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EXTRACT from a **REPRESENTATION** of the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations to **HIS MAJESTY**, relating to the *Newfoundland* Trade and Fishery; dated 27th March 1766:—
And, **COPY** of Governor Pallisser's **REMARKS** on the present State and Management of the *Newfoundland Fishery*; dated 18th December 1765.

Ordered to be printed 11th March 1793.

EXTRACT from a REPRESENTATION
of the Lords Commissioners for Trade
and Plantations to His MAJESTY, relating
to the *Newfoundland* Trade and Fishery;
dated 27th March 1766.

To the KING's Most Excellent MAJESTY.

May it please Your MAJESTY,

IT appearing from the Reports of the State of Newfoundland, made last Year to this Board by Your Majesty's Governor of that Island, that the Military Establishments were neglected, and the principal Fortifications in Ruins; that an illicit and destructive Commerce had been carried on between Your Majesty's Subjects there and the French at Miquelon and St. Peter's; that great Difficulties and Embarrassments had occurred in the Execution of the Instructions given by Your Majesty for the well ordering the Fishery in those Parts, where the Subjects of France are allowed by Treaty a concurrent Fishery; and that a State of Inhabitancy, unrestrained by any Form or Constitution of Civil Government, had operated to the total Subversion of that Policy upon which the Fisheries dependent on that Island were originally established: And to defeat those great National Advantages which were the Objects of the Regulations of the Statute of 10th and 11th of William the Third, our Predecessors in Office thought it their Duty humbly to lay before Your Majesty, in their Representations of the 11th of December 1764, and the 29th of April 1765, a full State of these several Matters, to the End that Your Majesty might, with the Advice of Your Council, take such Measures, and establish such Regulations, as should be found necessary and expedient in a Case of so great Importance to the Interest of this Nation, and which appeared to require Attention.

In consequence of this Proceeding, it becomes a necessary and indispensable Duty in us most humbly to lay before Your Majesty such further Reports as have been made to us by Your Majesty's Governor of Newfoundland, of the present State of that Island, and of the several Occurrences during the last Fishing Season, so far as they relate to those Parts of his Duty on which he was directed to correspond with this Board.

N^o 3.

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From

From these Reports, as contained in the Papers hereunto annexed, it will appear to Your Majesty, that the Fortifications still continue in a State of Ruin and Decay; that the illicit Commerce between Your Majesty's Subjects and the French has been greatly enlarged and extended; that from Claims of exclusive Property set up by Your Majesty's Subjects, the Difficulties attending the Execution of those Instructions of Your Majesty, relative to that Part of the Coast where the French are allowed a concurrent Fishery, have become more and more urgent; and that the same disordered State of Inhabitancy still operates to subvert that Plan of Fishery adopted by the Statute of King William, and to render its Provisions and Regulations nugatory and useless; insomuch that it is the Sense and Opinion of Your Majesty's Governor, that it would be better for the National Interest, in respect to the encouraging the Increase of Seamen, which is One main Object of the Act of King William, not to have any Fishery at all, than that it should continue to be carried on under the Disadvantages that at present attend it, in this View of the Spirit and Intention of that Act.

How far Your Majesty's Governor is well-founded in this Opinion, we do not take upon us to determine; but certain it is, that the present State of this Island, and of the Territories dependent thereupon, does require the fullest Consideration; and that a Revision of the several Regulations which have been heretofore made in respect thereto is now become essentially necessary.

Every Information which this Office can furnish, relative to the ancient Policy and present State of this important Part of the National Interests, is already before Your Majesty: But that nothing may be wanting which may be of Use in this great Consideration, we further beg Leave humbly to lay before Your Majesty a Paper of Observations upon the State of the Newfoundland Fisheries, communicated to us by Your Majesty's Governor since his Return to this Kingdom; in which Paper are contained several Propositions for the future Regulation of this important Branch of Commerce, tending to re-establish it upon the ancient Policy of a Ship Fishery; the Propriety of which Policy Your Majesty's Governor appears, in all his Plans and Measures, to have zealously adopted.

COPY of Governor Palliffer's Remarks on
the present State and Management of the
Newfoundland Fishery; dated 18th De-
cember, 1765.

THE first and most important National Object from the Fishery, as set forth in the Preamble to the said Act, is the raising and maintaining a Number of Seamen for speedy manning our Fleets in Times of Danger; it therefore in the First Place provides for preserving, extending, and improving the Ship Fishery in Preference to all others, that being the ancient and by far the most if not the only advantageous Method to the Nation, therefore it grants to the Ship Fishers, and from Britain only, many and great exclusive Privileges; and in every Part of the Act relating to Inhabitants and Bye Boat Keepers, is a Clause for preserving inviolable to the Ship Fishers those Rights and Privileges; notwithstanding which the Ship Fishery is now wholly dropt and excluded by Encroachers and Monopolizers, the Inhabitants under Merchant Suppliers, by which every Rule and Order ordained by that excellent Act, for the Prosperity of the Fishery, is rendered ineffectual for the Purposes intended by it; One Consequence of which is, the French employ more Ships, raise Ten Times the Number of Seamen, catch more Fish, and the Yearly Return of Men directly to England, from our exclusive and extensive Fishery, without Bounds, is scarce One Eighth Part of the Number that Yearly return directly to France from their Fishery, though limited to the worst Parts. This appears by the compared State of this Year's Accounts of Ships and Men employed by both, hereto annexed.

We have, according to the Accounts I have collected, 16,000 People remaining in that Country during the Winter, but I am satisfied they are 20,000, of which 10,000 are Men who are all totally lost, for they (a very few excepted) have no Employment during the Winter, but live a most savage, detestable, wicked Life, spending their Time in Idleness, Debaucheries, and Excesses, and running in Debt on their next Year's Wages.

As the Value of the Labour of Seamen is undoubtedly the greatest of all labouring Men, for Defence of the State or for bringing in Wealth from abroad, so Ten thousand of them being lost to this Nation for either of those Purposes, during Six or Seven Months every Year, is alone a Matter deserving serious Consideration.

These Inhabitants never become either good Fishermen or good Seamen; or if they were so, they are always out of Reach to be of Use for manning our Fleets on any Occasion, as effectually so as if they were taken and carried to a French Prison before a Declaration of War.

Inhabitants such as above described are no Security to the Country, but the contrary; for they always have and always will join an invading Enemy,

as well from Necessity as Inclination, on such Occasions, and Three Fourths of them are Roman Catholicks.

Those Inhabitants, besides being a Loss to this Country, are a Nuisance to that, particularly by their great Consumption of Wood for Fuel, causing a Scarcity thereof at Hand for the Use of the Fishery; and this lays the Country more and more open to an invading Enemy.

By an Inhabitant Fishery, the Regulations in the Act for employing Green Men for the Increase of Fishermen and Seamen, is totally defeated; nor have we such Increase, though the Public supposes it is our best Nursery; nor can there be any Fishing Admirals of Harbours, consequently the Law, and all the Rules and Regulations, together with the Power for executing them, are in Effect superseded, and every National Good intended by that Law is defeated; they are the unfittest People to be employed in the Fishery, being habituated to Idleness, Debaucheries, and Wickedness; they are Strangers to the Mother Country, to Government, Religion, and good Order, which is the Mother of Labour and Industry, therefore they are neither laborious nor industrious, they have no Motive to be so, for they are no better than the Property or Slaves of the Merchant Suppliers, to whom, by exorbitant high Prices of their Goods, they are all largely in Debt, more than they can ever work out during Life; they have hitherto had no Means of freeing themselves from that State of perpetual Servitude, therefore the Fishery still went on, though universally allowed to be Yearly declining. People doomed to perpetual Servitude are ever wishing for change of Masters, so when Men find an Opportunity of becoming free and independent, they will certainly embrace it; therefore, now that the French have a Territory in the Midst of the Fishery, there is no Doubt but these People will fly there, as many have already done, with their Boats, Tackle, Fish and all, or become Fishers for them, beginning a fresh Score for Supplies with them, which great Numbers have already done; thus the Fishery and Men also are on the Point of being lost, who will hereafter be wholly employed for the French both in Fishing and clandestine Trade, to the utter Ruin of our Trade and Fishery.

The next most important National Object from the Fishery, as set forth in the Preamble to the Act, is to increase the Consumption of the Produce and Manufactories of this Kingdom, and for promoting Trade and Navigation. How an Inhabitant Fishery operates in this Respect may be judged of from the following Facts:

These 16 or 20 Thousand Inhabitants, as well as others employed in the Fishery, are subsisted and supplied as follows:

From England	— —	{ With a very small Quantity of Provisions of any Kind, scarce sufficient to victual the Men that navigate the Ships for their Passage out.
From Ireland	— —	{ With almost all their Beef, Pork, Butter, Linnen, and some Manufactories clandestinely brought in.

From

From the Plantations - -	}	With all their Bread, Flour, Rum, Sugar, Mellasses, some Beef, Pork, Pease, and sundry other Articles, amounting the last Year to £. 102,304. 3s. full Nine Tenths of which is immediately paid for in Bills of Exchange upon England.
From Foreign Countries -		A considerable Quantity of every Kind of Goods and Manufactories used in the Fisheries, as well from the French as from other Countries, brought by the Salt Ships; besides many Foreigners are concerned with our People in the Shipping so employed.

The present Managers of the Fishery pay Wages, &c. with these Provisions, Necessaries, and Cloaths, at most exorbitant Rates; thus the Wages, though nominally high, is reduced very low, the Men become their Property, and cannot get out of the Country, nor afford to wear but little Cloaths, especially as they are idle, and drink such immense Quantities of Rum, and thus they become averse to and unfit for Labour; but were they to return to England Yearly, they would get all Necessaries and Cloaths from 1 to 500 per Cent. cheaper, as they would not be idle or running in Debt during Six or Seven Months; but on the contrary, earning more Money, they would certainly become good industrious People, and expend more of the Produce and Manufactories of this Country; besides 30,000 such Men passing and re-passing every Year, that alone would employ above 200 Ships more, which would also create an Increase of the Consumption of our Manufactories, and be an immense Encouragement to Shipping, Trade, and Navigation.

The other great National Object from the Fishery, as set forth in the Preamble to the said Act, is by Returns for the Fish from Foreign Countries, of great Quantities of sundry useful Commodities to the Increase of His Majesty's Revenues; this Object is equally injured by an Inhabitant Fishery, they, for afore-mentioned Reasons, being neither laborious, industrious, nor able Fishermen, there is not Half the Quantity of Fish taken as would be, it is not so careful and so well cured as it ought to be, which is the Cause of such great Quantities of bad Fish going to Market, which spoils the Credit of English Fish, keeps the Prices low—consequently the Return, and the King's Revenue, is thereby proportionably lessened.

Upon the Whole, if no Inhabitants were allowed, but the Fishery to be laid open and free to all the King's Subjects, and carried on by Ship Fishers, or even if the Ship Fishery was only restored to the original Footing, as directed by the Act of the 10th and 11th of William the Third, it most certainly would occasion double the Quantity of Fish to be taken, a Yearly Return of more Men to England than now returns to France; instead of Two or Three thousand Men, as at present, we should have, in Time of Danger, a Yearly Return of 30,000 always ready for our Fleets; this Addition of Wealth and Strength to the State would always be increasing.

The Fishery would certainly thereby be effectually secured, and so extended and improved, as would provide Employment for all our Men, and none need be seeking Employment in Foreign Countries: By this Method only all illicit Trade and Dealings of our People with the French and other Foreigners can be effectually prevented.

The Consumption of the Produce and Manufactories of this Country, also Shipping Trade, and Navigation, would be greatly increased.

More than double the Quantity of Fish would be taken, be better cured, carried to Market at a cheaper Rate, in better Condition, and fetch a better Price, to the great Increase of the Importation of useful Commodities, and of the King's Revenue.

By encouraging our Ship Fishery to the Northward, the French Fishery there would be greatly lessened, as our People would share with them the exceeding fine Conveniencies ready made (which they will not do, whilst they have Expectations of getting Property); and a Ship Fishery there, in common with the French, is agreeable to our own Laws, most for the Benefit of the Nation, and strictly agreeable to Treaty; but to allow only an Inhabitant Fishery there, and our People to hold and possess as Property the Fishing Conveniencies (which they are contending for, to the Exclusion of all Ship Fishers, as they have done in all other Parts of Newfoundland) will be contrary to our own Laws, contrary to the National Interest, and directly contrary to the Privileges granted by Treaty to the French; for Inhabitants will, in the Absence of the Ships, destroy all their Works, both English and French, then build new ones, and call them their own Property, and claim a Right to be protected therein.

A few Monopolizers, whose particular Interests are incompatible with the true Interest and Security of the State, endeavour to have it believed, that to restore the Fishery to the State it ought to be, and as is provided by the Act of the 10th and 11th of William III. is impracticable; but the following Proposals being duly considered, and improved by abler Heads, will provide effectual Cures for some, if not all the present Evils, without the least Injustice to any One.

For confirm-
ing and secur-
ing all lawful
Claims to Prop-
erty in Fish-
ing Conveni-
encies.

As the ancient and constant Custom by which any Person gained an exclusive Right of possessing any Fishing Conveniency ever was by a Certificate from the Governor or Commodore of the Convoy, that such Person had performed the Conditions required by the Proviso in the Act of the 10th and 11th of William III. to entitle him to such exclusive Possession, and those Certificates described the Situation and Dimensions of the Places for which they were granted, and set forth that due Proof had been laid before him by the Fishing Admirals of the Port (who by Law are the Guardians of their own Rights and Privileges) that the Place had never been a Ship's Room since the Year 1685, let it be ordered that all Persons holding Possession of any Place by virtue of such Certificates, shall, on or before the _____ Day of _____ produce such Certificates to the Governor, to be by him examined, and he, being satisfied of the Authenticity thereof, to enter them in a Book of Record, to be carefully kept for that Purpose in the Fort at St. John's, and a Copy with the Board of Trade; and all Persons now possessing Places by virtue of such Certificates

so produced and registered, to be confirmed in their Possessions, with all Works and Buildings thereon, according to the true Intent and Meaning of the Act.

1st, All Places whatever, that are not held by Certificates of a Right to possess them as above mentioned, should remain public and free for all British Fishing Ships, and be deemed Ships Rooms, according to the true Intent and Meaning of the Act, after the Death of the present Possessors, the present pretended Owners.

For encouraging and supporting the Ship Fishers.

2nd, Whereas all the Land is in the Crown, and no Governor has ever been vested with Power to give or grant it away, it is necessary that the Proviso in the Act that says, " Provided always, that all such Persons as " since the 21st of March 1685 has built, cut out, or made," &c. should be farther explained as to the Nature of the Tenure by which Possession of a Fishing Conveniency is to be held under that Proviso of the Act; (that is to say) whether such exclusive Possessions are to be only for Life of the original Proprietors, or whether they are to be considered as Real or Personal Estates, different Governors having determined Causes various Ways, which produces infinite Numbers of Disputes, to the great Obstruction of the Fishery; causing great Expence and Loss of Time to those concerned, and to the Public, by a vast Number of good Places lying Waste because of such disputed and obsolete Claims.

3d, That nothing but a Ship Fishery be permitted in that Part of Newfoundland lying between Cape Bonavista and Point Riche, or on any other Part of the Coast of Newfoundland that was not actually in the Possession of the English when the said Act was made, nor on the Coast of all the conquered Lands and Islands now annexed to the Government of Newfoundland; but that the Whole of the Act of the 10th and 11th of William III. be hereafter in full Force in those Lands and Islands, except what relates to exclusive Possessions under the afore-mentioned Proviso in that Act.

4th, For preventing any Fishing Conveniencies being lost (as great Numbers now are) whether from obsolete Claims, long Suits depending about the Rights and Titles, or from Idleness of some, or Inability or Obstinacy in others, let it be ordered, that notwithstanding any Right or Title that have or may be acquired to such Places under the above-mentioned Proviso in the said Act, if any of those Places hereafter lie unoccupied or unused for the Fishery during One or Two Fishing Seasons, the same to be become public and free for the Use of all British Fishing Ships, and be deemed Ships Rooms.

5th, Conformable to the aforesaid Act, and according to ancient Custom, no Ship shall be deemed a Ship Fisher, or enjoy the Privileges thereto belonging, nor the Master exercise the Authority of an Admiral of a Harbour, except such as arrive from Britain, cleared out at the Custom House as such that same Year, and employeth at least Twenty-one Men and Boys actually brought with her that Season, and who are engaged to return after the Fishery is over; and that occupieth and useth a public Ship's Room,

Room, and not a hired One, or that is held and possessed as private Property.

6th, Whereas by fundry unlawful Practices of Inhabitants destroying the Stages, Flakes, and other Conveniencies belonging to the Ship Fishers, during the Absence of the Ships in the Winter, the Ship Fishers have been ruined, and excluded from the Fishery, and those Inhabitants become unlawful Possessors of all the old and best Fishing Conveniencies, which by Law ought to be preserved for the Use of Ship Fishers only—let it be ordered, that in all Harbours where there are, or hereafter may be, any Ships Rooms, the same shall be inviolably preserved for the Use of Ship Fishers only; and if any Damage is done to any such Stages, or other Conveniencies thereto belonging, in the Winter during the Absence of the Ships, all the Inhabitants of that Place shall be obliged to make good such Damages immediately on the Arrival of the Fishing Ships; and the Fishing Admirals of the respective Harbours to be authorized by Law to compel such Inhabitants to restore such Ships Rooms, and the Fishing Conveniencies thereto belonging, into the same State and Condition in which they were left the preceding Season; and till such Damages are so repaired, the Masters of such Fishing Ships to be authorized to occupy and use any Stage or Room possessed by any Inhabitant in that Harbour, that he pleases to make Choice of; for the Ship Fishers, according to the above-mentioned Act, must never be disappointed of their Voyage, where there is or ever was any lawful Ships Rooms.

7th, All Admirals transmitting to the Governor or Commodore a Report of the State of their Fisheries in their respective Harbours, as directed by the Act of the 10th and 11th of William III. on producing from the Governor or the Captain of any of the King's Ships a Certificate of the Receipt thereof, such Admirals Ships should be entitled to some Privilege or Reward; printed Forms for such Reports to be delivered gratis to every Fishing Ship when she clears out at the Custom House in Britain.

No Laws, Rules, or Regulations that ever have or can be made for such People as the present Inhabitant Fishers of Newfoundland are, will ever be of any Use, without Pains and Penalties being annexed to Offences against those Laws.

The encouraging and obliging the Men to return Yearly to England.

1st, The greatest Part of the Fishermen now residing in the Country, called Planters or Master Boat Keepers, are a Kind of Prisoners or Slaves to their Suppliers, who, to prevent their Return, threaten them with a Gaol for Debt; which Debts have been contracted by shameful Impositions and Oppressions, for the Purpose of keeping them there. Those Creditors know it is not possible ever to be paid those Debts in Newfoundland; nor are those Debts, if they were to be strictly examined into, either lawful or just. Suppose it should be enacted, that all such Fishermen so in Debt at
this

this Time, contracted there, who may hereafter return from Newfoundland to Britain, should be exempt from Arrest for such Debts so long as they continue to go to and return from Newfoundland Yearly to Britain.

2nd, No Debt whatever contracted in that Country by any Fisherman, or Servant serving for Wages, should be recoverable.

3d, It is the Practice of Inhabitants to engage Men to serve Two Summers and a Winter: It should not be lawful for any Men to bind themselves to serve in that Country for more than Six Months, or for One Fishing Season.

4th, It is the general Practice of Masters to credit their Fishermen Servants to the Amount of their whole Wages, above Half of which is most commonly Rum: Thus, when their Time is out, they are distressed, and necessitated to stay, having nothing to pay their Passage; they must steal for their Subsistence, or sell themselves to the Plantations, which Thousands do from this Cause.

5th, For Remedy of these Evils, no Deductions from any Servants Wages for Liquor should be lawful, nor for Supplies of any other Kind in Newfoundland exceeding Shillings.

6th, Every Master should by Law be obliged to pay, out of the Wages of each Man he employs, the Passage Money for the Man's Passage Home to the Master of a Passage Ship, in the same Manner as by Custom they now pay for the Passage out of any Man they hire on his Arrival. This Encouragement to Ships will make a certain Provision of a sufficient Number of Ships to carry all the Men Home; but now from the Uncertainty of getting such Freights very few Ships put up for Passengers Home.

7th, No Dietors, or People who entertain Fishermen or Servants in that Country in the Winter, on the Credit of their Wages, should be allowed in Newfoundland; all such Men, as well as their Entertainers, being Idlers, and a Public Loss.

8th, As farther Encouragement for Shipping to bring Home Men from the Fisheries, suppose that every Ship bringing Home at the least Men Passengers from the Fisheries was to be entitled to some Privileges; such as, in Times of Press, such Ships to be allowed a certain Number of Men free from Press, in the same Manner, and for the same good Purposes, as the Greenland Ships have now by Act of Parliament, for the Encouragement of that Trade, a Protection for a certain Number of Men. Masters of Ships to be entitled to such Protections, on producing what may be judged a proper Certificate of the exact Number of Men he has actually landed in Britain, or in His Majesty's Dominions in Europe: Thus the exact Number returning will be nearly known.

9th, As a farther Security for the Return of the Men, let it be unlawful to pay any Servant's Wages in Newfoundland otherways than by Bills of Exchange for the Balance due, such Bills to be drawn payable to the Man only; but to make such Bills negociable, they may be payable to the Man's Order, provided he indorses it after landing in the

King's Dominions in Europe, in the Prefence of a Justice of the Peace, such Justice attesting such Indorsement: A Form of the Bills to be used for this Purpose to be annexed to the Act.

Of the Government or Superintendency of the Fisheries.

The Prosperity of the Fishery requires, in all Disputes and Differences, short, speedy, and unexpensive Issues; and the Act of the 10th and 11th of William III. directs, that certain Disputes and Differences shall be determined on the Spot, in a summary Way, by the Admirals, appealable to the Captains of the King's Ships. But under the present Management of the Fisheries there are no Admirals for hearing and determining such Matters; which is the Occasion of many endless Disputes, to the great Obstruction of the Fishery, and Loss to the Public. It is therefore absolutely necessary to restore the Ship Fishery, to renew, support, and extend the Admirals Powers; but no Admirals, no Captains of King's Ships, no Commodore nor Governor, should meddle in any Matters but what are purely relative to the Fishery, for preventing Obstructions thereto, for preserving the Peace, keeping good Order amongst the Fishermen, and for immediate Trial of Capital Offences; but all Matters of Disputes amongst Merchants concerning their Accounts, or Matter relative to Trade, should be heard and determined only in Britain. This will prevent People staying in the Country; also remedy such incredible Practices of Knavery and unfair Dealings as no Trade whatever can prosper under, and which cannot otherways be remedied.

When the Fishing Admiral's lawful Authority is restored and supported, and the Country cleared of a Number of idle Men in the Winter, there will be no Want of Justices of the Peace. It is they that have put an End to the Ship Fishery, by not suffering the Fishing Admirals to act in the respective Harbours; and such Justices being all People concerned in Trade, they use their Authority for no other Purpose but to favour Monopoly, and are guilty of the most shameful Partialities and Injustices, to the very great Prejudice of the Fishery.

To prevent the great Loss to the Fishery and to the Public by so many Men running from that Country to the Plantations every Year, let it be ordered that no Vessels belonging to, or bound to or arriving from any of the Plantations, shall be allowed to stay in any Part of the Government of Newfoundland after the 10th Day of October, on which Day the Fishermen are usually discharged; nor any such Vessel be permitted at any Time to take on Board any Men Passengers without a Permit in Writing from the Governour only, on Forfeiture of such Vessel, the Captains of the King's Ships to be authorized to seize such Vessels having on Board more Men than for their Navigation, at the Rate of Men per Hundred Tons. This will also prevent any People from the Colonies coming to Newfoundland to carry on the Fisheries, to the Prejudice of the British Merchants and Shipping, contrary to the Meaning of the Fishing Act.

An ACCOUNT of SHIPS and MEN employed by the English and French on the *Newfoundland Fisheries* 1765 ; with some Remarks.

N ^o of Ships.	E N G L I S H.	Men.
151	Ships arrived this Year, from England and Ireland, called British Fishing Ships, carrying	2,211
	Passengers in D ^o from England	1,993
	D ^o from Ireland	2,753
26	From Jersey, called British Fishing Ships, carrying	310
	Passengers in D ^o	633
46	Ships called Sack Ships, the greatest Part of which arrive from Foreign Ports with Salt, or in Ballast, carrying	1,252
293	Total employed this Year, exclusive of the Inhabitants	9,152
	Of the above Number are lost, that go to the Plantations Yearly, at least	1,000
	Remains	8,152
	Of the Remainder 3,492 are employed to navigate 253 Ships, at 14 Men each, to Foreign Markets; Two Thirds of which it is supposed return to England, Ireland, and Jersey, a short Time before the Season for going again; the other One Third do not return, but go directly to Newfoundland from Abroad the next Year	3,492
	The rest of the Remainder return to England, Ireland, and Jersey, immediately after the Fishery is over, being 4,660 in 40 Ships, who also carry home Oil, Fur, and Skins	4,660
Total	From Europe in Shipping, Passengers and all included, 9,152 Men Inhabitants — — — 9,976	Total, including the Sack Ships Men. 19,128

Particulars of the Inhabitants, above Three Fourths of which are Irish Roman Catholics

Men	9,976
Women	1,645
Children	3,863

Of these People full Nine Tenths of them are of no Use in that Country, and are lost to this, during Six Months of the Year; for during that Time they are perfectly idle, abandoned to every Sort of Debauchery and Wickedness; become perfect Savages; are Strangers to all good Order, Government, and Religion; by habitual Idleness and Debaucheries they are averse to and unfit for Labour, never becoming either industrious Fishermen or useful Seamen; or if they were either, they are never of Use for manning our Fleets or for Defence of the Mother Country, have no Attachment

		F R E N C H.						
N ^o of Ships.	At what Place.	Tons.	N ^o of Men.	Boats.	Guns.	Quintals of Fish.	Hhd ^s of Oil.	REMARKS.
117	Between the Cape Bonavista and Point Riche	18,495	7,862	1,405	567	292,790	2,927	This Account is very exact, being taken from a strict Examination of each Ship.
130	The several Accounts I have had of their Ships employed on the Banks of Morrie Vert are very uncertain, being from One to 200; I set them down at 130, of 130 Tons and 30 Men each; and allow each Man to take 2,000 Fishes, 60 of which make a Quintal, dried	16,000	3,900	—	Not known.	130,000	2,600	
20	Fishing Ships at St. Pierre's, at 130 Tons and 60 Men each	2,600	1,200	240	Not known.	24,000	480	The Boats belonging to the Ships being drove off the Coast of Newfoundland, they have not taken above 100 Quintals per Boat; and some of them were taken for fishing out of their Limits.
2	French Frigates came to St. Pierre's in June intended to cruize there, and had on Board a great Quantity of Goods to purchase Fish from the English Fishers and clandestine Traders	—	400	—	50	—	—	
269	Total Ships and Men returned directly to France	37,095	13,362					
50	Small Vessels belonging to St. Pierre's and Miquelon employed on the Banks and in the Gulph S ^t Lawrence, allowing each 50 Tons, 15 Men, and 600 Quintals Fish this Season	2,500	750	—	—	30,000	600	It is said these Vessels have had a successful Season.
120	Boats employed by the Inhabitants of the Islands, at 5 Men each	—	600	120	—	12,000	240	
20	Allow 20 Trading Vessels from the West India Islands, at 60 Tons, 12 Men	1,200	240					
339	Grand Total	40,795	14,952	1,765	617	488,790	6,840	

From the above Account it appears that 269 French Ships and 13,362 Men returned directly to France at the End of the Fishing Season, all which Ships and Men are wholly fitted and maintained with the Produce and Manufactories of Old France only. The Men are in constant Readiness for manning their Fleets either for Offence or Defence, and if they are not wanted for that Service during the Winter, they are not idle and lost, as our Men in Newfoundland are, but are always employed to their own and the Public Benefit in some other Branches of Trade till the next Fishing Season; besides, of this 13,362 Men every Fifth being a New or Green Man, they have a Yearly Increase of 2,670 Seafaring Men every Year from their Fisheries.

Notwithstanding for the greatest and best Parts of the Fishing Coast belongs exclusively to the English, and the French are limited, and to the worst Parts, whilst ours is without Bounds.

That France has a certain Yearly Increase of 2,670 Seafaring Men from their Fishery, whilst we lose One or Two thousand that run every Year to America, and no Rule observed for increasing our Seamen, or preventing the Fishermen and Seamen running to America.

That the French Fishermen kill as much Fish *per* Man as our Inhabitants, notwithstanding our boasted Advantage of carrying it on by Inhabitants. It must also be noted, that in the Limits to which the French are confined between Cape Bonavista and Point Riche, they have scarce Half the Time for catching Fish that our People have to the Southward, where the Fish is equally abundant during that double Time for catching and curing.

That great Part of the Fishing Conveniencies on the prime Part of the Coast for Fishing is lost, by the Inhabitants possessing them, as Property; few or none of them employing Half the Number of Boats and Men as Ship Fishers would on the same Places, besides the many Conveniencies that lie Waste, because of the infinite Number of disputed Claims to Places which none of them can make out a Right to, being originally Ships Rooms; yet they exclude the Ships.

That in those Harbours to the Northward, where we have this Year had a few Fishing Ships, those Ships who brought out their own Men killed Two Thirds as much more Fish as our Inhabitant Fishers in the same Harbours: This Gain in the Quantity of Fish is, I apprehend, greater and more certain Profit to those concerned, and to the Public, than what is got by peddling monopolizing Trade of supplying a few slothful miserable Wretches for the Winter's Subsistence, and in Idleness; besides, the Employers of the Men in Ships would always likewise have the Benefit of supplying them at Home, by which the Men will get their Necessaries cheaper, consequently Wages then will fall, and they will expend no Foreign Manufactories.

Thus it appears the Public would be a very great Gainer, though no more Men than at present should be employed; but if the Fishery was to be laid open and free to all His Majesty's Subjects, as by Law it ought to be, the Ship Fishers encouraged, supported, and restored to their Privileges, there would be so many more Places, so much more Time, and so many more and better Men employed, as would, without the least Doubt, cause double the Quantity of Fish to be taken; consequently the Public Gain, and the King's Revenue, would be doubled, besides the far more important Acquisition of 30,000 Men, in constant Readiness to Man our Fleets for Security of the State; and give us such a noble Superiority over our Enemies or Rivals, as would be a certain Means of preventing War: But whilst the French manage their Fishery so well, and we ours so ill, they will always be able to harra's us with fresh Wars every Four or Five Years.

On the Fishery on the Coast of Labrador, within the Gulph of St. Lawrence only, was employed 117 Sloops and Schooners, with 1,563 Men, who killed 104 Whales, which yielded on an Average 140 Barrels of Oil, and 2,000 Weight of good Bone, all killed within a Space of 30 Leagues, and between 14th May and 10th July. The Winter Seal Fishery on the same

Coast, carried on by 107 Men, yielded 500 Tons of Oil, besides Fur; and the Furs from the Indians was very considerable; so that the Value of the Whale, Seal, Cod, Salmon, and Furs, upon that Part of the Coast only, was at a moderate Computation £. 100,000, and not One Old England Ship or Seaman employed therein, nor a Seaman raised thereby for the Service of the Fleet.—Such is the Effect of letting the Newfoundland Fishery run into Monopoly, that the rest of our Merchants, if they cannot have a Monopoly likewise, will let the New England Men, or Frenchmen, or any Body run away with it.

The New England Men sell the Fish, Oil, and Bone to the French at Petit Nord: The Settlers from Canada all deal with the French at Newfoundland, St. Pierre's, and directly with France.

(Signed) HUGH PALLISSER,
18th Decem^r 1765.

Office of Committee of
Privy Council for Trade,
Whitehall, 11th March 1793.

A true Copy.

GEO. CHALMERS,
Ch^f C^k Com. C^t Trade.