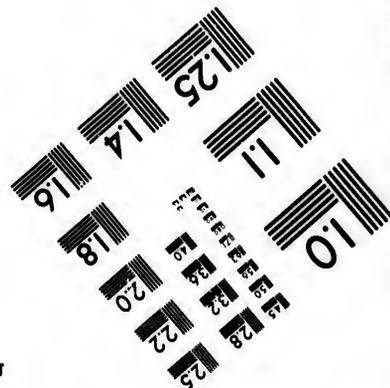
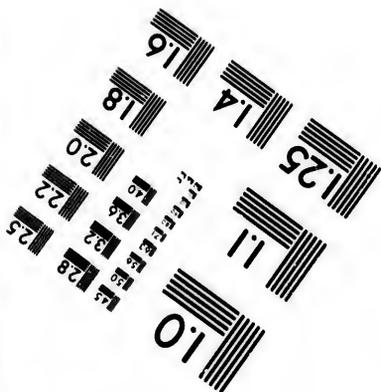
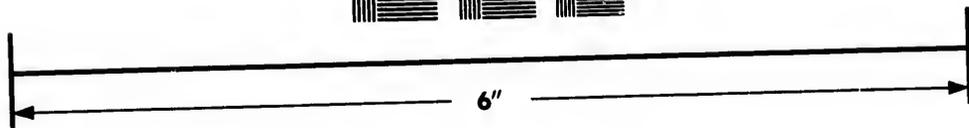
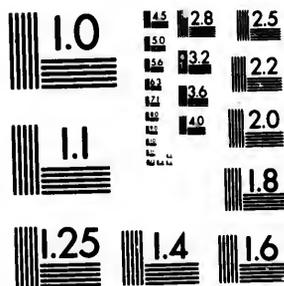


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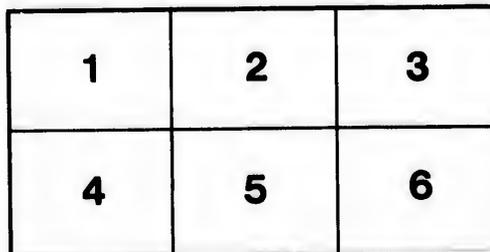
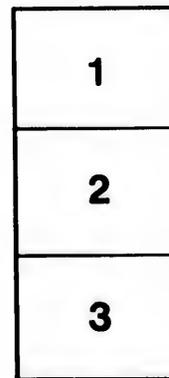
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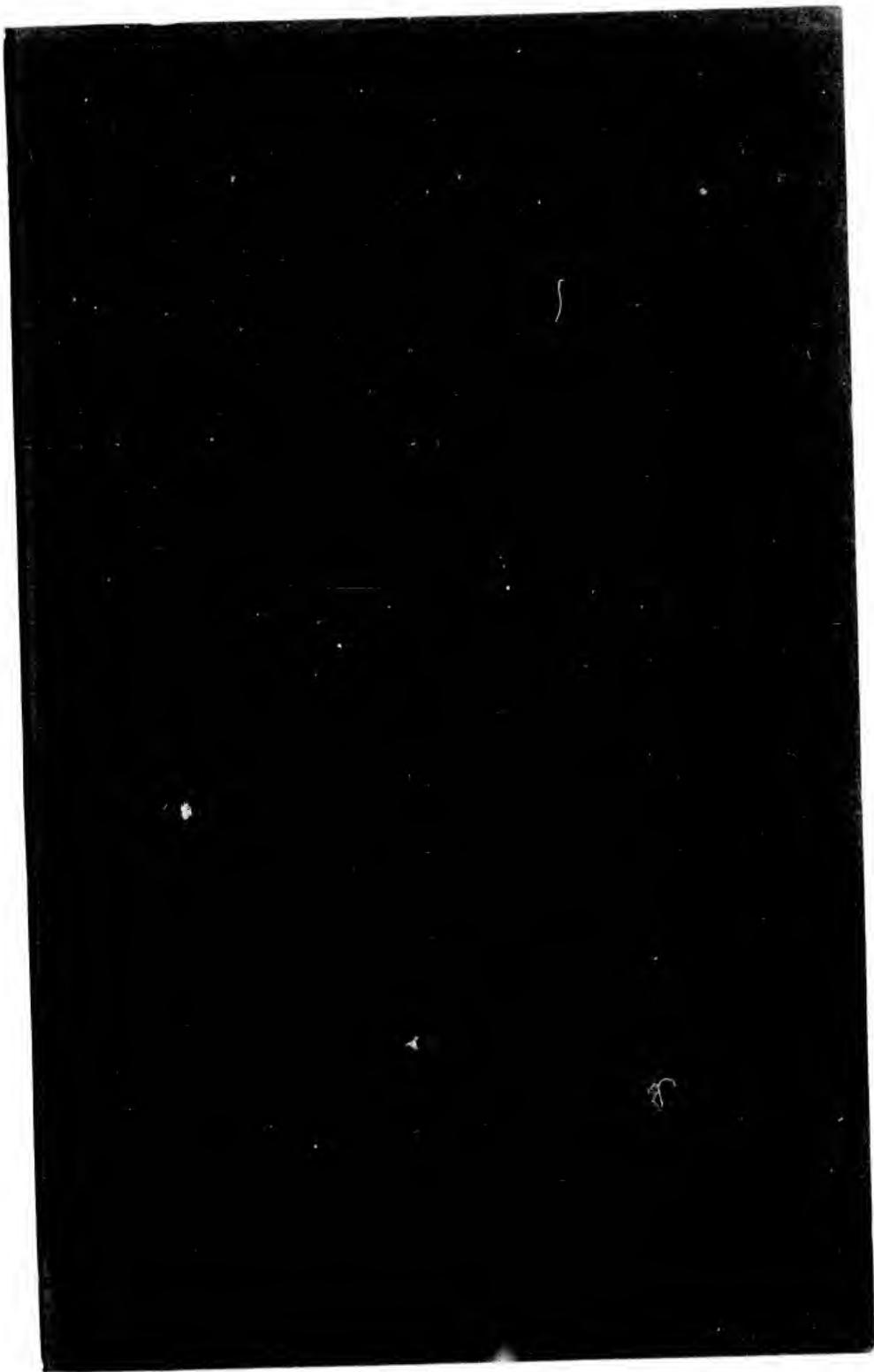
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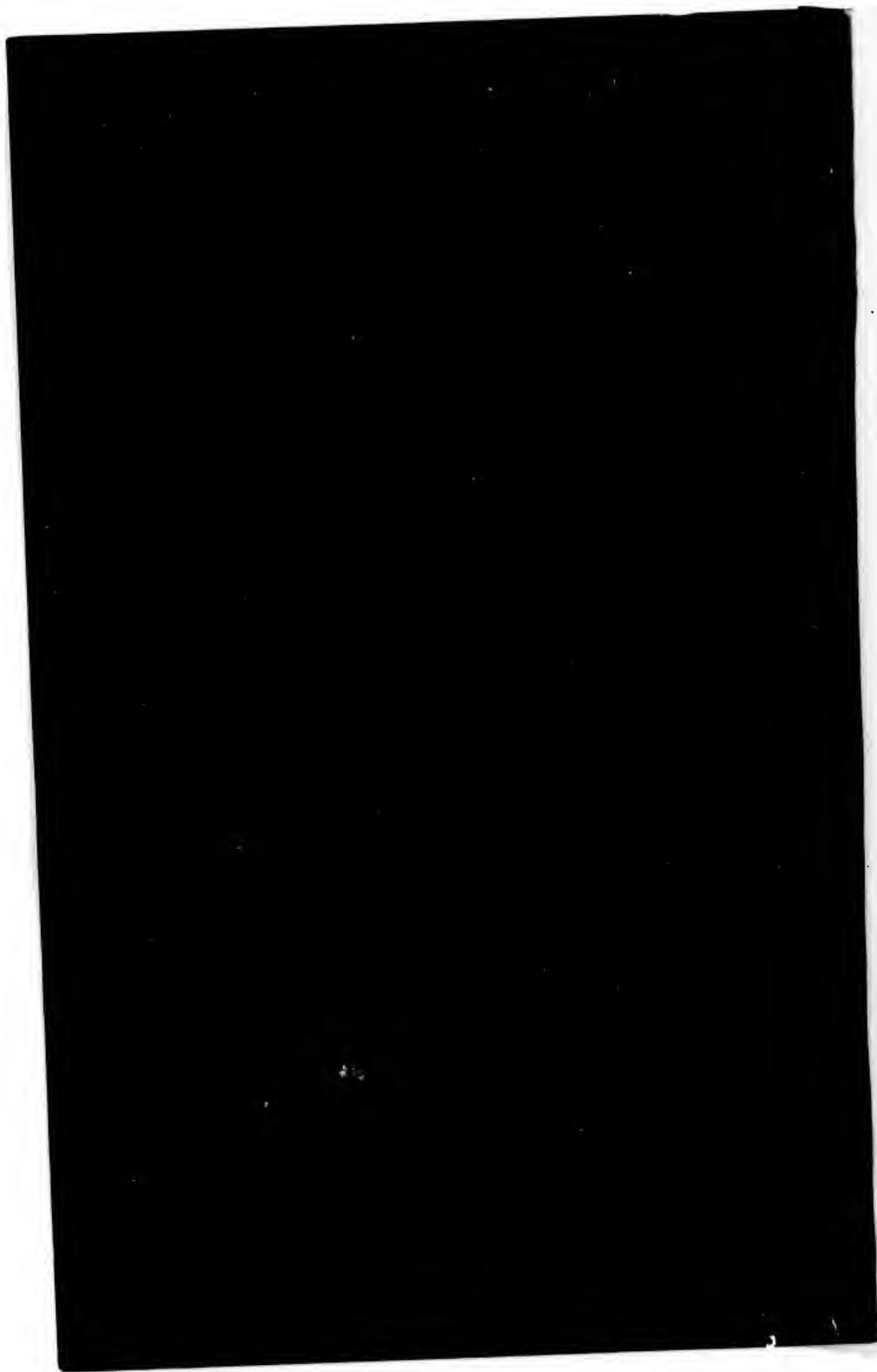
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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF

270

PIERRE FORTIN, Esq.,

MAGISTRATE, IN COMMAND OF THE EXPEDITION FOR
THE PROTECTION OF THE FISHERIES

IN THE

GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE,

DURING THE SEASONS OF

1861 AND 1862.

*Canada. United provinces.
Dept. of crown lands. Fisheries branch.*

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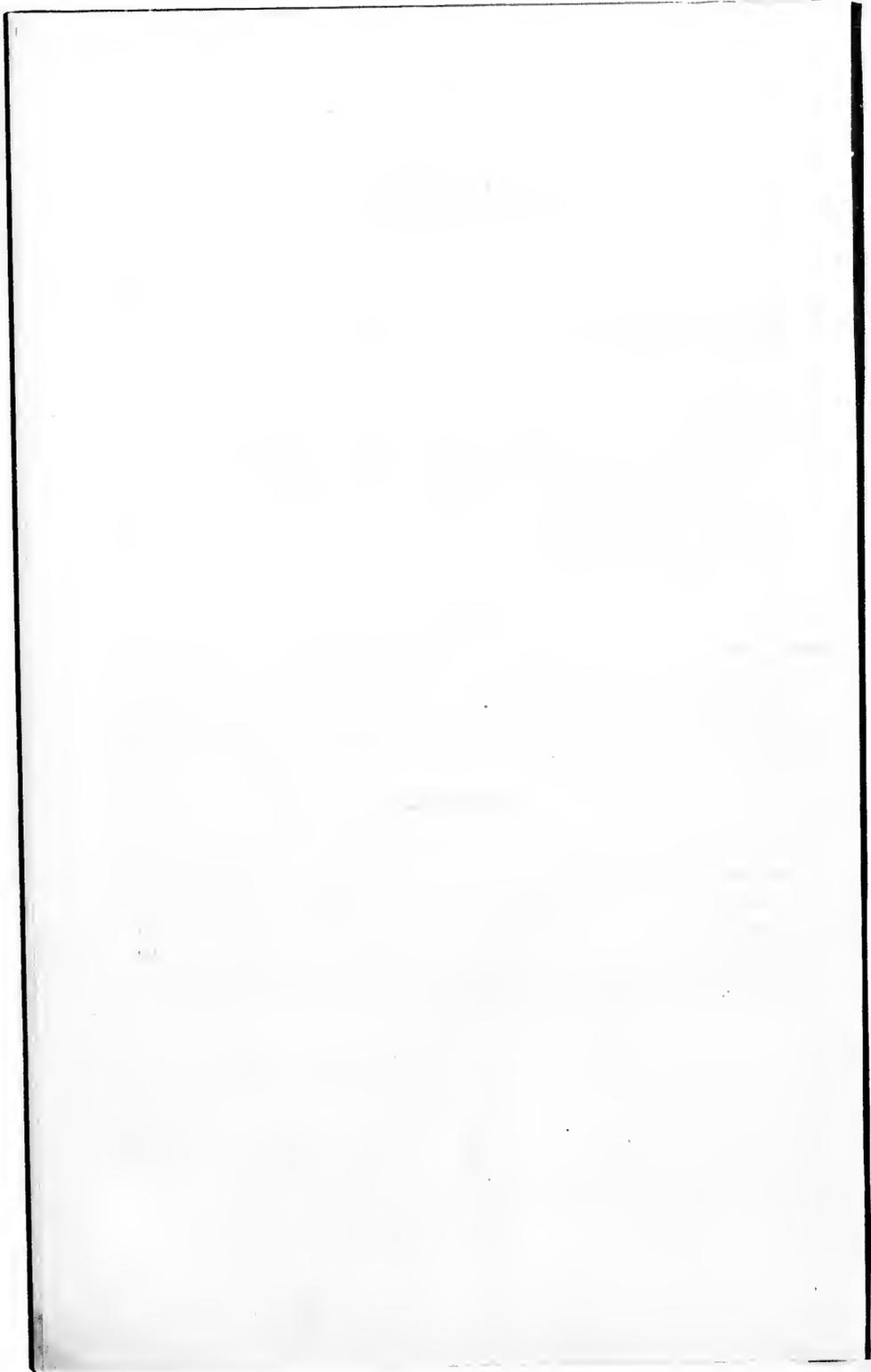
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

PIERRE FORTIN, ESQ.,

Magistrate, in command of the Government schooner *La Canadienne*, engaged in the Protection of Fisheries, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, during the season of 1861.

The duty of protecting and administering the law respecting the Canadian fisheries in the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence having again been assigned to the Government schooner *La Canadienne*, I took command of her in the beginning of May, in conformity with instructions given to that effect by the Hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands; but as the schooner required repairs to her keel as well as to her standing rigging, she could not be got ready for sea before the 23rd of May.

On that day we left Quebec, bound for the Gulf of St. Lawrence, favoured with a very light westerly breeze. On the following days, we had changeable winds, and only reached Godbout River (the first place I had to visit on the North shore of the St. Lawrence) on the morning of the 26th.

Godbout River is known to be, after the Moisie and Natashquan, one of the best rivers on the North shore; it is full of the finest kind of salmon and trout. An overseer has been stationed there to force the fishermen and Indians frequenting the locality to observe the laws and regulations enacted with the view of preserving these valuable fish.

This officer had had, the year before, ground of complaint against certain parties for breaking the laws and regulations. Warrants had been issued to arrest the guilty, and many of them had been punished in accordance with the provisions of the law.

But two Indians accused of having fished within the limits of Mr. Holliday, the lessee of the river, had always succeeded in escaping the law, and I had received instructions from the Government to have them arrested by my constables and brought before me.

As in preceding years, these parties ran away upon the schooner coming near the place, and, favoured by the woods, escaped our search.

I assembled the few Indian families then at Godbout, and after giving them communication of the principal clauses of the Fisheries Act, which I required them to observe, I showed them that they ought to be more interested in the preservation of salmon and trout than any one else, since these fish during the season of trapping in the interior, become one of their principal means of subsistence, and in the meantime, I made them understand that though the guilty Indians had escaped once more, they would be arrested sooner or later, and that if they were again to become guilty of any violation of the law, they would be visited with the heaviest penalties provided by the regulations.

All the Indians whom I met there promised to conform strictly to the fishery regulations, and this promise has been strictly kept; for it appears from the overseer's report that there was no infraction whatever of the law in the Godbout, in 1861.

I next marked with buoys an anchoring ground for small vessels frequenting this locality for the purpose of cod-fishing, and in conformity with the powers vested in me, made regulations for the said anchoring place, and appointed Mr. Antoine Blais to be guardian of the Godbout River Harbour. The ice left the river on the 12th of May, a few trout had already begun to ascend it, but no salmon. The sand eel (*aleçon*) had appeared on the coast about three weeks before.

The next day I went to Trinity Bay, and there took cognizance of a complaint made by Mr. Meade against Alexander Comeau, Esq., stating that the latter had built a house and hangar on his property. I visited the spot, examined the boundaries, and concluded that Mr. Comeau's house was outside of the easterly limits of the lands of the heirs Poulin, of whom Mr. Meade is agent, and that the hangar in question has been erected on Trinity Point, upon rocks covered at high tide, and consequently could not be considered as part of the complainant's property.

This business being concluded, I gave orders to start for Seven Islands, but the easterly wind which had been blowing since morning would not permit us to go very fast, and at night the gale obliged us to anchor under the lee of Egg Island.

In the evening of the 28th, the wind having changed to the N.N.E., we sailed, and the next morning anchored in the Bay of Seven Islands.

I immediately set about installing Mr. John Gough Smith as Collector of the new port of entry at Seven Islands. This gentlemen had come down with me from Quebec, to which place I was instructed to bring him back in the fall when *La Canadienne* would return to winter quarters.

I ordered Mr. Hardy's men to give him possession of the house and buildings formerly occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company, which Mr. Hardy had rented from the Government, since the King's Posts, of which the Seven Islands form part, had ceased to be leased to that Company. Mr. Hardy having neglected to fulfil some of the clauses of his contract with the Government, had lost his right to the occupancy of this important post. Before the day was over, the Collector was settled in his new quarters, and his office opened. The masters of two Canadian schooners, about to trade on the Labrador coast, immediately took advantage of the facility offered to them to trade in the Gaspé free port limits, without going to Gaspé Basin, and proceeded at once to take out their license. This circumstance afforded immediate proof that this new port of entry established by the Government would be of the greatest utility to our schooners from Quebec or the lower parishes carrying goods in bond either within the limits of the free port, or out of the Province. Had it not been for the establishment of a port at Seven Islands, these schooners which were going as far as the Straits of Belle-Isle, or perhaps to the River Moisie only, or which were consigned to the neighborhood, would have been obliged to visit Gaspé; this would have increased the length of their voyage by several hundred miles. The navigators, traders and fishermen should certainly be grateful to Government for having established a port of entry on the North shore, and for having given so much facility to the trade between the centre of Canada and the North shores of the river and gulf of St. Lawrence. I perceived with satisfaction that the spring herring had entered the Bay of Seven Islands in great numbers, and during the two weeks previous Mr. Hardy's fishermen had been taking from 20 to 60 barrels a day, by means of a hurdle fishery placed near the point of the post. This fishery is a great resource for the inhabitants of the locality (for the Indians especially,) if they knew how to take advantage of it.

On the morning of the 30th we anchored opposite Moisie River. The weather being fine, I took advantage of it to mark an anchoring ground in the Moisie River by placing a number of buoys, and to determine the limits of four new salmon fisheries which I had received instructions to lease; I afterwards visited the fishing establishments.

The ice came down this river as late as the 12th of May. Salmon were beginning to enter the estuary, codfish were seen on the outside banks and near the shores three days before, and caplin was also taken in great quantities near the shore. At 11 p.m., I went on board, we immediately set sail, and the next day at 2 in the afternoon, entered the harbor of Mingan. I at once communicated with Mr. Anderson, the Hudson's Bay Company's principal agent on the North shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and placed him in possession of the instructions I had received from the Government relative to the salmon fisheries of the Seigniory of Mingan, of which the said Company had, for many years,

obtained a lease at a high rate, from the proprietors of the said seigniory. To my offer of leasing to him all the salmon fisheries of the said seigniory, he gave the following reply :

MINGAN, 31st May.

P. FORTIN, Esquire.

SIR,—Having received your favour of this day, I beg to state that the offer of the Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands to grant to the Hudson's Bay Company nominal licenses for all the rivers as far as Agwann's, was received by me on the 29th instant, and exclusive of this injustice towards the poor people who have relied on the permanence of their stations from the licenses granted to them, it is utterly impossible for the Company to undertake to fish these rivers at such short notice.

I beg, therefore, to state, that we shall only occupy the stations we have licenses for last year, and that, as soon as you possibly can, you should visit the river St. John and rectify the affairs there.

Yours, &c.,

JAMES ANDERSON,
Chief Factor, Hon. H. B. C.

Mr. Anderson's reply settled the question for this year, and I had nothing else to do but to give him the same licenses as in the preceding years. Mr. Pierre Tanguay, of Long Point, Mingan, laid a complaint before me against a fisherman of the same place who had damaged his house, but the party being absent, the case was postponed till my next visit to Mingan. Moreover, I was in a hurry to reach the Magdalen Islands. Mackerel fishing in the Bay of Plaisance must have already commenced, or was on the point of beginning; and the presence of *La Canadienne* was necessary there. I therefore did not make a long cruise on the North shore, and on the 1st June, at 3 o'clock in the morning, we started for the Magdalen Islands. Our progress was retarded by a calm; nevertheless, on the morning of the third, we anchored in the Bay of Plaisance.

Mackerel fishing had not begun yet, but schooners from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the United States, fitted out for that purpose, were already in Amherst Harbour, and some fishermen had set their nets in the bay. But there was as yet no sign of mackerel.

The herring fishery had commenced at the usual time and continued from the 1st to the 20th of May. 300 schooners from the neighbouring provinces had collected in the Bay of Plaisance to fish for herring with seines, but they had not all been successful.

It is true that the fish had been as plentiful in the Bay of Plaisance as in previous years, but the frequent gales had caused high seas on the shores, which did not give the fishermen an opportunity of prosecuting their labour with much chance of success; moreover, so many seines were thrown out together, when large shoals of herrings appeared at the surface of the water, that they got intermixed, and consequently many fish escaped and were lost to the fishermen. This accounts for a great number of the inhabitants of the Islands not being able to lay in their complete stock of herring for the winter. The way to remedy this evil would be to pass a regulation forbidding any other seine to interfere when one might be already engaged in catching a shoal of herring.

On the 4th instant, I sent my first officer, Capt. Bernier, to visit all the schooners in Amherst Harbour. He left in the hands of each master a copy of the fishery regulations for the Bay of Plaisance, and in the meantime I caused a buoy to be placed in the bay indicating the line, east of which, in virtue of the said regulations, fishermen are forbidden to set any kind of nets.

This is done with a view to secure to the navigation free access to Amherst Harbour, to give to the shoals of mackerel access to that part of the bay, free from all nets, and at the same time to allow them to come near the shores, for the purposes of depositing their ova, without any obstacle preventing their so doing.

On the morning of the 5th, Mr. Joseph Bourque, of l'Étang du Nord, came and informed me that the night previous foreign sailors, to the number of eight or ten, and very likely belonging to some schooner anchored the night before, under shelter of Cap aux Meules, had on the preceding evening forcibly entered his house, and after having assaulted him several times, and threatened to take away his life with a knife or dagger in the hands

of one of the party, had stolen a certain quantity of goods which he, the said Joseph Bourque, had saved from a wrecked vessel, the *United States*, and which had been given to him by the Customs officer of Amherst Harbour as his share of the salvage; moreover, men's and women's clothing belonging to his family, and other goods, worth in all about \$200; unhappily he could not identify the robbers as belonging to any particular schooner.

Having taken his deposition, we immediately weighed anchor and started in pursuit of the schooners which had passed the night previous under shelter of Cap aux Meules, some of which we could see under sail going out of Plaisance Harbour.

I stopped and visited the schooners *Stacey*, *St Lawrence*, *Village Belle*, and *Sarah and Julia*; this last vessel was still at anchor, and as several of her crew were suspected of belonging to the gang of robbers, I delayed her till the next day.

I caused a rigorous search to be made in the hold and cabins, but without any result. Mr. Bourque and his son, who were on board, examined all the men of the crew, one after the other, but could not identify any one as having committed the robbery the night previous. Moreover, the captain assured me he had had no knowledge whatever of the robbery in question, but he told me that two small schooners, whose name he did not know, also anchored the night previous at Cape aux Meules, and had started at morning twilight, under full sail towards the Island of Cape Breton, favored with a fine west north-west breeze. But they had been out of sight for many hours past. I afterwards went to the Havre aux Maisons to see if I could collect more direct information. The only thing I could find out was that the day after the robbery, two small schooners had left Cap aux Meules between four and five o'clock in the morning, and that they were very soon out of sight, going toward the Island of Cape Breton. Evidently the suspicion of the robbery must fall upon these schooners, but I neither knew their name nor the placeto which they were bound. During my stay at the Magdalen Islands, I used every exertion to discover a clue to that robbery, but without any result.

On the 7th, I was occupied with two charges brought by Alexander Cormier, Esquire, against two inhabitants of the Island, for having disturbed a meeting of the Municipal Council of the Islands. On the 12th and 13th I heard several witnesses in both cases, and on the 14th being obliged to start for Percé, I postponed the hearing of the remaining witnesses to my next visit to Magdalen Islands.

In conformity with instructions received from the Bureau of Agriculture and Statistics, and as census commissioner for the Magdalen Islands, I appointed census officers to take the names in the different Islands, as also to collect all other necessary information; and I was obliged to convey one of my census officers to one of the most distant islands of the group. In order to be able to make a complete and exact census, I myself visited the different villages and requested the inhabitants to answer all the questions which would be put to them by the census officers, and to give all the information required from them; and I had reason to be well satisfied with the zeal shewn by the persons employed to take the census of the Islands: for, besides the ordinary statistical information with which they filled the columns of the forms I furnished them with, they filled up other columns shewing the number of vessels and fishing craft of the Islands, the quantity of fishing tackle and of different kinds of fish taken in 1861, &c., &c. This information was the more necessary, because, up to this date, all we had upon this subject was taken from the Customs Report, in which only the quantity of fish exported from the Magdalen Islands was stated, without taking any notice of thousands of quintals of fish used by the inhabitants themselves.

Meanwhile, I had taken all possible precautions with a view of enforcing the fishery law as far as they apply to the Bay of Plaisance, and to a certain extent I succeeded.

A certain number of nets which were, on my arrival, located in contravention of the law, had been drawn out of the water and set further out in lawful places, but many remained in that part of the Bay which, according to the regulations, was to remain free and open, and it was very difficult, in fact almost impossible, to find out the proprietors of those nets. I then had recourse to the means provided by the law, that is to say, I had them taken away by my men who put them inside the limits marked by the buoy that I had caused to be placed there a few days before upon the spot indicated by the clauses of the above-mentioned regulations. This labour was difficult and very toilsome for my men, for they had to draw out of the water nets from fifty to sixty fathoms in length, kept down to

he, the said Joseph, which had been given the salvage; moreover, is, worth in all about a particular schooner. and started in pursuit of Cap aux Meules, our.

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the bottom of the water by stones of some hundred pounds weight. Notwithstanding that, on the 11th, there were but few nets in the channel, when Capt. Bernier, who had command of one of the boats engaged in moving the nets set in contravention of the law to the place I had indicated to him, was assaulted by a Nova Scotian fisherman named Joseph Hunson, whose nets had been that very day removed by my men. He had thrown large stones at the captain, one of which struck him on the head and inflicted a serious wound, from which flowed a great quantity of blood. Fortunately I was there to dress the wound in time and in a fitting manner. One of the canoe-men had also been struck by Hunson, without however being wounded. Immediately, after having taken cognizance of this unfortunate occurrence, I caused Hunson and one of the men who accompanied him in his boat to be arrested and put on board under safe guard. The next day they appeared before me, and Hunson's accomplice, against whom there was no proof, was set at liberty. Hunson admitted the charge. Upon this I offered to take bail for his appearance at the next County Criminal term, at Percé, and as he could not find two solvent persons to become security for him, I made out a warrant of commitment, the execution of which was entrusted to one of my constables.

More than twenty other schooners had joined those which I had found at Amherst on my arrival at the Magdalen Islands, and at least ten thousand nets for mackerel had been set in different parts of the Bay of Plaisance and near Grindstone and Entry Islands. All this fishing apparatus, well anchored with heavy stones, was set in the most favorable manner to catch the greatest possible number of mackerel, and the arrival of this fish was waited for with great impatience. But the fish, contrary to the fishermen's expectations, appeared in the Bay of Plaisance only in small numbers, and were really abundant for a few days only. Some fishermen, more favored than the others, had taken enough to reimburse their expenses of fitting out; unfortunately it was not the same with the greater number; the produce of each of their nets having scarcely reached two barrels, and the season for this kind of fishing was entirely over.

Accordingly, on the 14th of June, the day I left Magdalen Islands, nearly all the nets had been taken up, and a great number of schooners had already gone.

Codfishing was very successful at L'Etang du Nord on the South of Amherst Island, and at Old Harry. The schooners easily obtained from two to four draughts a day.

During my different visits to Amherst Harbour, I ascertained that Mr. Cassidy (the guardian of Amherst Harbour) had fulfilled the duties of his office, and that nobody had been guilty of having, as formerly, thrown ballast or other noxious matters into this basin, which is so well protected from all winds, but a little difficult of access on account of rocks. A sand-bank also partly obstructs its entrance.

It is with the greatest pleasure that I mention this result, the more so because if this harbour should become impracticable (which would soon occur if ballast was permitted to be thrown into it as formerly), it is only with the greatest difficulty that the codfishery could be carried on in the Bay of Plaisance, there being no shelter against the East and North-East winds.

It is known that Amherst and Le Havre aux Maisons are the only two harbours at Magdalen Islands used by the trade.

The Magdalen Island schooners had been as usual seal hunting on the field ice of the gulf, and had returned to their fitting-out places without having sustained any loss or damage, but also without having brought back many of the skins of these animals. The ill-success of their trip was owing principally to the bad weather encountered by the sailors during their adventurous campaign, and also to the small number of seals which appeared.

On the 14th of June, we left the Magdalen Islands, and the next morning anchored at Percé, where I caused the prisoner Joseph Hunson to be put in jail.

The codfishing, which gave excellent returns, had begun on the 29th of April; our fishermen had used herring as a bait for their lines till the 8th of June; then caplin in its annual migratory journey from the ocean to the coasts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence had made its appearance, to the great joy of our fishermen. These small fish are a safer and more tempting bait for cod than herring.

The purpose of my journey to the Gaspé shores was to lease, as usual, all the salmon fisheries of the district; to inspect them; in the mean time to keep a watchful eye on them, and to maintain public order and tranquillity in the sea harbours and on the shores.

My duties extended over a length of at least one hundred and fifty miles of shore; I had to enter all the rivers and visit almost all fishing apparatus set in them, and at the same time to see the fishermen and receive from them the price of their licenses.

In spite of all possible expedition, I was engaged in this work for twenty-one days. On the 17th I went to Malbaie and visited Barachois River, which I ascended to the distance of 3 miles from the sea. At this place there are falls 10 feet high. Some feet below, Mr. Duncan Robinson has built a mill dam, and this dam being an insuperable obstacle to the passage of salmon, he had attached to it last year a *migration pass* which the spring ice had carried away, but which he promised me would be replaced as soon as the water should be a little lower; for as the waters were at the period of my visit it was impossible to work at the dam.

This Barachois River is narrow and in some parts shallow, but the water is very clear. No salmon nets are set in it. All the apparatus used for catching this fish is placed on the outer bank.

On the 18th we entered Gaspé Basin, where we remained till the 25th. During this period I granted licenses for the fisheries of the rivers St. John, South-West, North-West and of the Peninsula.

I fined a fisherman, on the North-West river, and confiscated his net for having set it contrary to law.

There were at that time in Gaspé Basin many ships, brigs and schooners, some from Europe with goods and salt, and some employed in the fisheries.

The French frigate *La Pomone* was also there; her commander, le Marquis de Chavance de Montagnac was on a visit to Canada, and his vessel was there waiting for him. The inhabitants of Gaspé gave a hearty and friendly welcome to the officers and crew of the frigate, who on their part were so polite and hospitable, while the sailors, when ashore, behaved themselves so well that all felt sincere regret at their departure.

On the 25th I stopped a few hours at Douglstown, and the next day, I went ashore at Grand River.

I leased the fisheries of this river and those of Little and Great Pabos Rivers; and on the 27th I went to Port Daniel, where I likewise gave licenses to the fishermen of the place.

On the 28th we dropped anchor in Paspebiac Harbour.

In all the rivers I had just visited, with the exception of those of the South-West and North-West, salmon fishing had produced but ordinary results. On the contrary, cod was abundant on the shores.

In Paspebiac Harbour I found the usual number of vessels belonging to the firms of Robin and Le Boutillier.

I was told that the fitting out for the codfishery on the North shore was on a larger scale than in previous years.

On the 29th we anchored at Bonaventure, where I at once laid down the limits of the salmon fisheries in the river; and in accordance with the instructions received to that effect, marked the limits of places set aside for salmon spawning grounds. The lower limit is opposite Duval River, and the upper one at the head of the stream. I visited the Indians at their camp, and forbade them to fish in the river higher up than the limit of Duval River, to which order they promised obedience.

On the 1st of July we went to New Richmond, where I met Mr. Dimock, overseer of the Cascapediae and Bonaventure Rivers, and from him and from Mr. Charles Coal, obtained the following information respecting the two rivers of Cascapediae.

The Grand Cascapediae takes its rise in a lake of the same name, of about two miles in length by a mile and a-half in breadth. This lake is about 75 miles from the mouth of the river, and is fed by a little river, which may be considered as the main river Cascapediae, and takes its rise in the *Chichac* mountains, about 30 miles inland.

At two miles below the lake, the river Cascapediae is only twenty yards in breadth. From that place, it widens by degrees, till it reaches at its mouth a breadth of about five hundred yards. There are no falls on this river, but a great number of rapids, which nevertheless do not prevent it from being navigable for wooden and bark canoes. The water is very clear and limpid. Numerous islands, covered with the finest trees of the country, such as elm, ash, maple, white and red birch, and beech, all growing upon alluvial soil, are

met with in almost the whole of its course, and together with its shores sometimes steep, sometimes gently sloping, and covered with rich grass, contribute to make this river one of the most picturesque in Canada. Moreover it affords two sources of wealth of the greatest importance. On its banks, which are covered with one of the richest soils, timber of the most precious kind is found—yellow pine, cedar, tamarack, spruce, and birch, which have given rise to a considerable lumber trade for above fifty years past. The fisheries have, since the settlement of the country, become highly noted, and it is known that the salmon exported from the river is the finest in Canada. It appears that salmon do not go as high as Lake Cascapedia to spawn. It is true they have been seen in Miner's Brook, a stream which falls into Cascapedia River, very near to the lake, but more frequently in the creeks and pools where the water is deep and still, at 3, 6 and 7 miles further down, there they are found in great number, and choose favorable places to deposit their ova. Mr. Coal, one of the inhabitants of New Richmond, and who knows the river best, told me he had seen there hundreds of salmon in the act of spawning, and when he returned in a few days he could see at the bottom of the water the gravel partly covered with eggs.

This river is in every respect very favorably situated for the preservation and propagation of salmon, and with the protective system enforced and followed up for the last few years by the Government, we may expect that the salmon in this river will increase ten fold during the next twenty years. I must add also that the trout there is very large, of fine quality, and very abundant.

As it may be important to excursionists, who might be tempted to ascend this interesting river during the fine summer season, to possess an accurate knowledge of places situated on its banks, I will give a list of the most remarkable spots, with the respective distances from its mouth.

Picapico Mountains.....	14 miles from the sea.
Turner's Brook.....	2 " higher up.
Montmorency Falls (in a brook).....	2 " "
Jonathan's Brook.....	3 " "
Tracadie.....	3 " "
Charles Vallée's Brook.....	4 " "
Square Fork.....	5 " "
Indian Falls (rapids).....	1½ " "
The confluence of Cascapedia River (properly speaking) with the Salmon branch.....	9 " "

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Salmon Branch is a tributary of the Cascapedia, and takes its rise west of the *Chicac* Mountains. It runs towards the east and joins the principal branch at the above-mentioned place. I could not positively ascertain if much salmon ascended it; nevertheless, from its name, it must be inferred that it now does or formerly did abound with fish.

It is less considerable than the main branch. Little Cascapedia River runs parallel to the Grand, and at the distance of only about four or six miles eastwards; but it is far from being of the importance of the former. There are but few salmon seen in it, but, on the other hand, plenty of trout.

Its two branches unite at twenty-two miles from its mouth. The following are the best known places, with their distance from the sea.

Cap Brulé's Brook at.....	4 miles from the sea.
Mill Brook.....	10 " "
Red Pine Mountain.....	16 " "
Confluence of the two branches.....	22 " "

The spawning grounds for salmon as well as trout, are a little above the fork formed by the junction of the two rivers, and even extend as far as Mill Brook.

This river also takes its rise in the *Chicac* Mountains.

These two fine rivers, the Grand and Little Cascapedia, fall into the fine bay of the same name, which is not less than nine miles in breadth, and on the shores of which are the two important parishes of New Richmond and Maria.

After having given licenses to the New Richmond fishermen, I laid down the limits of the spawning grounds in each river, and instructed Mr. Dimock to place stakes to indicate to Indian fishermen the limits of such grounds; at the same time, I gave notice of what had been done by notices which were read to the Indians and posted in different places.

On the 2nd of July, I leased the salmon fishery at Maria; on the 3rd I did the same thing at Carleton, and on the 4th on the Canadian side of the Restigouche. Nowhere did I meet with any difficulty. There did not seem to be much salmon fishing in Cascapediae River and in the Bay of Carleton; it was better in Restigouche River.

In Chaleurs Bay, cod had not been seen in as large quantities as in preceding years, and it may be said that up to this date, the codfishery had been but middling; whilst the herring fishery had been almost everywhere very successful.

Having brought to a close all my business in this locality, I steered my vessel towards Percé, where we anchored on the morning of the 6th, and left that place two hours afterwards, bound for the North shore of the Gulf, where we arrived the next day. The following day we anchored at the river St. John, the salmon fisheries of which I took two days to rent. Salmon had been more abundant than ever, and the fishermen had already secured double the quantity of previous years.

The overseer of the river, Mr. Joseph Beaulieu, had, a few days before, ascended the river up to thirty miles from its mouth, and had found all the fishing apparatus set according to law. Nevertheless, I had to fine two parties from St. John for having fished in the estuary, one without license, the other with a net too near his neighbour. On the 10th we touched at Long Point and on the 11th at Mingan.

On the St. John's shoals, codfishing, which had commenced three weeks previous, had given very satisfactory results. Caplin and sand-eel were abundant near the shores. On the Mingan shoals fish was not so abundant.

On the 11th we started for Natashquan, which place, owing to easterly winds, we could not reach before the morning of the 13th.

The first thing I had to occupy myself with at this place, was a complaint lodged by Mr. Edouard De Lapparelle, against Edward Quigley, junior, and others, for theft of goods from a wrecked vessel. I issued a search warrant, and my constables found the goods in Quigley senior's vessel. I immediately caused him to be arrested with his accomplices, and I had them brought on board. On the days following, I took the depositions of several persons who had had knowledge of the affair, and as proof was not wanting against the accused, I issued a warrant of commitment against them, which warrant was put into the hands of one of my constables.

The prisoners were to be carried on board *La Canadienne* to Percé jail, the nearest place from the locality where the offence had been committed.

Two other cases came before me: Paul Vignault against Samuel Foreman. The latter was accused of having fished in the limits of the salmon fishery of Mr. Vignault, who had taken a license from the Government for the same. It was proved that the offence had been committed. The defendant was sentenced to pay a fine of twenty dollars, and I confiscated his net which had been used in the perpetration of the offence, and a barrel and three-quarters of salmon taken therein. The second case was that of Robert Stanley against Samuel Foreman, the same case as the preceding. Judgment, twenty dollars fine. These two sums were immediately paid.

In Natashquan Harbour a number of schooners were engaged in codfishing, which, this year, had been more successful than ever. A greater quantity of fish had never been seen on the shores. Mr. De Lapparelle's schooners had taken during many consecutive days from 12 to 17 draughts (a draught weighs 233 lbs.) and, the fish is weighed only when the head and intestines have been removed, that is to say, when it has been reduced one-fourth of its entire weight. In all the fishing establishments the stakes bent under the weight of the thousands of fish placed on them to be dried by the sun.

Unfortunately the weather had been very unfavourable for these operations since the beginning of the fishing season; rains and fogs had been very frequent, and but a few hundred quintals of codfish had been stored with safety in the proper hangars, after having undergone all the process of preparation. It was always hoped that they would have had westerly winds, and that then they would have had dry weather and a warm sun, this being for our fishermen the most propitious weather for the drying of codfish.

On the evening of the 16th we prepared to sail, in order to carry the prisoners to Percé, which place we reached on the evening of the 19th, when Quigley and his accomplices were put ashore and lodged in jail.

The next day we started for Gaspé, where we dropped anchor on the 21st. In those places, which I had previously visited, and where I had collected much information, public order and tranquillity had not been once disturbed.

Codfishing, although very successful in the beginning of the season, had diminished during the previous week, on account of the scarcity of bait, caplin having become scarce, and squid, which is one of the most tempting bait for codfish, not having yet made its appearance. The weather had been very rainy.

On the 23rd I had to take into consideration, at Gaspé, a good many cases of desertion of sailors from an English schooner, the *Electra*, William Vesey, master of the said schooner, being the complainant. Four of his sailors, on proof of their guilt and on their refusing to return to their vessel, were, in virtue of the Imperial Act, sentenced by me, three to six weeks, and the other to four weeks imprisonment. They were kept on board under charge of one of my constables, and, on the next day, I carried them in *La Canadienne* to Percé jail. All the fishing apparatus had been taken up in the Gaspé Rivers, and the fishing had been very remunerative. About the same time, the fishing overseer at Malbaie reported that Mr. Robinson had caused to be constructed a fishway, according to the requirements of the law, on his mill-dam, in Barabois River.

On the 25th we started for a second visit to the North shore of the River St. Lawrence, and were enabled on the next day to reach Moisie River, in spite of a very thick fog.

Codfishing in this locality had produced the best results, since the 8th of June. Such a quantity of fish had never been seen on the shores of Moisie Bay, and especially opposite the mouth of the river.

During a few weeks fishing, boats had often been seen returning to the harbour, after only four or five hours fishing, with from 100 to 1000 codfish of the finest quality.

Salmon fishing was not less successful, and according to all the fishermen of the neighbourhood, Mr. Holliday had never made so much profit with the river as this year.

Some breaches of the fishery laws had been reported to me. A fisherman, residing at Moisie, was fined eight dollars for having taken Salmon and Trout in Mr. Holliday's limits. A cod-fisherman was likewise fined five dollars for having thrown fish offal into the river. Many other fishermen, according to the overseer's statement, had been guilty of the same offence, and complaints were laid against them by Mr. Chisholm; but as it was impossible to obtain proof of their guilt, they were acquitted.

The master of the schooner "Sea Slipper," from Halifax, had, during many weeks, openly violated the fishery law in Moisie River, by throwing fish-offal into the water where his vessel was anchored; and this stranger deserved an exemplary punishment, having, the year previous, been guilty of a similar offence. But he had left a few weeks before my arrival at Moisie, probably to return to his port of out-fit, at Halifax. I, nevertheless, kept a note of the complaint laid against him, for the chance of falling in with him somewhere during the twelve months following the day of the offence, intending to punish him as he deserved.

On the morning of the 28th, I visited the standing deep water fishing apparatus, set during the past two years, by Mr. D. Tétu, on the Moisie bank. This year it was placed across Pointe de Bois, at more than a mile from the mouth of the River Moisie, and became a ground of complaint to Mr. Holliday against the proprietor, on account of salmon having been taken in it. I have thought proper to reserve it for the consideration of the Honorable the Commissioner of Crown Lands; and with this view, I will give a description of the said fishery.

It is composed of a net set perpendicular to the shore, but not touching it (it may be about one hundred and twenty yards distant from it), and it is three to four hundred feet in length extending seaward. At the termination of this is the fishery, which is composed of a series of chambers composed of nets of two, three and four inch meshes, opening one into the other. It is in these chambers that the fish being stopped in their course by the cross net get caught, as they believe that by going outwards, and at the same time following the net, they will escape the snares set with such skill by the fishermen.

Reaching the last chamber which is the largest, the fish of whatever kind, are really imprisoned; the opening which communicates with the preceding chamber being made in the form of a funnel, the narrow part of which is turned towards the last chamber which if a few individuals may chance to find, they swim about for a while but always get back into the last. It is to be remarked that all the lower part of these chambers is made of net fixed to the bottom of the sea, and so well joined to the sides of the chambers that the fish can find no other outlet than the communication between them.

These chambers being from fifty to sixty feet in diameter, the fish when not in very large quantities, can swim easily in them, and live in them during many days, and even weeks, and they have a great advantage over the fisheries in which the fish are caught by the meshes of the nets, because in the latter they very soon die of suffocation; the threads of the meshes pressing so heavily upon the throat that the muscles, giving motion to the gills, cannot work, and the act of respiration is stopped. And if they are not very soon unmeshed, at least during the twenty-four hours following their capture, they spoil, and will not keep, even in the strongest pickle.

When the fish in the last chamber are to be removed, the door of communication with the other chambers is closed, by means of a cord; then with pulleys the bottom is raised, and they are taken out with large mesh-scoop nets which are drawn out a moment afterwards full of all the kinds of fish frequenting the places where the apparatus I am speaking of are set.

This fishery is evidently very ingenious, and works well; but it is very expensive, and to be well set and able to resist the sea, it requires a considerable apparatus of cables and large anchors. When I visited Mr. Tetu's fishery, he had already taken in it from fifty to sixty thousand codfish, exclusive of herring and other fish.

On the 28th in the afternoon we dropped anchor near Cape Charles, situated at a distance of 15 miles, eastward of the River Moisie. We had been called there to give help to the schooner "Gleaner," belonging to the firm of Le Boutillier Brothers, which had been wrecked during the night of the 26th, on the reefs of Cape Charles Point.

During the evening I went with Captain Bernier and seven men on board the "Gleaner," and found her in a very dangerous position; nevertheless, we prepared to go on board again the next morning at high tide, to try and float her by throwing all her ballast overboard, intending then to tow her into a safe harbour. But we had not calculated on a storm. Indeed, we were hardly on board our own vessel, when an easterly wind sprang up, a thick fog completely concealed the shore; and the next day, our anchoring place being no longer sheltered from the easterly winds, we were obliged to make sail. It was only on the following day that we could approach the land. We were then off Bersimis River, and soon after we anchored at the entrance of Outarde Bay, from which place I went in a canoe to the Post at Bersimis.

I remained three days at this place, taking the census of the inhabitants of this important station and of the neighboring posts, and also collecting useful information on the fisheries of these localities, it being the first time I had been there.

It is known that Bersimis is one of the Hudson's Bay Company's trading posts, and is inhabited by no less than seven hundred Indians. The buildings are a fine Catholic church, the house and stores of the Post, and about ten houses which the Indians have built. The greater part of them still live in bark tents, which they fold and carry with them in the fall when they begin their wandering excursions in the interior to hunt for furs.

There is a resident priest at Bersimis, the Reverend Father Arnaud, missionary to the Montagnais Indians for the north shore of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence.

During summer, the Indians hunt such game of all kinds as visit every year the shores of the Gulf, principally the harbour seal, with the fat of which they make the seal oil of commerce; and sell it either to the Hudson's Bay Company, or to traders from Lower Canada or the Lower Provinces.

Bersimis River is very well stocked with fish; salmon are seen by hundreds. But nobody fishes in it with nets, the strong currents, great depth of the River, and moving sand banks found at its mouth, affording no facility to set nets under favorable conditions for catching salmon.

According to all the information I received, the Indians had observed the Fishery regulations.

At noon on the first of August, we left Bersimis, and in the evening anchored at Godbout. The next day I saw Mr. Blais, the overseer, and with much satisfaction learned from him that, in the whole of his division, not a single clause of the Fisheries Act had been violated. This I consider to be a satisfactory result, especially after the difficulties we had had with the Indians.

On the same day, I went to Trinity and to the Ragged Islands, near Pentecost River, and received favorable reports as to the order and tranquillity prevailing there. In these two places, our fishermen had had but little success in the cod-fishery.

No American schooners fitted out for the mackerel fishery had yet been seen on the north shore; they would have done nothing, the fish having scarcely been seen.

On the 3rd, I went ashore at Cape de Chatte, where I examined the mill-dam built about six miles from its mouth, and found that a fishway had been constructed on it; with a good flow of water, over which the salmon and trout can ascend without much difficulty. Mr. Joseph Laundry, one of the neighbouring farmers, assured me that he had seen, a few weeks before, a full-grown salmon a mile and a half above the dam, which had ascended by means of the fish-way. There seemed no doubt whatever that before the end of the season, the spawning grounds of this pretty river will be covered with salmon, depositing their ova, and that before many years are past, there will be as many fish as formerly. We have the more reason to anticipate this favorable result that according to the report of Mr. Roy, magistrate of the locality, no salmon have been this year taken in the River of Cape de Chatte, either with the spear or by any other unlawful means.

Walking along the banks of the River of Cape de Chatte to reach the above-mentioned mill-dam, I could not help noticing the fine meadows, and the fine fields of wheat, oats and barley I went through. Really, one is astonished to find at such a distance from the centre of the country, and in a locality, which within a few years was comparatively unknown, and believed to be generally unfit for cultivation, so rich a soil, covered with splendid forests where all the best kinds of timber are found, and a climate which, if not milder than that, at least as good as that of the parishes near Quebec.

The parishes of Cap de Chatte, and of St. Anne des Monts six miles below, with their thousands of acres of land on the road leading from the settlement on Cape de Chatte River to that of Matane, offer a wide and profitable field for colonization. It must be borne in mind that there is a carriage road along the River St. Lawrence between Rimouski and St. Anne des Monts. The distance from Quebec to Rimouski is 150 miles, from Rimouski to Matane 50 miles, and from thence to St. Anne des Monts 45 miles.

In the afternoon of the 4th, I went to St. Anne des Monts. I met there the salmon fishermen, and granted them licenses for the fishing stations on the River St. Anne. The Fishery laws had been well observed in this locality. Salmon had been more abundant there last year, while codfish had been seen on the shores only in small quantities. The mackerel had made its appearance a week before, but not in large numbers. Up to this date only three American schooners had been seen on the coast. The whole of the 5th, I employed in visiting the settlements at Mont Louis and on Magdalen River. At the former place the boats had caught only 40 to 60 quintals of cod, and mackerel was only just arriving. A good deal of land is under cultivation in the vale of Mont Louis, and I saw splendid standing grain.

This small parish, numbering at the most twenty-five inhabitants, has during the year had an excellent school, kept by Miss Blais, who teaches forty-five children. I had an opportunity of observing both that the mistress has a superior method, and that the scholars were intelligent and generally proficient, considering the short time the school had been established. It plainly appeared that Mlle. Blais had fulfilled her duties very carefully.

It is to be hoped that the example set by the inhabitants of Mont Louis will be followed by others, and that more schools will be established in other localities of the District of Gaspé where there are none, and where the population is large enough to bear the expense of good schools.

Whilst at Magdalen, after having given licenses to all the salmon stations there, I proceeded to try two parties accused of having illegally set nets in the river, and on proof I fined them \$5 each. Three American schooners, fitted out for mackerel fishing, were in Magdalen Harbour, the first that had been seen.

On the 6th, I visited Grand Valley, Grand Etang, Fox River, and Griffin Cove. No complaints were made in any of these places.

I was told that the cod-fishing which had given splendid results at the beginning of the season, in quality as well as in quantity, had become bad since the middle of July.

The scarcity of small fish—caplin and launce—to bait the lines with, was specially complained of; and it is a fact to be particularly borne in mind that they cannot be dispensed with; because, to use our fishermen's expression, "no bait, no codfish."

Very few American schooners had been seen in these waters since the beginning of the summer.

On the 7th, having stopped at Cape des Rosiers and at Grand Grave, the schooner anchored in Gaspé Basin.

Up to this date, cod-fishing had been rather unsuccessful in Gaspé Bay, but as there were a great number of persons employed in this branch of industry, there were everywhere to be seen thousands of quintals of codfish set on the stakes to dry. The firm of Fruing & Co., of Grand Grave, had for their own share, 18,000 quintals for foreign exportation, especially for the markets of Cadiz, Naples, and Civita Vecchia.

It being during the dull season, there were then in the Harbour of Gaspé but eleven vessels, one brig, three brigantines, and seven schooners, one of which was from the Magdalen Islands with a cargo of dried codfish for sale.

We were kept at Gaspé Basin till the 11th, and on that date we reached Percé.

On the 12th, I visited the fishing establishments of the Island of Bonaventure, where the fishermen had, up to the beginning of July, met with great success in the neighbouring waters. After that date, bait had become very scarce, which deficiency had very seriously affected the cod-fishing. The cod did not fail near the shore, and the squid having appeared for a few days previous to my visit, there had been excellent fishing.

Immediately after my return to Gaspé, Mr. Tilly, Coroner of the County, came before me and laid a complaint against George Girard, of Malbaie.

He was accused of having fired a gun loaded with shot at a certain Joseph Gauthier, of the Parish of L'Islet, which shot had hit the said Gauthier in the breast and killed him instantly. An inquest had been held on the victim's body, and a verdict of accidental death rendered.

Subsequently, public opinion was strongly moved by this unhappy event, and I was eagerly pressed to make enquiry into the circumstances, which had preceded and accompanied Gauthier's death. This I resolved to do with the assistance of Mr. Harper, Clerk of the Peace at Percé, and the Coroner, who had come in good time to lay his information before me, as the Criminal Court was to open the next day, and Girard might appear before the Grand Jury, as well as the witnesses who had any knowledge of the affair.

Immediately after I had taken down Mr. Tilly's deposition, "La Canadienne" got under way, and during the night we reached Malbaie.

A few hours afterwards my constables arrested Girard. I caused the witnesses, who might be of some use in the cause, to be brought from Point St. Pierre, and the next morning sent them in a boat, in charge of Capt. Bernier, to Percé. I arrived myself during the afternoon, in "La Canadienne." In the morning we had a dead calm.

The Court had been sitting since the morning, engaged with the case of Joseph Hunson. Capt. Bernier and some of my sailors were called as witnesses. The Grand Jury found a "True Bill" against Hunson. But the Petty Jury, in spite of the most convincing proof, the Judge's charge, and the prisoner's own confession before me, at the Magdalen Islands, in my capacity as magistrate, acquitted the man, to the great surprise of all who had witnessed the case and heard the depositions.

As to George Girard, the depositions given before the Grand Jury established that he had killed Gauthier by the shot of a gun which accidentally went off and struck the latter, and that previous to the fatal accident there never had been any quarrel or hatred between Girard and Gauthier; consequently, the Jury found "No Bill" against Girard, who was immediately set at liberty.

This business being concluded, we started on the afternoon of the 15th for the north shore of the Gulf.

On the next day, I stopped at Shallop Creek, in the Island of Anticosti, and at night anchored near the eastern point. I took the census of the inhabitants of those two places, and ascertained that there had not been any shipwrecks on the shores of the Island since the spring.

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Salmon fishing in the rivers had been less successful than the year previous, and the yield a little smaller than usual.

Having left Anticosti on the morning of the 7th, we arrived on the same day in Kegasca Bay, on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

On the 18th, I took the census of this place, and at the same time visited the fishing establishments.

In the spring, the cod fishing, which constitutes the main occupation of the inhabitants of Kegasca had not given half the products of the neighboring posts of Natashquan, and Kegasca bays, which are a continuation of those of Natashquan, seemed also on the point of being abandoned by the cod.

Fortunately, during a few weeks it was more productive, and, on the night preceding our arrival, the boats had come in with 5 to 6 drafts of codfish each.

On the same day I went to Musquaro, and on the next anchored in Wapitigun Harbour.

On the 20th I visited Etamamu River, and in the evening went in a small boat to the Island of Watngheistic.

On the 21st I continued my journey in the boat, and went to the River Metagamu, where "La Canadienne" came to pick me up; we then touched at Little Mecatina and at Whale's Head, and in the evening, the wind being very favorable, we continued our voyage, coming to an anchor the next morning at l'Anse aux Blancs Sablons.

At all those places where I had stopped, no occurrence had troubled the quiet and monotonous existence of the inhabitants. Cod as well as salmon fishing had given results sufficiently satisfactory. Two foreign schooners had visited those shores.

The duties of my office and those imposed upon me by the taking of the census, detained me up to the 29th in l'Anse aux Blancs Sablons and in Bradore Bay.

As in the preceding years, I visited all the posts, and tried to collect useful information respecting the fisheries.

There never had been seen a greater quantity of cod than this year in that part of the Strait of Belle Isle. Summer fishing had begun on the 20th June, and closed on the 28th July; and, consequently, had lasted 44 days. But out of those 44 days, on account of the bad weather, our fishermen could fish but thirty-four, and I may give an idea of the enormous quantity of cod caught in the neighborhood of l'Anse aux Blancs Sablons, either by our own fishermen or by those of the Nova Scotia schooners, by stating that 33 boats employed at l'Isle à Bois by Messrs. Le Boutillier & Bros., during that time caught 408,257 cod.

Here follows the result of three days consecutive fishing by these boats:

1st July, caught	- - - - -	51,000	codfish.
2nd " "	- - - - -	32,146	"
3rd " "	- - - - -	22,540	"
Total,	- - - - -	105,686	"

Many of these schooners had taken as many as 2,400 codfish in a single day.

Must we not, in viewing this abundant harvest, collected in so short a period and in so large a field of such fertility (the Gulf of St. Lawrence), and which is produced without any outlay, must we not, I say, thank Providence which provides with so generous a hand a supply for the numerous and continuous wants of man?

What an immense quantity of alimentary substance is contained in these 408,000 codfish, taken in 34 days by 66 men!

And what a noble provision they form when dried in the sun by a process as simple as it is easy, for the foreign countries and warm climates, as well as for the coldest; what wealth and what a fine and unceasing resource for our Canada, which possesses this large extent of sea shores, abounding every year with innumerable shoals of such fine varieties of fish!

On the 29th I visited the fishing establishment of Belles Amours, Middle Bay and Five Leagues, and on the evening we dropped anchor at Bonne Espérance.

The codfishery had been very unsuccessful in these places, especially on the banks of Belles Amours, those of Middle Bay and Five Leagues; the most successful boats having then caught but 40 quintals.

Herring was not seen in great quantity. I was engaged the whole day of the 30th in visiting the River St. Paul and the fishing establishments of Bonne Espérance.

The lessee of the St. Paul River, Mr. Chevalier, had not succeeded so well as the year before with his salmon fishery, and the fishermen complained of the little success of their summer's labor, which they attributed to easterly winds which had prevailed since spring.

Herring had not yet been seen in these localities.

In the afternoon I visited the Brulée and Vieux Fort Island establishments. At these places fishermen had not been more successful than at Bonne Espérance.

Bad weather obliged us to lie the whole day of the 30th under shelter of Herbée Island.

On the 1st September we started early in the morning.

I visited in my boat the Bay des Rochers and Napitippi River, and afterwards went to Chicataca, where I met my schooner, and in the evening we proceeded to St. Augustin.

On the 2nd I continued my visit to the Posts; I stopped at Paccachoo, Whale's Head, and Kikapoë, and on the next day I brought to a close my north shore journey by visiting the fishing establishments of La Tabatière, Baie Rouge (Red Bay), and La Baie des Moutons (Sheep Bay).

At this last place, as well as at the posts I had visited the previous days, codfishing had produced only middling results.

Moreover, the population inhabiting this part of the north shore incline rather to fall seal fishing, with standing nets made with meshes of very strong thread, than to other fisheries in use on the shore.

During the fall of 1861, seals did not fail to make their periodical visit to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, passing through the Straits of Belle Isle.

As usual, they had come near the shores and passed along in large herds; the fishermen would have made one of the most successful seasons, had it not been for the severe cold which impeded and nearly interrupted their labor.

It is known that this fishery is followed in the month of December, and is sometimes continued till the first of January. In spite of all that, Mr. Buckle, of La Tabatière, had caught 700 of these amphibious animals, but his fishing is the best and most productive of the whole shore. The product of other fishermen varied between 50 and 250 seals.

These fall seals are most of them large animals, and the thick coat of blubber covering their body gives them a value of from *eight* to *sixteen* dollars each.

By this it is seen that seal fishing as practised on the Labrador coast is an important branch of industry.

I had just visited the most important posts of a great part of the North shore; my duties as Census Commissioner had compelled me to see a large number of families.

I had, more than ever, been in relation with the inhabitants of the North shore; and I arrived at the conviction that, with the exception of two complaints laid by Mr. Bourdault, lessee of the River Kegaska, against parties for having fished in his limits without leave, the fishery law had been well observed, especially the clauses relating to salmon fishing. True friends of Canada, and all those having at heart the prosperity of the Canadian fisheries, will be pleased to learn these happy results which portend for our salmon fisheries a most brilliant future.

Having terminated our visit to the North shore, we left Baie des Moutons on the 5th bound to the Magdalen Islands, and after a stormy crossing we anchored at Bryon's Island on the 7th.

Mr. John White, the lessee of this island, so famed for its fine pasture grounds, excellentment, and fine butter, gave me the following information:

Codfishing had been most abundant at Bryon, as well as at Bird's Island, during the whole season. Mackerel had appeared in the early part of July. About fifty American schooners had stopped there the whole of the summer to fish, with good success, and on the day of our arrival, a schooner under sail had caught a dozen barrels.

On the 8th we went to Havre aux Maisons. During the months of July and August, mackerel fishing in Plaisance Bay, with the line, had been very productive to the inhabitants of this port; some of their boats had caught as much as thirty barrels and even more. The wind being from the West, there were about 80 American schooners anchored under shelter of Entry island, all engaged in mackerel fishing. They had fished since the month of July off the shores of the Magdalen islands, but although, generally speaking, success

ful enough, they would not realize large profits from their voyage, because their fish was not all of first rate quality, and would bring only a very low price in the Halifax and Boston markets.

At l'Étang du Nord, codfishing had continued to be very productive since my last visit.

On the 9th we anchored in Amherst Harbour.

On the South side of the island, fishing was still giving profitable returns.

The schooners from Amherst, as well as those from Havre aux Maisons, had come back to their fitting out ports, having made very productive voyages on the North shore; they had all returned loaded, after an absence of rather more than two months and a-half, some of them had even gone away to the North shore for herring fishing.

On the 10th I was engaged in hearing one of the two cases postponed in the spring; Alexandre Cormier vs. Pierre Briant. Witnesses on both sides having been heard, judgment was rendered on the next day in favor of the defendant.

A suit of the same complainant against Alexandre Belleau could not be heard, the defendant being confined to bed by a serious wound in the foot. He has since died.

I had also to send my constables to Grindstone Island to arrest a person charged with a serious offence. The arrest was effected without any difficulty, but shortly afterwards the prisoner managed to escape, favored by a wood near to the spot where the arrest had taken place, and where it would have been useless to follow him. But I did not lose the hope of taking him by surprise on my next trip to the islands. (In fact the individual in question was afterwards arrested and brought on board.)

On the 12th I was engaged hearing a complaint for assault; the accused was immediately bound over to keep the peace.

On the evening of the 13th we left Amherst Harbour for Prince Edward Island; and on the 15th anchored at Rustico, on the North shore of the island.

I stopped at Rustico, a large parish inhabited by descendants of Acadians, and situated on the shores of Rustico Bay, in conformity with instructions received from the Hon. Mr. Vankoughnet, to take on board of "La Canadienne" the families of this parish disposed and ready to emigrate to the Township of Metapedia, in the County of Bonaventure, and to carry them to the mission, on Restigouche River, from which place they would have only fifteen miles, by a fine road, to reach the new Acadian settlements, situated at the confluence of the Restigouche and Metapedia Rivers, in the said Township of Metapedia.

There I had the pleasure of meeting at the Presbytery the Reverend Mr. Belcourt, the celebrated Red River and Western Missionary.

This gentleman, who is engaged with the greatest zeal and devotion in improving the position of his parishioners, takes a great interest in the question of an Acadian emigration to Canada, and especially in the emigration of the inhabitants of Rustico.

After having acknowledged the kind act of the Canadian Government towards the Acadians, in thus placing at their disposal one of its vessels to carry them, without any cost whatever, to the place where they desired to settle, Mr. Belcourt gave me the most useful information regarding the object of my mission, but telling me at the same time that though many families were preparing to leave Rustico this year for Metapedia, nevertheless none of them were at that moment ready to embark. They were engaged in their harvest, and could not go before the beginning of November.

My instructions were to make two trips to Rustico, one in the spring and the other in the fall; I could not accomplish the one in the spring, on account of the many duties to be performed at that time at the Magdalen islands.

The parish of Rustico is situated on the shores of the Bay of the same name, and of the three rivers falling into it.

These rivers are of little importance; their course does not reach far into the interior of the islands; and although not navigable, they still form pretty large basins at their mouths. The centre of the parish is at the church, which is built near the mouth of the middle river upon an elevation from which is obtained a fine and extensive view of the surrounding country. The soil of this part of Prince Edward Island is of a reddish color, sandy, and generally of good quality. Nevertheless, to have fine harvests, it must be often manured with mud taken from the beds of the rivers at their mouths, and with sea-weed.

All kinds of grain grow well, especially oats and vegetables; potatoes and turnips are also of a superior quality.

The population of Rustico is about 5,200 souls, of which above 2,500 are of Acadian origin. These, the first proprietors of the soil, formerly lived by fishing, lumbering and ship-building, rather than by farming, which, for a long time, they totally neglected. But the fisheries not yielding of late the same profits as formerly, and the forest being exhausted, the ship-building yards have been closed, and the Acadians have abandoned their old pursuits, and now look to tillage as a means of subsistence. They set about it with great energy and resolution, and some of them have become excellent farmers.

But the population having considerably increased, found no room in the interior, all the lands around Rustico having been taken up by settlers from Great Britain. Some of the inhabitants went to the west part of the island, where there were still lands to be bought, but the greater part choose to remain on the lands settled by their ancestors; and it is easy to conceive what the consequences of this determination has been. Lots have been divided and subdivided between sons and grandsons, and at this moment the majority of the inhabitants of Rustico are obliged to live on small farms, which, by the hardest labor, strictest economy and best regulated conduct, hardly give subsistence to the families occupying them.

Besides, they have to pay a rent of *one shilling sterling* for each acre of land so occupied. It is known that the Acadians hold these lands under lease (*Baux emphytéotiques*) from English capitalists.

These are the reasons which determined a great number of Acadian families from Rustico and other Acadian villages of the island to emigrate to Canada last autumn. Twenty-five families proceeded to Metapedia—many others intend to follow very soon; and before five years are passed, if they are furnished with means of transport, from 1,500 to 2,000 Acadians of the Island of Prince Edward will have settled on the Bay of Chaleurs.

The Acadian population of Rustico, and generally of the other Acadian parishes of the island, are strong, laborious, very intelligent, and of amiable manners and exemplary virtue.

What a fine acquisition for the counties of the Restigouche and Metapedia Rivers, where there are thousands of acres of land waiting only for settlers to make it the finest and richest part of the County of Gaspé!

Let subscription lists be opened throughout the whole of the country, and assistance given to the Acadians to help them to emigrate to Canada, and to subsist during the first years of their residence here; especially let the wise and patriotic advice of the Rev. Mr. Belcourt be attended to—a man who has given proofs of so great a devotion to the Acadian cause.

I have spoken a little at length of the migration of the Acadians of Prince Edward Island to Canada, though this may be considered irrelevant to the subject of this report; but it is of such importance to the future of our fisheries that the population of the District of Gaspé, both fishermen and agriculturists, should increase rapidly, that I have thought fit to give these details, which may be useful to intending settlers in Canada, as well as to the friends of colonization. I am led to do so, moreover, by the fact that in our cities, and generally all through Canada, the importance to our fisheries of settling the lands along the shores of the Gulf, and the tract which connects them with the main land of Canada, is but little considered or understood.

On the 18th I returned on board "*La Canadienne*." During my absence at Rustico, the schooner, which had not been able to enter the harbour for want of a sufficient depth of water on the bar, had been twice obliged to weigh anchor and stand out to sea, the wind which blew from the north and consequently full on the shore, having caused on the coast such a heavy swell, that the schooner could not hold on any longer to her anchors. The second time we prepared to sail, the starboard anchor was held so firmly below (no doubt caught in the rocks at the bottom) that in weighing it the chain broke at seven fathoms from the ring, and we lost it.

We started during the night, and having a fair wind, anchored at Paspébiac in the evening of the 19th.

I found only five vessels in the harbor, but many others were expected from Jersey and English ports, which had been freighted by Paspébiac firms to take in cargoes of codfish.

Large quantities of cod had been brought from the North shore, and it was expected that the exportation of dried cod from Paspébiac would be more considerable than ever.

The grain harvests had been very fine; potatoes, on the contrary, had in many places been subject to rot, and the inhabitants of the coast of Gaspé were, in part, deprived of this precious article of food.

On the 22nd, I visited Bonaventure, and on the 23rd, Carleton and the River Restigouche. On the 24th, I went as far as Point Lagarde, with "La Canadienne;" the west wind would not allow us to go higher up the Restigouche. While I went up the river in one of my boats, I sent Captain Bernier in the other to help the constable sent by Mr. Fair, Magistrate of the Township of Restigouche, to carry into execution a summary judgment against five parties of the same locality, whom, up to this date, he had not dared to approach, on account of the threats they had made against him. The expedition succeeded admirably, the guilty parties were brought before Mr. Fair, and dealt with according to the rigor of the law. I ascended the Restigouche River up to its confluence with the River Metapedia, and from thence went to the new Acadian settlements. I had first to cross this last-named river, then after having kept close to the left shore for a mile, I took the new road which the Government has opened for the Acadians, and which leads to their settlement, situated on an immense tract of table-land, not less than six or eight hundred feet above the level of the waters of the Restigouche River. The road is made on the side of a ravine, and this circumstance greatly facilitated its construction. The slope is easy of ascent, so that loaded carts can go up without difficulty.

On reaching the table-land, situated between the two picturesque shores of the Restigouche and Metapedia Rivers, accompanied by the Revd. Mr. Saucier, who had offered to go with me to the Acadian settlements, we were struck with the fine appearance of the country. It was in the heart of a virgin forest, composed of the most valuable kinds of timber which Canada produced. The maple spread out its rich leaves, (so dear to a Canadian), already reddened by the fall frost. Black birch was to be seen, with its heavy trunk, its colossal proportions, and its knotty branches; and the cedar, towering above all other trees, showed that the soil in which they grew and out of which they were fed, was of the greatest richness.

The upper as well as the sub-soil of the whole country is of a yellowish colour and quite free from stones. It is of a great depth, and consequently will be of inexhaustible fertility.

Last spring, twenty families, from Rustico were added to the five of the same parish already settled here. I visited many of them, and learned that they were well satisfied with the country, that they had great confidence in the resources it offered to the settler, and that they hoped to realize a happy future both for themselves and for their children. I was pleased to hear this, and so were all the friends of colonization to whom I communicated the fact; because it gave us hope that before long, with the assistance given by generous Canadians, friends of their country, we shall see this fine country bordering on the Restigouche and Metapedia Rivers up to the lake of the same name, completely settled, and then the establishments of the Bay of Chaleurs will be released from the isolated position in which they now are from the want of good roads leading to the settlements of the Lower St. Lawrence, whilst the Acadians, attracted by the richness of the soil and the certainty of finding friends there, will come in by sea, and the surplus of the village population, and of the old parishes of the River St. Lawrence, will also come in by the new road which the Government has opened from St. Flavie to Lake Metapedia. Government cannot be too highly commended and praised for having spent such large sums in opening colonization roads in the district of Gaspé, as well as on the Metapedia road, which is the great channel of communication by land between the River St. Lawrence and the Bay of Chaleurs.

The Government is well aware that in opening roads for the settlers, it secures thereby the success of colonization.

On the same day I returned on board the schooner. On the 26th we stopped at Dalhousie, and on the 27th we dropped anchor at Carleton.

Salmon fishing in the River Restigouche had been successful, specially on the New Brunswick side.

On the Canadian side no offence against the law had been committed.

On the contrary, in New Brunswick (it may be remarked here that the greater part of the course of the Restigouche River belongs to that province) according to information received from Mr. Dugald Stewart, Collector at Dalhousie Port, himself a proprietor of a salmon fishery, the fishery regulations had often been violated by the white men, as well as

by the Indians, although not so often nor so openly as in previous years, owing in many places on the river to neglect on the part of the overseers appointed by the magistrates of Dalhousie and Campbelltown to watch their proceedings; these overseers, not being numerous enough, could not visit many places where the Indians went to fish with the spear during the night. Moreover, the old fishery regulations were still in force. The magistrates of the county, assembled in general session, had, it is true, enacted new and more stringent ones; but, owing to some defect in the form, they could not receive the sanction of the Governor of the Province, and consequently had not been put in force. It was hoped, though, that they would soon become so, and distinct clauses were intended to be added, with the object of completing, as much as possible, the assimilation of the New Brunswick regulations with those of Canada.

It is certainly to be hoped that this result will be soon attained, and with the power now in the hands of the Magistrates of both Provinces, to prosecute and arrest on both shores all parties acting contrary to the fishery laws, illegal salmon fishing in the Restigouche as well as in the tributaries may be effectually prevented. And in this way, only, can the fisheries of this large and picturesque river, the most important of the whole of North America, be restored to their former prosperity.

In Mr. Cook's Division, there had been no contravention of the fishery laws, nor in that of Mr. Dimock, of New Richmond, where I stopped on the 28th. We touched at New Carlisle on the 29th, and on the 30th reached Caraquette. As soon as I reached that place, I took means to dredge for and take on board three hundred barrels of oysters, which I required to continue the artificial stocking of Gaspé Basin, which I had already commenced. The oysters had to be carried on board "La Canadienne" immediately after being taken, and our load being completed, we had to proceed to Gaspé with the greatest possible speed.

For this purpose, I told Capt. Bernier to hire four large fishing boats, with which, on the 1st of October, he went to the oyster beds of Caraquette, situate about six miles from the place where "La Canadienne" lay. On reaching that place, he hired all the fishing boats he could get, and before night the three hundred barrels of oysters were raised by the dredge. At seven o'clock at night, the first loaded boat was alongside "La Canadienne;" the others soon followed. All the schooner's sailors then set to work with such zeal, that before midnight, two hundred barrels of oysters had been shifted from the boats to the vessel's hold, by means of pails filled by wooden shovels and passed from hand to hand. Great precautions were taken to hurt the oysters as little as possible.

For the success of the work I had undertaken the year previous and was now continuing, it was important to lay on the new beds oysters having all their strength, and which had not been exposed to any accidents affecting their vitality. It is known that, when an oyster, having its shell injured, loses the liquor contained in it, which is necessary for its respiration, it soon dies. The remainder of the oysters were put on board on the morning of the 2nd. At noon, we weighed anchor, and left Caraquette Bay, favored with a light westerly breeze. In the afternoon, we were detained some time by calm weather off Shippagan, but at night, a fair wind prevailed, and we started, full sail, towards Gaspé.

On the following day, in the morning, we arrived at the entrance of Gaspé Bay, where we were detained a few hours by calm weather; then there came a north-west wind, with the aid of which we entered Gaspé Basin at 5 p.m.

Early in the morning of the 4th, I caused the planting of the oysters to be commenced at Gaspé Basin, and in the neighbourhood of the beds already made there. I conducted the operations in the following manner:—

Barrels of oysters were filled in the hold, (taking care not to spoil them), by means of tackle they were hoisted on deck, from which they were put in a lighter, fastened alongside the schooner. This being filled, (it held about fifty barrels), it was towed on the banks set apart by me, and previously marked with buoys; then the oysters were emptied into the water, care being taken to constantly change the position of the barge, in order that the oysters might every where cover the bottom equally, and before the night was over, two hundred barrels of oysters had been put into the water, in the manner already described.

On the 5th, before ten in the morning, the remainder of the oysters had been laid on the beds, less fifteen barrels, which I kept to try a new method of forming oyster-beds,

which consisted in placing them on hurdles, which are sunk to the bottom of the water by means of heavy stones.

Capt. Bernier, who had conducted the work of transporting and placing the oysters, got a hurdle made of the required size, and after having covered it with the oysters kept in reserve, the whole was laid under water, and kept at the bottom in the manner above described.

It is scarcely necessary to mention that the places where these new oyster beds have been laid are marked out with anchors and posts placed on Mr. Le Boutillier's farm, opposite the spot where they are situated.

These operations had been conducted under circumstances which give promise of certain success. The oysters had been taken and placed on board the schooner with great care and with the least possible delay; the journey from Caraquette to Gaspé had been performed with rapidity in spite of calms and contrary winds; so that two hundred and twenty barrels of oysters had been placed on the Gaspé Banks within 60 to 72 hours after leaving the Bay of Caraquette, and the remainder less than eighteen hours afterwards. My operations had been attended with a better chance of success than in 1859, as experience had taught me the precautions necessary to be taken to keep the oysters sound; those now planted had been less tired out of their native element.

This being over, I proceeded to examine the oyster beds formed in 1859. I caused the grounds marked out by the anchors to be dredged, but the dredge, being suitable only for a rocky bottom, was too light for that, and I did not succeed. Nevertheless, eighty oysters, of which one-fourth were living, and seemed to be in the best possible condition, were drawn out of the bottom. They were fat, white and very fresh. They had lost nothing of the delicate taste of the Caraquette oysters; far from it: we who tasted them—some of the principal people of Gaspé Basin and myself—found that they were, if not superior, at least equal to any other oyster. They seemed to have increased in size.

I obtained still more satisfactory results on the 9th of August, when I caused the same banks to be dredged. Out of 40 oysters which we fished up, 18 were living, and we fancied we saw small oysters on many of them, which showed that the act of reproduction had been accomplished, although on a limited scale. It is very likely that, after having been moved and taken away from their natural place, and transferred to a strange bottom, where the soil is a little different from that on which they previously existed, oysters, for the first year, will reproduce only limited quantities.

But the most important fact to establish was this: can oysters live on some points of our shores? Well, this fact has been proved in a certain and authentic manner, since 15 to 20 per cent. at least of the Oysters placed in Gaspé Basin in 1859 have been found living two years afterwards.

And being alive, they are sure to reproduce. Nothing is easier for oysters, when in suitable places, as they are hermaphrodites.

My impression is, that the reason why we found so little spat on the oysters, is that it found nothing to attach itself to, besides the oysters themselves, which are but few in number, and that a good deal was carried off by the current to other parts of Gaspé Bay.

To obviate this, I intend to cover the oyster beds with small branches of birch, which will be kept at the bottom by small stones.

The spat, issuing from the oyster, will attach itself to them by means of the viscid matter which encloses it at this period of its existence.

As to those I had placed on a hurdle, the spat issuing from them will attach itself to the small rods fixed to the cross sticks, and they will not have to be covered with branches.

Furthermore, by examining the oyster-beds every year, with a dredge adapted to the bottoms where they are laid, and observing carefully the condition of the different beds, it will be soon found which is the best system to adopt, in order to obtain the rapid development of the Gaspé artificial oyster grounds.

During this visit to Gaspé Basin, I was engaged in hearing a complaint of a captain against one of his sailors, who had been guilty of assaulting the second officer on board. The accused was brought before me, and the offence having been proved, he was condemned, in accordance with the Mercantile Marine Imperial Act, to be imprisoned for eight weeks, and I gave him in charge to one of my constables, till he could be taken to jail. Nothing else occurred during my visit to Gaspé Basin.

In the morning of the 9th we set sail, and in the night arrived at Percé. The pri-

soner was delivered to the jailer of the place, and during the night we started for Anticoesti.

In the evening of the 10th, we dropped anchor under shelter of the light-house of the south-west point of the Island. I settled the question of the salmon fishery licenses of this Island with Mr. Corbett, in conformity with the instructions received to that effect; and as he is the representative of the proprietor of the Seigniory of the Island of Anticoesti, I gave him a license for all the fisheries, except a small one, on the shore, on the south-west bay, which Mr. Bossé had leased the year before.

The fishery regulations, especially those relating to salmon fisheries, had been strictly observed in the rivers of the Island.

On the same night we set sail towards Ellis or Gamaebe Bay, where we arrived at noon the next day.

Taking the census was my only business there, and there was but one family, that of the keeper of the provision depot which the Government keeps there to relieve shipwrecked persons.

In the evening we touched at the light-house at the west point of the island, and the keeper, Mr. Ballantyne, gave me the following information:

Codfish, which had been seen on the banks outside the light-house point, had been more abundant this year than ever. They began to appear in the month of May, and were still plentiful.

American schooners had been able to obtain full cargoes in the short space of from three to four weeks, and the Long Point fishermen from Mingan had also come there to fish before the cod made its appearance on the North Shore. But as the lessee of the island would not allow them to make *permanent establishments* on the island, they were restricted to the beach, and obliged to build their huts and drying-houses with wood brought from the North Shore. It is much to be regretted by all who are interested in the prosperity of our sea-fisheries, that the Island of Anticoesti, measuring 43 geographical miles in length by 11 in breadth, with 285 miles of shore, around which swarms, at different seasons of the year, codfish, mackerel, halibut and even herring, is not public property, or even that the Canadian fishermen should not have the liberty of making on the shores permanent establishments to be used in the taking and curing of the different kinds of fish above-named: the proprietors of the island not fishing themselves, and the lessee being engaged only in salmon fishing and hunting for furs. A part of the resources of this island are thus lost to the country. I feel sure that if our fishermen had been able to settle there without paying onerous dues to the seigniors or to the lessee, this large island would have long since been inhabited.

On the same night we left the west point of the island and steered towards the north. We crossed Anticoesti channel in a short time, favoured with a strong south-east wind, increasing at every moment; but on reaching the north coast, we could not anchor on account of the heavy swell on the shore. We hove to for the night. On the next day we had a strong gale from the east, and consequently it was of no use to think of reaching Mingan, which was our destination. We were therefore under the necessity of seeking shelter in the Bay of Seven Islands, where we arrived at half-past twelve at night. Mr. Smith, the collector of the port, told me that more than 120 schooners, either going for cargoes or to trade within the limits of the free port of Gaspé to Labrador or Newfoundland, had come there to make their entry and get their clearance.

This was certainly a large number of vessels for the first year of the establishment of the Port of Seven Islands, and from this circumstance we may foresee a great increase of the trade of the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and of Newfoundland with Canada.

Cod-fishing at Seven Islands had been successful with the few vessels which had spent the summer there, as they had taken about 100 quintals each.

On the morning of the 14th, we went out of the Bay of Seven Islands with a strong westerly breeze. My intention was to put in at the River Moisie, but on account of the heavy sea, it was useless to think of it, neither could I visit the intermediate posts between that river and Mingan, the Sheldrake, Thunder and Magpie Rivers. The wind had freshened towards the middle of the day, and had become a regular gale, giving us a very fast trip to Mingan, where we anchored at nine p.m., having made 100 miles in ten hours.

Four vessels were in the Port of Mingan, loading dried cod-fish for foreign countries, principally for the firm of Robin & Co., and many other schooners or brigs had already left

loaded with cargoes of the same article. Mingan Harbor is well located to be used as a centre for the fish trade for the north shore, being easy of access and very safe for vessels of the largest tonnage; wood and water being also easily obtained. The Hudson's Bay Company keep an establishment there, with a store well stocked with goods and provisions of all kinds; and this harbour, which, until a few years ago, was used only by fishing and coasting boats, promises to become before long a port of considerable importance; especially if the increase in fishing establishments on the north shore, between Mingan and Seven Islands, continue to grow at the same rate as during the last five years.

It is unnecessary to remark that salmon was abundant in Mingan River, as *no nets* had been set.

On the 16th, we went to Esquimaux Point. The village built on that point already numbers 37 Acadian families, from the Magdalen Islands. There is a Catholic church and a resident priest, and it is intended to open a school there shortly. The fishermen of the place had been very successful since their establishment there. They are engaged in seal hunting on the floating ice of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the cod and the herring fisheries. There are no large fisheries near Esquimaux Point, but the harbour is excellent, and fresh water as well as wood are found in abundance. This village must increase rapidly if the fisheries continue to be as good as they have been for a few years past.

On the 17th, an easterly wind began to blow, and forced us to abandon the idea of going to Natashquan, which I had intended to visit. We therefore returned to Mingan, and towards the evening anchored at Long Point, where my services had been required.

In fact, a complaint for robbery, and another for receiving stolen goods, were, the next day, laid before me by Mr. Hamilton. I immediately issued warrants for the arrest of the parties accused, and they were brought on board. In their presence I took the depositions of many persons who possessed some knowledge of the case, and who proved the charge against the prisoners. The theft being of an article of small value I was willing to admit them to bail, and it was only on their refusal to produce sufficient securities, that I committed them to Percé Jail, to be from thence transferred to that of Quebec.

Towards night, another complaint was laid before me, for assault and battery. The accused was brought on board, but it being rather late, I could not settle the case that day. On the following morning, witnesses were heard, and proved that a serious assault had been committed by the prisoner against an inoffensive person, and I fined him in the highest penalty provided for in such case. The prisoner, being either unwilling or unable to pay the fine imposed, I was obliged to keep him on board and commit him to Percé.

This business being concluded, we weighed anchor at eleven A.M., bound for Gaspé. We were at first favored by the wind, but it soon became unfavorable.

During the whole day we ran to the south shore, but at night-fall we tacked while off Great Etang. About the middle of the next day a fair westerly breeze arose and brought us to Percé at one P.M.

On the next day I sent the prisoners with a guard to the Common Jail.

During the day, I visited the fishing establishments. For a few weeks there had been complaints on the coast of the severity of the season. Strong easterly winds, frequent rains and fog, which nearly always follows east or south-east winds, had interrupted the labours of our fishermen; it was all they could do to go to the nearest banks and fish there for some days. Vessels were drawn up on the beach above high-water mark, and fishing utensils put under shelter in sheds. It was just as if all the fishing works were brought to a close for the year, still cod-fish seemed to be abundant on the shores. As to bait it was scarce, but some might still be obtained at the entrance of the small rivers.

For a long while Percé and its neighborhood had not been visited by United States schooners. Moreover, a smaller number than usual had been there during the summer.

At night we took advantage of a fresh easterly wind to make sail for the Magdalen Islands, where we anchored the following night under shelter of Cape aux Meules.

On the 23rd, the prisoner who had escaped at my last trip was brought before me; I took cognizance of the case, and admitted the prisoner to bail to appear at the next Criminal Court.

I visited L'Etang du Nord, and received the most satisfactory information respecting the summer cod and mackerel fishing. It is known that at this season of the year this last fish is in all its prime, and that its value is three times greater than in the spring. Each

boat belonging to the port had taken 100 quintals of codfish, and from twenty to twenty-five barrels of mackerel.

This was a fine and rich harvest, and the land had not been less propitious. Wheat and other grain had been grown of superior quality; hay had been very abundant. Potatoes only had suffered from the disease peculiar to that root.

On the 24th, I went to Havre aux Maisons, which I found nearly deserted. The schooners had left it with cargoes, some for Halifax, others for Quebec. The small dried cod, of second quality, are generally taken to Halifax for sale in the West India market.

The dry cod of large size, and those taken late in the season and salted in barrels, are especially suited for the Quebec market.

On the 25th, I visited Amherst Island. Our fishermen of the Basin and Mill continued to reap an abundant harvest in the waters south of the Island, when the weather allowed them to put out to sea. Through the whole of the Island there had been an excellent crop of grain and hay. In the evening, after having brought to a close all my business at the Islands, I gave the order to make sail. We weighed anchor at eleven o'clock at night, and at eight the following evening, after a fast though stormy trip, we anchored at Percé. Nothing worthy of remark had occurred since my last visit.

The next day, at five in the afternoon, we started for Paspobiac, where we arrived during the night.

Paspobiac Harbor was better filled than on my last visit. Fourteen vessels, of which more than one half were barks and brigs, were displaying their high masts, their taut rigging and their long spars. Some were already loaded and waiting only for a westerly wind to fire the parting gun. Some others, with their inclined masts, showed that they had only taken in a part of their cargo; others had just arrived from Europe, and had nearly all their full cargo, consisting of dry goods, groceries, Holland gin, and especially salt.

A number of boats were brought down nearly level with the water by the weight of their cargoes, some going from the wharves to the vessels, others returning; some urged onward by a favorable breeze, and others, obeying the impulse of oars worked by stout arms. Paspobiac displayed, on every side, unmistakable signs of commercial activity vindicating its claim to be considered as the business centre of the Bay of Chaleurs.

The easterly wind which had brought us there, had become by the next day a regular gale, accompanied with heavy rain. The sea had become very rough in the harbour, although well sheltered from the westerly winds, and the boats and small craft could not make their appearance there any more.

During the afternoon, Capt. Charles Stuart's whaling schooner, after having lost, in Percé Harbour, her two anchors, had run before the storm sixty miles, and was now seen in the offing, with her flag flying as a signal of distress.

I immediately sent my long boat, under the command of Capt. Bernier, to her assistance, and notwithstanding the heavy sea, which threatened to swallow up the light craft, he succeeded in conveying to them one of our spare anchors and in mooring her in safety. On the same day, four other schooners came to take shelter under Paspobiac Point; they reported that the storm was extremely violent outside.

The wind having abated on the 30th, we started for Carleton, where we arrived at night. On the 31st, I visited Magouacha and Dalhousie, in order to meet the overseer of Restigouche River. He told me that no breach of the fishery laws had been committed in his division since my last visit, and by his annual returns showed me that the River Restigouche had given this year 60 barrels of salmon more than last year.

On the 1st November, we left Magouacha, and during the night arrived at New Carlisle, where for want of a wind, we were compelled to pass the night. On the following day, we were ready to start for Percé and Gaspé, and from thence intended proceeding on to Quebec, when an easterly wind arose, and soon became a storm which blew with more or less force and violence up to the 5th. During the whole of this time, the sea had been very heavy and the weather squally all over the Bay of Chaleurs, and with such weather, no sailing vessel could think of starting. At last the weather cleared, and about nightfall on the 5th, a light north-westerly breeze sprang up. We lost no time in weighing anchor, and setting full sail with the favorable breeze; but soon afterwards calm weather again set in, when we had only made about 20 miles towards Percé, and by the morning of the next day, the current had driven us abreast of New Carlisle, that is to say, four miles further than the place we had left the night previous; the south-easterly wind beginning to blow,

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we could do nothing but to tack the whole day. During the night the wind shifted to the north-west, and at 9 o'clock the next morning, we were at Port Daniel; but the wind changed to the north-east, and at noon the storm set in, accompanied with rain and snow. Nevertheless, we continued on to Percé, by tacking, and on the 8th, favored by a westerly wind, we anchored in Percé harbour, when with great difficulty, I landed, the sea rolling in with such force that it covered the shore every moment with heavy breakers.

I paid a last visit to the fishing posts at this place, and at night we continued our voyage to Gaspé, where we arrived on the morning of the next day.

On the 10th, all our preparations to leave for Quebec were completed. We waited only for a favorable breeze to enable us to get out of Gaspé Bay, and the easterly winds had been so constant during the previous three weeks that we had every reason to hope for a change, that is to say, westerly winds; but in vain. The wind again blew from the east and south, and almost every day up to the moment of our leaving Gaspé, we had rain or snow.

In the afternoon, the mate of the schooner "Royal Middy," from Montreal, bound to Liverpool, with a cargo of 80,000 bushels of Indian corn, came to request my assistance. She was a three-masted vessel, of more than 400 tons burthen, and had lost her mizen mast off Anticosti a few days before. After having been driven about by the sea and drifted towards the south shore of the Gulf, she had been obliged to anchor off Fox River, where the captain had landed; he was not able to return on board, and the vessel had got under sail during the night, under the command of the mate. The vessel being no longer able to stand the sea, had hoisted a signal of distress, and called for help on Capt. Desjardins, of the schooner "Hémédyne," with which she fell in, and he towed her into Gaspé Bay. I promised the officers of the "Royal Middy" all the help I could give them, and the next day my captain assisted Capt. Desjardins to tow the "Royal Middy" into Gaspé Basin and to anchor her there in safety.

On the 12th, one of the officers of the schooner came and lodged a complaint against one of his sailors who had assaulted him, and had beaten and hurt him in the face; I caused the accused to be immediately brought on board by issuing a warrant, and night having come on, the hearing of the case was postponed till the next day.

The same night, Capt. Davison, of the "Royal Middy" came on board to claim protection and assistance. Some of his men refused to obey him and threatened open mutiny. Already they had refused to work, and when he spoke of discharging them (the schooner, not being able to keep at sea, had to be put into winter quarters) they would not hear of such an arrangement. I promised to help him as much as I could, and requested him to make immediate preparations to lay his vessel up for the winter and discharge his men, as we had to sail with the first favorable wind.

On the morning of the 13th, the trial of the sailor of the "Royal Middy" took place before me. Witnesses were heard on both sides, and the offence being duly proved, I fined the accused ten dollars, which were paid the same evening. After that, I went with Capt. Davison and Mr. John Eden, Lloyd's Agent, on board the "Royal Middy," and succeeded, after much talking, in concluding satisfactory arrangements with the sailors, and on the same night they were discharged, paid, and on board "La Canadienne;" I promising to give them a passage to Quebec, as there was no other vessel going to that port this fall.

On the following night we had a north-west wind, and the day after, at day-break, we got ready to start for Quebec. I had only to touch at Douglstown and Malbaie. I stopped one hour at the first named place, and when we arrived at Malbaie, a little before noon, the wind had shifted to the north-east and right in our teeth. Besides, it was raining very hard.

Towards night, the wind being east, we took advantage of it to start immediately for Quebec; we tacked for a while, in order to double Cape Gaspé, and were already pretty near it, when about midnight a squall from the north west, accompanied with rain and hail, met us; nevertheless, we tried to contend for a while against the wind and sea, but in the morning, we were obliged to give it up and to come again under shelter of Malbaie Point.

From the 15th up to the 23rd, the winds were always north-north-west, north and north-east, with daily storms.

The weather was very cold; we had hard frosts every night, and the aspect of the neighboring country already covered with a deep snow, shewed that winter had set in; and to give an idea of the bad weather we had had since the fall, I may mention the fact that from the 1st of October to the 15th of November it had rained 29 days. Notwithstand-

ing, navigation was still open, and with *forty-eight* hours of a good wind, we should be able to reach Quebec.

On the 16th I went to Percé for biscuit and coal, two very necessary articles, the want of which we were beginning to feel.

On the 19th, favored with a north-westerly wind, we got ready and started a second time for Quebec; but when near Point St. Peter, a gale came on from the north and obliged us to put back and anchor a second time at Malbaie.

In the afternoon of the 23rd, the north-east wind began to abate, and there being a promising appearance of a change of weather, we put out to sea; this time we were not disappointed, for about five in the afternoon a favorable east wind set in, of which we profited so far that in the morning of the next day, at 11 o'clock, we were already at *Seven Islands*, that is to say, we had performed half of the voyage between Malbaie and Quebec.

I put in at Seven Islands for the purpose of taking on board Mr. Smith, the collector of the port, whom I had received instructions to carry back to Quebec at the close of the season.

This gentleman lost no time in coming on board and at a quarter past twelve we again set sail with a splendid easterly breeze, the most favorable wind we could expect; fine clear weather, and nothing whatever to indicate a snow-storm.

But we had not made more than thirty miles, when the wind had changed into a furious storm, and the snow was falling thick and fast, completely obstructing the view of the North Shore on our starboard beam.

We took all the precautions usual in such cases. All the sails were taken in except the fore-ail and jib, which we continued to carry after having taken two reefs in it. Our course which was at first south-west-quarter-west, was altered to the south-west, so as to keep farther off the North Shore. We were proceeding without fear or anxiety, the officers and sailors were on deck ready to execute whatever circumstances might require; we were running at a rate of from 7 to 7½ knots an hour.

At 6 o'clock at night the storm was increasing and it continued to snow. The night was very dark; nothing could be seen at a distance of ten feet; our course was ascertained. We calculated we were from 10 to 12 miles from the North Shore, and from 12 to 15 miles from Point des Monts. We kept on our course with a feeling of security still towards the south-west, which would bring us near Cape Balance, on the south shore of the river if our compass was right, and there was nothing to indicate incorrectness.

Suddenly, about half-past six, and without having seen the breakers, although there were two men on the look-out at the bow of the schooner, she was lifted up by a terrible sea and thrown upon the rocks, upon which she, nevertheless, slid, receiving, however, shocks which shook her from keel to mast-head. She was soon thrown on her side, and the keel torn away, and she began to fill. The seas struck the larboard side with extreme violence, and flew more than forty feet over the bulwarks. The Captain had ordered the helm to be put hard up the moment the schooner struck, but she no longer obeyed her helm. The sailors were ordered to hold on by the rigging, as the waves breaking over the vessel, they ran the risk of being swept away. The schooner still yielded to the wind, and each wave lifted her and let her fall again upon the rocks, bringing her nearer and nearer to the shore. We did not know precisely where we were. All at once, we saw land. It was trees, and we were not a hundred yards from them. The darkness of the night and the falling snow, still as thick as ever, had prevented us from seeing it sooner. From the moment the schooner struck the first time to the moment we saw the land, about twenty minutes had elapsed; but those minutes seemed like hours for us. It was as cold as in winter, and the wind, far from abating, was still increasing. At each heavy sea, the schooner would go nearer and nearer to the beach, which we discovered to be sandy. As the tide was going down, we felt sure that we should be able to land in a few hours. In fact, at about eight o'clock, I got some of the men ashore by means of a yard that we pushed to the beach. These helped the others, and at length all the crew were landed, thanking Providence for having been preserved from the great danger to which they had been exposed. We spent the night in the woods, around a great fire that we were fortunate enough to light.

On the following day, we found out that we were about two miles lower than the Cariboo Islets.

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In the afternoon, at low tide, we began to dismantle the schooner, and to put the cables, sails and tackle safely ashore. We were engaged at this work for three days.

On the 28th, we left the Cariboo Islets for Point des Monts. Before leaving the schooner, I made, with Capt. Bernier, a detailed inspection of her, and she was then in the following state:—Lying on her starboard side, on a fine sand bed, at about 60 yards from the shore, which is low and covered with trees. Since the night of the wreck, a sand bank had been formed between the schooner and the beach, being already higher than her water-line. The stem and stern had received no damage whatever, the rudder had been moved about six inches but without damage. On the starboard side, the ship's timbers appeared as firm as before the accident; no opening was perceptible, and we could not observe any alteration in the decks or cross-beams of this side of the schooner. On the starboard side it was not so. This side had received such violent shocks on the rocks that it had given in a little, and was lifted up in the middle about six or eight inches. The caulking in some of the seams was displaced, but the seams themselves were not opened. A part of the keel had been carried away as above mentioned, and it was owing to the absence of this piece of wood forming the keel that the schooner had filled. The masts and standing rigging had not suffered, and all the running rigging, the sails and tackle belonging to the schooner had been put ashore in order.

Before leaving, I chose one of my best sailors as guardian of the schooner, and he received instructions to take the greatest care of the goods given him in charge. I have but to add that the accident which befel us, and which we could neither foresee nor prevent, could only be attributed to the deviation of our compass, occasioned by the electrical state of the atmosphere during a snow storm; our course having been the only right one.

On the 29th, we took advantage of fine weather to cross the river in two boats, from Point des Monts to Petit Matane, where we landed at 7 p. m.

On the 5th of December, the crew arrived in Quebec; on the 6th and 7th, they were paid off and discharged.

REMARKS ON THE CANADIAN FISHERIES OF THE GULF.

The result of our fisheries has been generally very successful; if the market price had been as high as in ordinary years, the profit would have been great. Unfortunately, owing to the civil war in the United States, prices have been low, especially for salmon and small dried codfish.

I shall speak of the fisheries separately, shewing the product of each, beginning with the cod-fishery, the most important.

COD FISHING.

This fishery is known to be one of the most important carried on in the Gulf, as we saw land. It affords employment to thousands of people, together with an abundant supply of the cheapest and most wholesome kind of food. Hundreds of schooners and thousands of boats are engaged in it, and the conveyance of its products to the home or foreign markets supplies freight to many ships, gives occupation to the ship-builder, and with him, to many other artisans who supply the rigging and equipments of all kinds, as well as to the hands which manufacture lines and nets—no slight field for Canadian industry, inasmuch as it will in time give rise to a new branch of agriculture, namely, the cultivation of hemp, to which our soil and climate are admirably adapted.

Cod-fishing is divided into summer and fall fishing. The former begins with the opening of the navigation, and lasts till the 15th of August. The fish is sun-dried for the foreign market. The latter, or fall fishing, gives a better article than the first, the fish being fatter and the flesh firmer; but instead of being dried it is either pickled or more usually dry-salted in empty flour barrels, and often only when in store; after which various forms of preparation it reaches the consumer.

Generally speaking, cod-fishing has been successful on our shores, although in some few places it has failed, these being exceptional; whilst in the most celebrated fishing

places, such as l'Anse aux Blancs Sablons, Natashquan, Moisie, Percé and elsewhere, the cod was most abundant. The small fish, such as caplin and launce, which are the food of the cod in their periodical migration to our shores, urged by the strong instinct of continuing their species, and which likewise serve as bait for our fishermen, were also abundant. Accordingly, while the fishermen had large hauls of this fine fish on the shores of the Gulf, on the eastern coast of Newfoundland, on the Great Bank and other grounds, and at the mouth of the Gulf there were scarcely any fish.

It is very difficult to supply a reason for this. Are we to suppose that the shoals of cod coming from the depths of the ocean or from the Arctic seas have failed to find the food and other conditions which they require? Was there a deficiency of their usual subsistence? Or are we to conclude that the caplin and the launce, which also resort to our shores for the purpose of spawning, to return to the sea after the fulfilment of their mission, have deviated from their ordinary track, this year, and made their way through both entrances of the Gulf, at the same time, without pausing on the Banks within a hundred leagues of the river, drawing after them the cod of which they are the natural prey? The last hypothesis is, in my opinion, the true one; for wherever we find the capelin and the launce, especially the former, we are almost sure to find the cod, after the interval of a few days. On the coast of Gaspé, the caplin, which had made its appearance early in the season, left the shore at the end of June. But for this the cod-fishery would have been the most successful known in thirty or forty years. Unluckily, as the fish for bait fell short, the fishermen were obliged to remain inactive while the cod was still abundant on the banks, and none but those who succeeded in obtaining muscles and shell-fish of the molluscous kind, dug up from the sand and mud of the beach, were able to continue their occupation successfully.

In the present year, the shoals of codfish seem to have frequented our shores in greater numbers than ever, and were caught in greater or smaller quantities on the north shore, from l'Anse aux Blancs Sablons to St. Nicholas Harbour. On the south shore codfish was abundant at Matane, Metis and as far as Rimouski. The same at the Bay of Chaleurs, where the fish were abundant as high up even as Carleton.

The places where codfish has been the most scarce this year are Belles Amours, Salmon Bay, the Dog Islands, and Gaspé Bay.

Product of summer fishery, about 135,000 quintals, of which 130,000 were exported to Brazil, Spain and Italy, and the remainder to Halifax. Total value, \$405,000.

The fall fishing at first promised to be very abundant. The Banks near shore were covered with cod; squid was abundant; and fishermen, with their peculiar hook, called "*Turlutes*," the people could easily, in one night, make ample provision of bait for next day's fishing. During the first weeks the fishing was good, but immediately afterwards gales and stormy weather set in, which were this year unusually heavy, and accompanied with torrents of rain, fogs and snow. These were perilous obstacles to the prosecution of their labours, lasting from the beginning of October to the close of the season. They could, therefore rarely venture out, being, while at sea, exposed to the greatest dangers. The boats in use on our coast are but frail, though well modelled, to encounter heavy seas, and well handled by their crews; they are about twenty to twenty-two feet keel and undecked, and in such boats our hardy fishermen go out sometimes ten leagues from shore. I need not say they often run great risks, and that their pursuit is a rough and arduous one in the autumn. It is then evident that, under these circumstances, the fall fishing was not so productive as in previous years.

From the informations received, I estimate the take to be 15,000 quintals. Value, \$45,000.

The autumn fishery fell short, therefore, of the yield of former years, and the markets were visibly affected by the scarcity of this fine fish, which, in its green state, is principally retailed in the country parts, forming a staple article of the food of the Catholic population, during the season of Lent.

HERRING FISHERY.

This fishery is also divided into spring and fall fishing. The first is made during the month of May, with nets and seines set in shallow water, near the Banks where herring

come to spawn. The fish is lean at this time of the year, nearly one-fifth of the whole weight of their bodies being composed of eggs in the females and of melt in the males; but it nevertheless constitutes one of the greatest sources of exportation for hot climates, where it keeps, pickled, for a very long time; and we must bear in mind that this source of wealth is inexhaustible.

The principal places for herring fishing are the Magdalen Islands, the Bay of Plaisance, La Grande Entrée, sometimes l'Étang du Nord, the Bay of Chaleurs, Bouaventure, Casca-pedia Bay, on the New Richmond side as well as on the Maria side, and Carleton Bay. To these might be added Port Daniel and the Bay of the Seven Islands, where for a few years past a great quantity of this fish has been taken, either with the seine, net, or hurdle fishery.

On the Gaspé coast, herring appears about the month of May; it is then used as bait, although a few barrels are sent to market or kept for winter use. I have already explained, in my report, the cause of failure of the herring fishery at Magdalen Islands, but still a greater number of schooners than ever—nearly 300—having resorted there, the fishing yielded, in the bay, from 40,000 to 50,000 barrels. On the remainder of our shores, the fishing gave from 7000 to 8000 barrels.

The fall herring,—that delicious fish called Labrador herring,—for what reason I cannot imagine, visits only the north shore, and keeps near the Straits of Belle Isle. It appears at the end of August, and continues till the end of October.

Is this fish the same herring which, after having fattened in the gulf, returns to the Ocean by the Straits of Belle Isle, nearing the shores in the meantime; or is it another species of the same family? This point has not yet been decided by American naturalists; although the last hypothesis seems to be the correct one, the fish not being exactly similar to the spring herring.

Fall herring visits the shores of Newfoundland as well as those of Labrador, from l'Anse aux Blancs Sablons to Cape Charles, and many hundred miles further up. Sometimes it abounds on the north shore, and then it is scarce at Newfoundland, and *vice versa*.

With large seines of sometimes 150 fathoms in length by 10 to 12 in breadth in the middle, and favorable weather, as much as 300, 500, and 800 barrels of herring are caught. If favorable weather will allow, the fish to be left in the seine, it may be taken away with a smaller seine from the larger one.

This fish must be dressed immediately: it does not keep long when out of water. After having been well cured and washed, it must be salted with great care, in water-tight barrels, or else it would acquire a rancid taste. A barrel of Labrador herring, well kept, is always worth from four to five dollars.

What an immense source of wealth is this fishery! When one reflects that as much as from 600 to 800 barrels of herring, of the first quality, are caught in one single haul of the seine, and in the space of one hour at the most! I have seen myself, in 1854, a seine set by Nova Scotia fishermen, after having been five days in the water, drawn out with 800 barrels of herring.

This branch of fishing was limited this year to Blancs Sablons and Bradoré Bay, and the fish were not very large.

For some years, it has been observed that the largest kind of herring visits Newfoundland and that part of the Labrador coasts under the jurisdiction of the Government of Newfoundland, rather than our shores.

No reason can be given for this extraordinary fact.

All the Magdalen Islands and Esquimaux Point schooners engaged in this fishery with success, as did also some ten schooners from the parishes below Quebec.

Number of barrels of fish caught say about 5000, value, \$15,000; value of spring herring caught on our shores,—48,000 barrels at \$1.50—\$72,000.

MACKEREL FISHERY

Like the herring, the mackerel resorts to the shores of the gulf to spawn, and is then taken with nets. This fishing is much practised in Nova Scotia, and especially in the Gut of Canso. On our shores it is followed only at the Magdalen Islands; in the Bay of Plaisance, from the first to the middle of June. This net fishing gives but poor results, and is of no great importance to us. Not so with the summer fishing: our fishermen

throw into the water a kind of paste made with fish offal so as to keep near their boats the mackerel, which they afterwards catch with hooks baited with a small piece of the skin of the mackerel's throat.

This fishery, neglected till now by Canadians, has assumed a great importance in the United States, especially in the State of Massachusetts, where some small seaports send as many as 1500 fine schooners to the gulf. The finest fleet is that of Gloucester, comprising at least 600 sail.

Mackerel was very scarce this year in the gulf; it was hardly seen on the shores of Gaspé, and appeared but a few days in the St. Lawrence. It was abundant around the Magdalen Islands, especially at the entrance of the Bay of Plaisance. During August and September, from 100 to 150 American schooners fished there, with various success. Number of barrels caught by our fishermen in the Bay of Plaisance, 400. The summer fishing amounted to 1000 barrels. Total value, \$11,200.

SALMON FISHERY.

With our fishery laws and regulations (slightly modified) continuing to be put in force and observed, this fishery will soon become one of the most important of the country, and our rivers again be what they were formerly—the most productive of North America. Already it is observed that every year their produce increases.

On the north shore this fishery did not give uniformly good results; thus while from l'Anse aux Blancs Sablons to Nataashquan they were little better than common, they were more than doubled or trebled west of that point, especially at St. John and Moisie. In the river, falling into the Bay of Gaspé, the fishing was good. In those of the Bay of Chaleurs, except the Restigouche, which gave an excess over the results of last year, the fishing stations both in the river and along shore gave generally less fish than the year before. The stations on the north shore of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence gave about 1831 barrels of salmon, and those of Gaspé and the Bay of Chaleurs 688½; value, \$30,231. This includes only the salmon caught in my division; that is to say, west of Godbout River, on the north shore, and west of Cape Chatte River, on the south.

I estimate the quantity of trout taken in my division at 200 barrels; at \$12 per barrel, \$2400.

RECAPITULATION.

Codfish, summer fishing, 150,000 quintals.....	\$450,000
“ fall “ 15,000 “	45,000
Herring, spring “ 48,000 barrels	72,000
“ fall “ 5,000 “	15,000
Mackerel, 1,400 barrels.....	11,200
Salmon, 2,519½ “	30,231
Cod Oil, 90,000 gallons, @ 45cts.....	40,500
Seal “ 62,513 “ @ 65cts.	37,508
	\$701,489
Whale Oil, 33,600 gallons.....	17,680
200 barrels trout, @ \$12.....	2,400
200 “ halibut, @ 6.....	1,200
200 “ cod sounds and tongues, @ \$5.....	1,000
Value of seal skins.....	7,200
Total value of the products of the fisheries.	\$730,919

STATISTICS OF THE NORTH SHORE OF THE RIVER AND GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE, FROM PORT NEUF TO L'ANSE AUX BLANCS SABLONS, 540 MILES OF SEA SHORE, IN 1861.

Number of people.....	4,418
French Canadians.....	2,612
Anglo-Canadians.....	628

English	308
French.....	24
Italians.....	2
Americans.....	5
Poles.....	1
Indians.....	833
Roman Catholics.....	3,841
Protestants.....	570
Jews.....	2
Fishermen.....	1,755
Hunters.....	1,038
Proprietors of beach-lots.....	332
Capital employed in the fisheries.....	\$699,555
Number of herring nets.....	46
" salmon ".....	340
Herring seines.....	14
Codfish ".....	19
Vessels.....	22
Fishing boats.....	774
Number of barrels of herring.....	2,370
" " salmon.....	1,167½
" quintals of codfish.....	51,668
" gallons of codfish oil.....	48,858
" " seal oil.....	40,839
Value of furs.....	\$46,970
Number of fathoms of seal nets.....	8,178
" houses.....	380
" horses.....	12
" cows.....	65
" working oxen.....	18
" sheep.....	59
" pigs.....	22
Value of these animals.....	\$2,970
Extent of cultivated land—arpents.....	67½
Number of Roman Catholic churches.....	9
" resident priests.....	2
" Protestant churches.....	1
" resident Protestant minister.....	1

STATISTICS OF THE ISLAND OF ANTICOSTI.

Length of the island.....	118 miles.
Breadth ".....	31 "
Number of inhabitants.....	67
Horses.....	3
Cows.....	10
Pigs.....	11
Value of these animals.....	\$600
Extent of cultivated land—arpents.....	60½
Number of barrels of potatoes.....	181
" bundles of hay.....	1,200
" sheaves of oats.....	100
" barrels of herrings.....	25
" " salmon.....	42
Value of furs.....	\$600

POPULATION OF THE NORTH SHORE IN 1852.

From l'Anse aux Blancs Sablons to River Coacachoo inclusive, 648.

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7,200

730,919

PREVENCE, FROM
RE, IN 1861.

4,418
2,612
628

In 1852, from River Coacochoo, there were as resident fishermen, and that during the salmon fishery merely, only the men employed by the Hudson's Bay Company at their different salmon fishing posts, who might number about 150, besides the chiefs and clerks of the trading posts of the said Company with the Montagnais Indians, and a few Canadian families settled at the King's Posts amounting as follows :—

Whites.....	110
Indians.....	500
Add the Fishermen.....	150
Total.....	760

Comparative statement of the population of the North Shore of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence in 1852 and 1861 :—

Population from l'Anse aux Blancs Sablons to Coacochoo in 1861	804
in 1852.....	648
Increase.....	156
Population from Coacochoo to Portneuf, in 1861.....	3,609
in 1852.....	760
Increase.....	2,849
Total population of the North Shore, in 1861.....	4,413
in 1852.....	1,408
Total increase.....	3,005

These statements show that the population of the north shore of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence has more than trebled since 1852, that is to say, during a period of ten years. But a thing worthy of remark is, that this increase took place principally on the western part of the shore. Thither in fact the fishermen have repaired, since the Act 16 Vic. cap. 92, has allowed them to establish fishing stations on the Labrador coast without fear of being, as formerly, molested by the Hudson's Bay Company's servants, thanks to the protection afforded by the fisheries' protection service.

In 1852 (and previously), there was not a single fishing establishment besides those of the salmon fishing stations of the Hudson's Bay Company, between the Rivers Coacochoo and Portneuf; now they are numbered by hundreds. On this whole length of shore, where formerly only a few houses, scattered here and there, were met with, now more than 300 houses are counted; there are even small villages as at Natashquan and Esquimaux Point, both founded by Acadians from the Magdalen Islands.

In 1852, and even a few years afterwards, there was not a single fishing establishment on the coast between Mingan Harbour and Seven Islands' Bay, and not a quintal of codfish taken there, except on the banks of the Rivers Mingan and St. John, which American fishermen had been in the habit of frequenting for a long period; now there is not a river, bay or creek unoccupied, and there are caught annually from 80,000 to 35,000 quintals of cod, besides other fish.

These are some of the results arrived at since the cessation of the monopoly formerly exercised by the New Brunswick Company at the King's Posts, and along the greater part of the Labrador coast.

Comparative statement of the products of the Fisheries on the North of the River St. Lawrence, and of the Gulf, for 1861 and 1852 :—

Quantity of codfish caught from l'Anse aux Blancs Sablons to Coacochoo, in 1861, quintals.....	9,535
do do 1852, "	9,480
Increase.....	55

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Quantity of codfish caught from Coacoachoo to Portneuf in 1861,			
quintals	do	do	1852.....
			500*
Increase.....			
			41,633
Quantity of Codfish caught on the North Shore in 1861, quintals...			
	"	"	1852, " ...
			9,980
Increase.....			
			41,688
Quantity of Cod Oil made on the North Shore in 1861, gals.....			
	"	"	1852, "
			4,800
Increase.....			
			39,058

Seal fishing with nets, on that part of the North Shore of the Gulf where it is followed—that is to say, from Coacoachoo to l'Anse aux Blancs Sablons, was not as productive as formerly. For instance, it gave in 1852, 43,950 gallons of oil, and in 1861 only..... 26,294 " of oil,

Decrease..... 17,656 "

This is attributed to the shore being now nearly all settled. These animals are now more afraid of coming near it than formerly; they keep further out, where our fishermen cannot catch them with their tackle. It is moreover argued that they are not now so numerous in the Gulf as they used to be, owing to the great slaughter yearly made of the young ones on the banks of Newfoundland, or in the Gulf, for the sake of the oil and fur.

Nevertheless, as a great many fishermen from Point aux Esquimaux and Natashquan hunt for seal in the gulf, the product of seal oil on the north shore was nearly equal to that of 1852, that is to say 40,839 gallons.

Not being aware of the product of the salmon fishing on the whole of the north coast in 1852, I cannot give any comparative statement of this, but it certainly has increased in value since that period. The same remarks apply to herring fishery.

RECAPITULATION.

Products of the fisheries on the North Shore with their value in 1861:	
Codfish, 51,668 quintals.....	\$155,004
" oil, 43,858 gallons.....	19,716
Seal oil, 40,839.....	26,545
Barrels of herring, 2,370 @ \$3.....	7,110
" of salmon, 1,831 @ \$12.....	23,172
" of trout, 150 @ \$12.....	1,800
Value of furs.....	40,970
4,832 seal skins, @ 80cts.....	3,506
	\$277,823
Add value of similar products from the Island of Anticosti.....	1,179
	\$279,002

STATISTICS OF MAGDALEN ISLANDS FOR 1861.

Total number of inhabitants.....	2,651
Males	1,399
Females	1,252
Roman Catholics.....	2,362
Protestants.....	289
French Canadians	2,072
Anglo "	188

* These 500 quintals, or thereabouts, were caught by H. B. Co's. servants, and used as winter-food.

English.....	24
Foreigners.....	50
From the Lower Provinces.....	317
Fishermen.....	618
Fishing schooners.....	37
Fishing boats.....	230
Nets.....	551
Seines.....	15
Quintals of codfish.....	9,134
Barrels of herring.....	6,150
“ of mackerel.....	1,271
Codfish Oil.....	9,490
Seal Oil.....	21,672

Value of Seal Skins and Furs, \$2,834.

Value of the products of the Fisheries at the Magdalen Islands:—

9,134 quintals Codfish, @ \$3.....	\$27,412
6,150 barrels Herring, @ \$3.....	18,450
1,271 do Mackerel, @ \$7.....	8,897
21,672 gallons Seal Oil, @ 65c.....	14,087
4,990 do Codfish Oil @ 45c.....	4,270
Value of Seal Skins.....	2,834

Total value.....\$75,950

P. FORTIN.

...	24
...	50
...	317
...	618
...	37
...	230
...	551
...	15
...	9,134
...	6,150
...	1,271
...	9,490
...	21,672

..	\$27,412
..	18,450
..	8,897
..	14,087
..	4,270
..	2,884
..	\$75,950

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