two miles of the shore. The caplin, herring, and squid fisheries used for bait are all inshore, being taken in the coves along the coasts and harbours, and are never taken more than three miles off.

“I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel engaged 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 cannot speak as to quantity. I once bought from United States fishermen three or four barrels cod-roses; 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 transhipped 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 dozens 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 400 or 500 quintals of codfish.

"In June 1875, there were about 100 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 codfish 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 8 to 10 quintals for a man and a boy.

"The general average of fish caught this year by fishermen of this neighbourhood has been 8 quintals per man in punts, and 15 quintals per man in boats going to Cape St. Mary's; Great Burin, being an exception, would give 20 quintals a punt for man and boy.

"Previous to the last three years, the average catch of codfish per man in this neighbourhood has been 40 quintals.

"The supply of fresh bait to the French, at St. Pierre, by the fishermen from St. Lawrence to the Flat Islands, will exceed 10,000*l.* annually—the above section of coast, including Burin Proper, St. Lawrence, Mortier Bay, Tites Cove, Rich Harbour, Beau Bois, and other harbours.

(Signed) "F. BERTEAU."

Sworn before me at Burin, this 7th day of December, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

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 neighbourhood. The past season I had observed about twenty of these vessels, I can only name a few, 'Gleaner,' Captain Lyons.

"These vessels came to this neighbourhood 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 dollars.

"Newfoundland fishermen catch fish, generally, within two miles of the shore; there being exceptional instances only when codfish is taken from 6 to 9 miles off the coast.

"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 the neighbourhood. American vessels have fished for codfish on our grounds, off Cape St. Mary's.

"American fishermen partially refit their vessels occasionally at this port, but have not here transhipped their cargoes.

"I undoubtedly think that the supply of bait to the United States fishermen

decreases the supply of bait to our local fishermen. They employ our people to sweep the coves, who having done so, leave 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 coast greatly interferes with and reduces the local catch of codfish.

“ I am of opinion that the scarcity of codfish the first part of the summer along our south and west coasts, is attributable to the presence of the French and of the Americans fishing on the Outer Bank; 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 summer by fishermen of this neighbourhood will only come to 20 quintals per man; in former years, the average was from 80 to 90 quintals per man.

“ The number of craft of this harbour engaged each year in supplying bait to the French is about thirty, and these vessels take from this place, per annum, 1,000 hhd. caplin, valued at 10,000 frs.; and from Fortune Bay, 15,000 barrels herring, valued at 40,000 frs.; of the latter, about 7,000 barrels would be thrown away, being unsaleable at St. Pierre.

“ There is one ice-house at this harbour 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 the harbour, per last summer's sale, is tons.

(Signed) “GEORGE BISHOP.”

Sworn before me at Burin, this 6th day of December, A.D. 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Richard Paul, aged 40 years, fisherman, residing at Burin Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—

“ I know the fisheries of Newfoundland by having prosecuted them for over twenty-five years. I have observed a number of United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood; they are all the time passing backward and forward: over seventy sail of these vessels passed this neighbourhood the past season. Not being particularly connected with these vessels, I took no note of their names. I know they came to purchase ice and bait, and get squids when they could. I have seen them many times taking squids in the coves close to shore—within one-eighth of a 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 distance 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 in a fishing voyage on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

“ American fishermen have sold fish and oil in this neighbourhood; I only know of their selling thirty-seven quintals at 7s. per quintal, and seventy gallons oil (cod) at half a dollar per gallon. I understand from their first statements the past season, that hereafter they intend selling 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 work westerly towards our shores. When we hear of fish plenty to the eastward of us, we always reckon on a good spirt, as fish work westerly this side of the island. Such has been the experience of our fishermen until the United States vessels began prosecuting the fishing 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.

“ I am of decided opinion that the short catch the present summer along our

south and west coasts has been caused principally by United States fishermen, fishing on the Outer Bank as aforesaid. The catch of codfish by fishermen in this neighbourhood previous to the last three years would average fifty quintals per man; the average 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 neighbourhood will be about 500,000—the average price will be twenty francs per thousand. This supply to the French does little injury to the cod fishery, compared to the supply of bait to the Americans who use fresh bait, whereas the French use 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.

(Signed) “RICHARD PAUL.”

Sworn before me at Burin Bay, the 15th day of December, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Owen Pine, aged 67 years, planter, residing at Burin Bay, 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 14 years of age. I have seen from ten to fifteen United States fishing vessels at a time in this neighbourhood; they came for bait and ice, which they purchase in general. I have seen them catch bait for themselves in our harbours. 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 of our coasts supplied with fresh bait, greatly reduces 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.

(Signed) “OWEN PINE.”

Sworn before me at Burin Bay, Newfoundland, the 8th day of December, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

William Collins, aged 42 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 14 years of age.

“I have observed a number of United States vessels in this neighbourhood—there were upwards of twenty this year, last year there were upwards of forty—the difference between the two years, I believe, is owing to the fact that this year a larger number of these vessels went into harbours along the southern coast for bait.

“This year, at Cape St. Mary’s, 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 fishery’ ground off Cape St. Mary’s. 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 coasts is owing chiefly to their operations.

"The quantity of bait sent to St. Pierre from this harbour is small, but there are thirty craft engaged in supplying bait to the French, chiefly from Fortune Bay, from where some 15,000 barrels of herrings are taken to St. Pierre by vessels of this harbour; the value of this bait would be about 30,000 francs; a third of the above quantity is annually thrown overboard, being unsaleable at St. Pierre in seasons of abundance.

"There is one ice-house at this harbour where ice is kept, principally, and almost exclusively, for sale to United States vessels for the preservation of their fresh bait. A number of United States vessels did purchase ice at this harbour the past season, but I cannot give particulars.

(Signed) "WILLIAM COLLINS."

Sworn before me at Burin, this 6th day of December, A.D. 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

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 17 years of age.

"I have observed a great number of United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood, 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 mix 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 neighbourhood.

"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 100 tons; the year previous the number of United States vessels in this neighbourhood 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:—

Name of Vessel.	Name of Captain.	Port.
White Foam	Nicolson	Not known.
Flying Scud . . . . .	. . . . .	"
Fair Sailer . . . . .	. . . . .	"
P. S. Whitten . . . . .	. . . . .	"
G. J. Tar . . . . .	. . . . .	"
Forgotten	Lowe	"
"	Campbell	"
"	Hennessy	"
"	Hall	"
"	D. O'Brien	"

"In 1876 I supplied ice to the following captains of United States vessels, among others, but whose names I cannot give, the captains' names are:—Greenleaf, Lyons, Noss, Gormon, Grant, Kilby, Thompson, Pinkham, Trevoy, Gaden, Lennox, Jamieson, and others.

"These particulars are merely memoranda 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 capelin, herring, and squids used for bait are taken along shores only, and were never taken at a distance of three miles off, except in isolated instances, when fishermen belonging to this neighbourhood have taken squids at or on Burin Bank.

"I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel 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 neighbourhood, but I cannot state as to quantity.

"United States vessels do refit in this neighbourhood. 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, 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, resulting 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 with fresh bait greatly reduces the catch of our local fishermen, and am of opinion that the short catch of our local fishermen 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.

(Signed) "PHILIP PINE."

Sworn before me at Burin Bay, this 8th day of December, 1876,
(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Thomas Beazeley, aged 72 years, fisherman, residing at Burin Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith :—

"I have been following the fisheries of Newfoundland since I was 16 years of age. I have seen many United States fishing-vessels in this neighbourhood the past two years. To a number of these I delivered ice during the summer of last year, and of the year previous. Mr. P. Pine delivered ice to a larger number of United States vessels.

"The vessels supplied with ice, and delivered by me in 1876, were as follows :—

Date.	Names of Vessels.	Names of Masters.	Where from.
July 25	Schooner, Hayward	Greenleaf	Gloucester.
	" Gleaner	Lyons	"
Aug. 7	" Morro Castle	Noss	"
	" Lassiat	Gorman	"
" 12	" Emmenetta	Thompson	"
	" Epslar	Rob. C. Grant	"
" 16	" Preston	Crow	"
	" David M. Hilton	Pinkham	"
" 23	" Reporter	Kelly	"
" 26	" Mary Carlisle	Greenleaf	"
	" Proctor Brothers	Trevooy	"
" 28	" Cappola	Gayton	"
	" Algona	"	"
Sept. 7	" Anderson Santer	Jas. Jamieson	"
" 20	" Caralshawz	Neel M. Phca	"
	" J. P. Whitman	Jerome McDonald	"

"These American vessels came here to purchase ice and bait. I delivered the ice to them, to the extent of 67½ tons; for which they paid from 3 to 4 dollars per ton. They were supplied with fresh bait by our people, as far as they could procure such.

"It is my opinion that the large number of United States vessels being supplied with fresh bait, and fishing off our coast, interferes with the supply of bait to our local fishermen, and that reduces their catch of codfish.

"I think the short catch of codfish last summer along our south and west coasts is attributable to the presence of United States fishermen on the Outer Banks as aforesaid.

(Signed) "THOMAS BEAZLEY, Sen."

Sworn before me at Burin Harbour, this the 15th day of December, A.D. 1876.
(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Thomas Grandy, aged 40 years, residing at Belloram, Fortune Bay, fisherman, maketh oath and saith :—

"I know the fisheries of Newfoundland by having followed the same since I was 14 years of age. I have seen a number of United States fishing-vessels in this bay: this visit being to purchase bait, which they did from the fishermen of this neighbourhood during spring and summer. I have sold these American fishermen fresh herrings for bait from time to time. I have baited about eight this year, each vessel

taking about thirty-five barrels of herrings per trip: in some cases, I have baited the one vessel for two trips.

"Newfoundland fishermen fish within three miles of the coasts, except in rare instances, when a few fishermen frequent Lamaline Leagis.

"The caplin, herring, and squid fisheries are inshore fisheries. I never heard tell of a Newfoundland fishing-vessel fishing on the American coasts. American vessels do avail of the privilege to refit in this bay.

"There are three ice-houses in this bay supplying ice to the Americans for the preservation of bait. The herrings supplied to the Americans from our fishermen are taken in large seines of 80 to 120 fathoms, as many as from 800 to 1,000 barrels being inclosed at one time. These herrings are kept inclosed in the seines from one week to six weeks waiting purchasers. American fishermen buy herrings from persons having herrings thus 'barred.' When herrings thus inclosed cannot be sold, the same is taken up and the herrings are set at liberty, as I believe uninjured. Some winters more than three-fourths of the herrings taken are caught in seines. I believe the winter herring fishery to be a benefit to the people. The caplin bait to the French is a benefit to the people of Fortune Bay and of Placentia Bay.

(Signed) "THOMAS GRANDY."

Sworn before me at St. Jacques, Newfoundland, this 6th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

John Rose, aged 44 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 neighbourhood.

"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 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,' 'W. E. M'Donald,' 'Grace L. Fears,' 'Moro Castle,' 'Magic,' 'Eben,' 'Parsons,' 'Epstas,' schooner over 100 tons, 'Moses Adams,' 'Reporter,' schooner, 'Ruth Grove,' 'Frank Butler,' 'M. D. Witheral,' 'Mary Carlyle,' 'Bellerophon,' 'Carrie S. Doyle,' 'Thomas Rye,' 'Serene,' schooner, all from Gloucester.

"I have sold bait to several of these American fishing-vessels, but cannot say how much; the price paid for herrings is generally 1 dollar per barrel.

"Newfoundland fishermen catch cod-fish 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 of, or know anything about, go fishing on any of the coasts of the United States inshore.

"American fishermen have this year sold what they call small cod-fish to our people, who do 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 100 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 200 hogsheads for each schooner.

"The price paid for herrings thus supplied the French varies from 2 to 30 fr. per barrel; 10 fr. being a fair average; for caplin, the average would be about 10 fr. per hogshead.

"There are in this neighbourhood great conveniences for preserving ice, which abounds in 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.

(Signed) "JOHN ROSE."

Sworn before me at Belloram, the 6th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

George Rose, aged 54 years, maketh oath and saith that he resides at Little Bay, 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 the neighbourhood about twenty this year. Among these I can name 'W. J. Sawyer,' James Arldand, master, of South Port, United States. Another commanded by Captain M'Donald. Another, the 'Gellisburg,' Robert Grant, master, the 'City of Glo'ster,' Mitchell, master, of Cape Ann, and the 'Pottingale,' Hector M'Kenzie or M'Keen, master, of Cape Ann.

"The vessels I saw in the neighbourhood 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 of herrings, for which I was paid from 20 dols. to 35 dols. 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 sometimes 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 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 these vessels as required in 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, help greatly to shorten the catch of our local fishermen, and that the short catch on our south-western shores this summer has been caused by the extra number of Americans thus engaged. My opinion is that the Americans do more harm 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 to the French at St. Pierre from this bay; the value of this bait would be 1,600,000 fr. In addition to this they take caplin and squids, the value of which I am unacquainted with.

"There are several ice-houses in this neighbourhood. American fishing vessels 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 than they did this; for which, I understand, arrangements have been made between American captains and residents on these shores.

(Signed) "GEORGE ROSE."

Sworn before me at Jersey Harbour, Fortune Bay, the 4th November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Richard M'Grath, aged 50 years, Sub-Collector Her Majesty's Customs, residing at O'Derin, 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 neighbourhood. In 1874 four or five of these vessels called in at the back of O'Derin 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.

"The Newfoundland fishermen generally catch codfish withing two miles of the shores. The codfish, herring, and squid fisheries for bait are inshore fisheries; squid being exceptionally taken several miles from the shore.

"I never heard of a Newfoundland fishing 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 consider can cause no other result than to attract codfish and prevent it passing on 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.

(Signed) "RICHD. McGRATH, *Sub-Collector.*"

Sworn before me at O'Derin, this 16th day of December, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

William George Bradshaw, Preventive Officer Her Majesty's Customs, residing at Placentia, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:—

"I am 36 years of age, and have resided all my life at Placentia, during which time I have had frequent opportunities of becoming acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland.

"I have observed a number of United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood last summer. The following United States fishing vessels were duly entered at my office and paid light dues, viz., 'David A. Storey,' Ryan, 'City of Gloucester,' Howard, 'Sultana,' 'Baily,' 'W. J. King,' J. King; 'M. H. Perkins,' M. K. Innes; 'Barbara,' M'Aulay; 'Burnham,' Nickerson; 'Whitton,' M'Aulay; 'Oceanic,' Morrisey; all from Gloucester. The 'Centre,' 'Magic,' 'Henry C. M'Kay,' 'Laura,' 'Nelson,' and 'Jessie Blondale' paid light dues elsewhere.

"These vessels I supplied with ice, each with three to four tons at 4 dols. per ton; and from 25 to 30 barrels fresh herrings each trip, at 1 dol. per barrel.

"The masters of these United States vessels never call at my office, nor make any inquiries for the Customs Office with a view to enter their vessels and pay light dues, but do all they can to avoid the Customs authorities. In all cases I am obliged to follow them up by boarding them, which I do frequently at great inconvenience.

(Signed) "W. G. BRADSHAW, *Preventive Officer.*"

Sworn before me at Placentia, Newfoundland, this 24th day of December, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

James E. Croucher, aged 56 years, merchant and trader, residing at Great Placentia, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith that:—

"I am acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by twenty-six years' experience of the same. I have observed several United States fishing vessels in this harbour the past summer, and elsewhere I observed a great number of such vessels, especially at Holyrood, where I saw twelve or fifteen in August.

"Those vessels visit these shores for ice and fresh bait, which generally they purchase from our fishermen.

"Newfoundland fishermen generally catch cod-fish within two miles of the shore. The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery. The caplin, herring, and squid fisheries prosecuted for the purposes of bait are all inshore fisheries.

"I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel having been on a fishing voyage to the United States' coasts; that is to say, south of the entrance to the Bay of Fundy, and referring to inshore, not deep-sea fisheries.

"American fishermen sold a small lot of cod-fish and oil this summer to my knowledge, amounting to about 32 dols.

"I saw one United States fishing vessel at anchor off St. Shotts, near Cape Pine, inside of three miles of the shore, her crew fishing on doreys, and doing well. American vessels do refit in this harbour when necessary. They did so the past summer, but I cannot say to what extent.

"I consider that the supply of bait to United States vessels interferes with the supply of bait to our local fishermen. Last spring Mr. Hemming's boat hauled about seventy barrels herrings, from which three of our boats were loaded, and, having gone to the grounds, made good catches, averaging thirty quintals per boat. The remaining portion of the herrings aforesaid were sold to United States fishermen at 1 dol.; so that local boats applying for bait from this source could not get any, and were

consequently short of the catch made by the boats baited as aforesaid. The same thing happened in numerous other cases.

“The presence of the large number of United States vessels using fresh bait and fishing on the banks off our coasts tends greatly to reduce the catch of cod-fish by our local fishermen, and I am of opinion that the short catch of cod-fish the past season along our south and west coasts has been caused by their operations—fishing on the banks as aforesaid.

“The continuance of the fishery on the banks by United States vessels as now being prosecuted will be ruinous to our fishery. Americans fished on their own grounds until they exhausted the same, and during this time they pretty generally confined themselves to their own grounds. Now their history in fishing extends over new ground every year, draining as they go, as witness the cod and halibut fishery at and about Pass Island. The system of fishery followed by the Americans is exhaustive and destructive to our fishery.

(Signed) “JAMES E. CROUCHER.”

Sworn before me at Placentia, Newfoundland, the 24th day of December, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Matthew Carew, gentleman, aged 36 years, residing at Salmonier, St. Mary's Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith :—

“I have become acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by close observation during twenty years as supplying clerk and supplier.

“I know of several United States fishing vessels being in this neighbourhood the past season; they were named ‘Silver Spring,’ ‘E. Tanner,’ and others from the United States of America.

“I believe these vessels hailed from Gloucester, but of this am not certain. They called in here for bait and ice, which they intended to purchase from our people and which they succeeded in partly obtaining. There is an ice-house in this locality where ice is kept for sale to United States vessels.

“I am of opinion that the supply of bait to the United States fishermen decreases the supply to our local fishermen.

“I am of decided opinion that the system now followed by Americans fishing on the banks off our coasts, well supplied with fresh bait, serves as a trap to keep the fish from passing in towards the shore, and thus operates against and reduces the catch of our local fishermen.

“The effect of the system now followed, if continued, will operate injuriously upon the fishery of Newfoundland by lessening the catch of codfish. And this is manifest in the fact that the catch this year has only been twenty quintals per man, whereas, previous to the three last summers, the catch was never under forty quintals per man.

(Signed) “M. CAREW”

Sworn before me at Salmonier, St. Mary's Bay, this 26th December, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Charles S. Fowler, telegraph operator, residing at Placentia, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith that :—

“I have resided in Newfoundland twenty years.

“I have observed a number of United States vessels in this neighbourhood; these vessels came here to purchase ice and fresh bait. I supplied ice and bait to these vessels to the extent of 130 tons, for which I was paid 4 dollars per ton.

“The vessels supplied by me with ice and bait as aforesaid the past season, were the following :—

“‘E. E. Turner,’ master, Wilson; ‘Reliance,’ Ashwood; ‘Sultana,’ Bailey; ‘Silver Spring,’ Grequel; ‘Reliance,’ (second trip), Ashwood; ‘Charles P. Thompson,’ Burke; ‘Davis A. Story,’ Ryan; ‘City of Gloucester,’ Howard; ‘Winifred King,’ King; ‘Burnham,’ Nickerson; ‘Oceanica,’ Memsey; ‘Alfred Whellan,’ McAulay; ‘Barbara Fretchel,’ McAulay; ‘Magic,’ McLean; ‘H. C. McKie,’ McNeil;

ice for the preservation of fresh bait. There are five such ice-houses in this bay, specially built to preserve bait for American fishermen.

(Signed) "JOHN CLUETT."

Sworn before me at Belloram this 6th day of November A.D. 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Joseph Coady, aged 22 years, residing at Long Harbour, Fortune Bay, during fishing season, maketh statement:—

"That I know the Newfoundland fisheries by connection therewith during the past four years.

"I have seen a number of United States fishing vessels in Fortune Bay, sometimes four or five a day, but I kept no account of them. These vessels all came to purchase bait, and they did purchase fresh herrings for bait.

"I have sold bait to American fishing vessels. This year I baited one, but forget her name. I sold her about forty barrels. I forget what she paid for this bait, it was so small for the lot.

"I consider the Newfoundland fisheries are inshore; a few exceptional instances only occurring where fishery is prosecuted outside three miles of the shore.

"The herring, caplin, and squid fisheries for the purpose of bait are all inshore fisheries.

"Never heard of a Newfoundland vessel prosecuting this or any fishery on the United States' coasts.

"About thirty-six vessels frequent Fortune Bay in winter for the purchase of herrings to freeze. These herrings they always purchase from our fishermen. They take a cargo when they can get them.

"I never saw an American vessel fishing for cod-fish or other fish within three miles of the shore.

"I cannot say whether the supply of bait to the United States vessels decreases the supply to local fishermen.

"I cannot express an opinion as to what effect upon our fishery the presence of United States fishing vessels on the outer banks may have, nor whether the short fishery the past season has been caused by their fishing operations.

"I consider there are from 250 to 300 United States vessels frequenting Fortune Bay every year for the purchase of bait.

"I have an ice-house at Long Harbour where ice is kept for sale to United States fishing vessels. Last summer we iced five vessels, all United States vessels; they taking from three to five tons each, for which they paid 3 dols. 50 c.

(Signed) "JOSEPH COADY."

Signed before me at St. Pierre, November 21, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Statement of William Burke, aged 59 years, fisherman and planter, residing at St. Jacques, Newfoundland:—

"My acquaintance with the fisheries of Newfoundland is derived from having prosecuted the same since I was 8 years of age. I have observed United States fishing-vessels in this neighbourhood. Last winter there were about forty; this summer I observed over fifty United States fishing-vessels in this bay. In summer these vessels make from two to four trips from the bank for bait. I cannot name the vessels, but know the names of the captains, and can name Captain Norse, Captain Jerome McDonnell, Captain William McDonnell, Captain Stapleton, Captain Ronald McDonald, Captain Deagle, Captain Cunningham.

"The tonnage of these vessels would be from 75 to 100 tons.

"These vessels all come to this neighbourhood for fresh bait, which they purchase in summer from our fishermen. The vessels arriving late in the fall come to purchase frozen herrings.

"I have sold fresh bait to United States fishing-vessels. They take from twenty-five to forty barrels of herrings each vessel per trip to the banks. I baited twenty-five of these United States fishing-vessels throughout last summer. The price paid per vessel each trip was from 25 to 50 dollars, paid in gold. First arrivals, when bait was scarce, paid 3 dollars per barrel for fresh herrings.

"Newfoundland fishermen catch fish almost wholly within three miles of the shores. The caplin, herring, and squid fisheries of this country are inshore fisheries. Squid sometimes are taken outside three miles, but generally and almost wholly within that distance, being taken by Newfoundland fishermen in the coves and harbours along the coasts, as is the herring and caplin used for bait or other purposes. I never heard of a Newfoundland fishing-vessel prosecuting the fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

"American fishermen have sold what we call medium sized green fish in this neighbourhood. We purchased about 100 quintals of such fish this year at 7s. per cwt.

"The Americans have not availed of the privilege to catch herring, preferring to purchase, as they do not understand hauling along shore. In one instance only do we know of their having a herring seine with them, which they gave to our fishermen to use.

"American fishermen do not catch halibut within three miles of our coast. There is very little halibut taken about Pass Island; American vessels do not frequent Pass Island.

"We never saw an American vessel catching fish within three miles of the shore.

"American vessels do refit their vessels when they come in from the banks. We have sold them goods and provisions. Do not know of their ever having transshipped any cargo in a Newfoundland port.

"The supply of bait to Americans has not hurt the supply to our own fishermen. I cannot say what effect upon our local fishery the supply of bait to the American fishermen may have. Cannot say what has caused the short fishery this year on the Newfoundland coasts.

"From 25,000*l.* to 40,000*l.* is the average of the money paid by the French for herrings supplied in spring; this I estimate to be nearly the quantity.

"Caplin I value about the same for the bait supplied French bankers. Squids are supplied to the French bankers in large quantities, but I cannot give figures.

"There are conveniences here about for the supply of ice to United States fishing-vessels. I and my crew sold them 100 tons of ice last summer.

(Signed) "WILLIAM BURKE, his \bowtie mark."

Declared before me at St. Jacques, Newfoundland, this 6th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

The above statement was made in my presence, the whole of which I endorse and know to be true.

(Signed) PATRICK BURKE, his \bowtie mark.

Thomas Pine, aged 56 years, fisherman, resides at English Harbour in Fortune Bay, maketh oath and saith:—

"That he has become acquainted with the Newfoundland fisheries by prosecuting the same since he was about fifteen years old. I have seen," he says, "United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood. I have seen about forty such vessels this year, but did not trouble about their names or where particularly they hailed from, but knew they were American, that is, United States fishing vessels. These vessels came here to purchase bait, which generally they are able to purchase. I have sold bait to American fishing vessels. I did so this spring. When I speak of American vessels I mean United States vessels. The supply by me this spring was to the extent of my share in a herring seine, which supplied three vessels with from thirty to forty barrels of herrings each vessel; the price paid was from 5s. to 6s. Newfoundland fishermen generally catch cod-fish within three miles of the shore. The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery. I never knew of a Newfoundland vessel being on a fishing voyage on the United States coasts anywhere within three miles of any headland on said coasts.

"About thirty or forty United States vessels frequent this bay in winter for the purchase of frozen herrings; they do not catch, but purchase such herrings, finding it cheaper to do so. The quantity of frozen herrings taken by these vessels varies from 400 to 700 barrels.

"United States fishing vessels do avail of the opportunity to refit their vessels, as required in their visits to this neighbourhood.

"I consider that the supply of bait to United States fishing vessels in spring shortens the supply of bait to Newfoundland fishermen. It sometimes happens that seines inclose as many as 1,200 to 1,500 barrels of herrings, which are thus secured for as many as six weeks waiting sale to the United States fishermen; and where this is the case with a number of seines puntsmen have a small chance to provide themselves with necessary bait by the use of nets, and are frequently left to the mercy of seine owners, who have herrings inclosed.

"I am of decided opinion that the large number of United States fishing vessels on the banks off our coasts interferes with and reduces the catch of Newfoundland fishermen. I cannot attribute the short catch of cod-fish by Newfoundland fishermen along our south-western shores this year to any other cause than the number of United States fishermen on the banks manuring the ground with fresh bait and thus preventing the fish moving to our shores.

"A very large quantity of fresh bait is annually sent to St. Pierre from this bay, but I cannot say what quantity.

"There are four ice-houses in this neighbourhood for supplying ice to United States fishing vessels for the preservation of fresh bait. United States vessels availed themselves thereof as they found necessary, but to what extent I cannot speak.

(Signed) "THOMAS PINE, his mark."

Sworn before me at English Harbour, Fortune Bay, Newfoundland, this 7th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

John Evans, aged 43 years, fisherman, residing at English Harbour, Fortune Bay, Newfoundland, 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 100 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 25 dols. per vessel. Each vessel takes from 30 to 70 barrels of 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 harbours of the coasts.

"I do not know of a Newfoundland fishing vessel having been on a fishing voyage on the United States coasts.

"I do not 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 shore, 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.

(Signed) "JOHN EVANS, his \bowtie mark."

Sworn before me at English Harbour, Fortune Bay, Newfoundland, November 8, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Thomas Evans maketh oath and saith that he is "39 years of age, is a fisherman, and resides at English Harbour, in Fortune Bay.

"I have become acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by the yearly and constant pursuit thereof during the last twenty-four years.

"I have seen a large number of American fishing vessels in this neighbourhood during this year; I estimate I have seen thirty of such vessels. I am aware that a number besides what I have seen were in the neighbourhood. I do not know the names of any of these vessels, not having boarded them. The vessels I saw were here for the purchase of bait, and they did bait their vessels.

"I have sold bait to United States fishing vessels. I think to twelve vessels about forty and fifty barrels of herrings each, for which I was paid 80 to 100 c. per barrel.

"The catch of vessels referred to as visiting this neighbourhood for bait consists of cod-fish and halibut, the value of which I have had no means of ascertaining, nor as to whether any portion of such catch was taken within three miles of the shore.

"Newfoundland fishermen catch cod-fish within a mile of the shore, except in occasional instances when they go off three or four miles.

"The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery; caplin, herring, and squid used for bait by Newfoundland fishermen are all caught close to shore in the various coves and harbours, and is never taken by them at a greater distance than three miles from the shore.

"I do not know of any Newfoundland vessel being on a fishing voyage to the United States coasts.

"About thirty American vessels visited this neighbourhood last winter for the purchase of frozen herrings; I do not know of any American vessel catching her bait; they find it cheaper to purchase from Newfoundland fishermen. The quantity of frozen herrings taken by these vessels referred to will run from 350 barrels to 600 barrels.

"Americans have not fished for halibut in the vicinity of Pass Island the last two years; they used previously to do so; I am unacquainted with the quantities taken or the value. They purchase turbot in this neighbourhood, but do not catch themselves.

"Americans avail of the existing privilege to refit their vessels when needed.

"I am of opinion that the presence of so many American vessels fishing on the banks off our coasts, well supplied with fresh bait, with which they manure the ground, tends to attract the fish and prevent it visiting the Newfoundland coasts and shores, as it otherwise would do in quest of bait, and thus the catch of local fishermen is greatly reduced. This opinion is a common one among Newfoundland fishermen.

"The scarcity of fish along our south-western coasts this summer has, I think, been caused by the Americans fishing on the Outer Banks as aforesaid, in larger numbers than formerly.

"There are six vessels from English Harbour engaged yearly in supplying the French with bait. The average supply of each of these vessels would be about 400 barrels of herring and about 250 hogsheads of caplin each craft, and 40,000 squids among the six crafts referred to. I have understood that the total amount paid by the French for herring bait is 30,000*l.*, and for caplin bait 20,000*l.*; for squids I am not informed what is paid; I know that last fall 20,000 squids were sold for 18 frs. per hundred.

"There are ice-houses in this neighbourhood from which ice is supplied to American fishermen for the preservation of bait; the number of such ice houses is four, one being at St. Jaques, one at Belloram, one at Bay de Nord Brook, and one at Long Harbour.

"I know that Americans availed of this ice to some extent, but not to the extent they desired, because of inferior quality of the ice, owing to some defect in the houses, which I understand will be remedied next year.

(Signed) "THOMAS EVANS, his ✕ mark."

Sworn to before me at English Harbour this 4th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Samuel Fiander of Coomb's Cove, in Fortune Bay, maketh oath and saith is 44 years 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. Tears,' commanded by 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 20 to 30 dols. 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 fisherns used to catch large quantities of halibut about Pass Island in this Bay.

"Captain McDonald got a load there. A British war ship stopped their fishing for halibut, and they have not since renewed it. American fishermen frequent this neighbourhood regularly in passing to and from. Newfoundland fishermen do 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 and west coasts 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.

(Signed) "SAMUEL FLANDER, his ✕ mark."

Sworn before me at Harbour Breton, the 3rd day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Philip Fiander, aged 43 years, fisherman, residing at English Harbour, Fortune Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith that:—

"I am acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland by having prosecuted the same for twenty-five years and upwards. I have seen a large number of American fishing schooners in this neighbourhood during the past summer; probably over a hundred sail of from 60 or 70 tons to 105 tons. These vessels came to this bay for fresh bait, which they purchased; in no instance that I know of did they catch or haul bait for themselves. I have sold bait to these vessels, but can't say what quantity; they paid from 25 dols. to 30 dols. per vessel for such bait each trip, that is, from thirty to sixty barrels herrings.

"The fishermen of Newfoundland prosecute the fisheries within three miles of the shore; except in rare instances they do not go beyond this distance. The

Newfoundland fisheries are inshore fisheries. The caplin, herring, and squid fisheries of this country are inshore fisheries, being taken in coves and harbours along the coasts. I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel having prosecuted a fishing voyage on any of the coasts of the United States of America, within three miles of their coasts.

“About thirty American vessels frequent this neighbourhood in winter for herrings, which they purchase from our local fishermen, but do not catch for themselves.

“American fishermen used to fish for halibut about Pass Island, but they have latterly abandoned this fishery.

“I do not know of any United States vessels trying to catch fish on the Newfoundland inshore fishing grounds.

“American fishing vessels avail of the privilege to refit their vessels in this neighbourhood on their visits from the Banks.

“I am of opinion that the practice followed of ‘barring’ large quantities of herrings for sale to United States fishing vessels acts injuriously upon the supply of bait to local fishermen.

“Some ten or twelve large seines this summer at Long Harbour had each from 500 to 1,000 barrels herrings inclosed, which were thereby confined for four and five weeks waiting sale to the United States fishing vessels expected. Every morning it was necessary to overhaul these seines to free the seines of the herrings meshing during the night, and thus a very large quantity was left dead under the seines; washed on shore they rotted in the strand and were very offensive.

“I am of opinion that the large number of United States fishermen fishing on the banks off our coasts prevents the fish striking towards our shores, and this shortens the catch of our fishermen.

“I do consider that the short catch of cod-fish this summer along our southwestern coasts is mainly attributable to the presence of the large number of United States fishing vessels on the banks, I know of no other cause accounting for the short catch this year.

“There are five or six ice-houses in this neighbourhood which supply ice to United States fishing vessels for the preservation of fresh bait as they require it. I can't say to what extent.

“About thirty United States vessels frequent this bay to purchase frozen herrings in winter; their cargoes being from 500 to 1,000 barrels each. They purchase these herrings from the people and have not caught for themselves.

(Signed) “PHILIP FLANDER, his \bowtie mark.”

Sworn to before me at English Harbour, Fortune Bay, Newfoundland, this 8th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

John Harris, aged 48 years, fisherman and ferryman, residing at Great Harbour, Connaign Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith:

“I am acquainted with the fisheries of Newfoundland from having in one way and another prosecuted the same since I was 10 years of age. I have seen a number of United States vessels in this bay every year; but cannot state the number nor give names, it being no particular business of mine. The United States vessels seen by me in this neighbourhood came here for the purchase of frozen herrings in winter, and of fresh herrings in summer. I have not myself sold bait to United States vessels. Until they exhausted the fishery, United States fishing vessels regularly frequented the neighbourhood where they caught halibut and codfish; chiefly catching halibut and frequently fishing for turbot.

“Latterly United States vessels visit this neighbourhood only for frozen herrings in winter, and fresh herrings for bait in summer. They purchase what bait they require for half nothing from Newfoundland fishermen: I call a dollar a barrel half nothing, but at times they only give half that price for fresh herrings. It is my opinion that American fishermen destroyed the halibut fishery about Pass Island. Until recently our fishermen used to catch large quantities of halibut about Pass Island, but now scarcely any are to be had.

“Newfoundland fishermen catch codfish within one and two miles of the shore; the Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery.

“The caplin, herring, and squid fisheries prosecuted for bait by Newfoundland

fishermen are inshore fisheries, and are generally followed in the coves and harbours along the coasts.

“ I never heard of a Newfoundland vessel prosecuting any fishery on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

“ About forty to fifty American vessels frequent Fortune Bay in winter for frozen herrings, which they purchase from Newfoundland fishermen, taking a full cargo when they can procure them. The supply of fresh bait to United States vessels has the effect of reducing the supply of bait to local fishermen. Large seines are used to supply the Americans, inclosing from 800 to over 1,000 barrels each, and so retained from four to eight weeks until opportunity offers to sell to United States vessels. It is found more difficult to net herrings while these large quantities are retained in seines, and as this happens in the best hauling grounds in the neighbourhood, local fishermen often come short.

“ The ‘barring’ of herrings is most injurious in many respects, and cannot be practised without destroying large quantities of herrings, and even when herrings thus inclosed are set free they are not much good afterwards, and certainly are useless for spawning that season. I have no doubt whatever but that the United States fishing vessels on the banks off our coasts, well supplied with fresh bait, acts injuriously upon the local catch of codfish, and reduces to an alarming extent the catch of Newfoundland fishermen, and to this cause we all attribute the short catch the past summer by our fishermen along our south-western coasts.

“ I have not in any former year known of such a general run of small fish as marks the character of the fishery the past season.

(Signed) “ JOHN HARRIS, his ✕ mark.”

Sworn before me at Great Harbour, Connaigre Bay, Newfoundland, this 14th day of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Snook Cairns, aged forty years, fishermen, residing at Great Jervis, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith :—

“ I have followed the fisheries since I was ten years of age. I have seen United States fishing vessels in this neighbourhood. The past summer I saw three; the ‘Etta E. Turner’ was one, the ‘Blue Wave,’ of Marble Head, was another. The three schooners were about 50 tons. They came to purchase bait in Bay Despair. I sold bait to these three vessels; one of them thirty-four barrels; the other two between them had about ninety barrels herrings. The price paid was 1 dollar per barrel.

“ Newfoundland fishermen catch cod-fish within three miles of the shore. The Newfoundland fishery is an inshore fishery. The caplin, herrings, and squid fisheries are inshore fisheries. Never heard of a Newfoundland vessel fishing on any of the coasts of the United States of America.

“ I believe there are over forty United States vessels frequent Fortune Bay for frozen herrings and salted herrings. I think the large number of American fishing-vessels fishing on the Banks is very hurtful to our local fishery. They are constantly supplied with fresh bait. The French use salt; and doubtless the fresh bait used on the ground attracts the fish more than the salt, and prevents its passing in for the shore.

“ I think the American fishermen this summer on the Banks have affected our local fishery injuriously, and that the short catch this year is attributable to their operations on the Banks.

(Signed) “ SNOOK CAIRNS, his ✕ mark.”

Sworn before me, at Great Jervis, Newfoundland, 11th of November, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*

Richard Rose, aged seventy years, residing at Great Harbour, Connaigre Bay, in Fortune Bay, Newfoundland, maketh oath and saith :—

“ I have followed the fishery in Newfoundland since I was ten or twelve years of age, and know every turn of it.

“ I have observed many American fishing vessels in this neighbourhood. Until the last year and a half I have seen large numbers of United States fishing vessels

fishing for halibut and cod-fish within two miles of Pass Island. They would cover over a mile of ground with their trawls, sometimes taking them a whole day to overhaul their trawls. These American vessels would have from 400 to 500 quintals codfish and halibut, they then catching chiefly mother fish. They have given this fish up lately, because they have exhausted the fishery, leaving us nothing worth looking for.

"I believe the supply of fresh bait to United States vessels decreases the supply of bait to Newfoundland fishermen. I know that the Americans fishing on the Banks off our coasts with fresh bait keeps the fish from striking in towards our shores, and very largely reduces the catch of our fishermen. The short fishery this year is certainly owing to this cause. After a few years, if these Americans follow the bank fishery as presently prosecuted, there will be no fish caught in this bay.

"The practice of seining herrings and cod-fish at one time frightens all herrings from our nets, so that we cannot catch bait required for the voyage. Herrings seined are taken before spawning, to the loss of our people. Formerly our catch was 80 to 100 quintals per man. This year it will not go to 40 quintals.

(Signed) "RICHARD ROSE, his ✕ mark."

Sworn before me at Great Harbour, Newfoundland, November 14, 1876.

(Signed) J. O. FRASER, *Commissioner of Affidavits.*
