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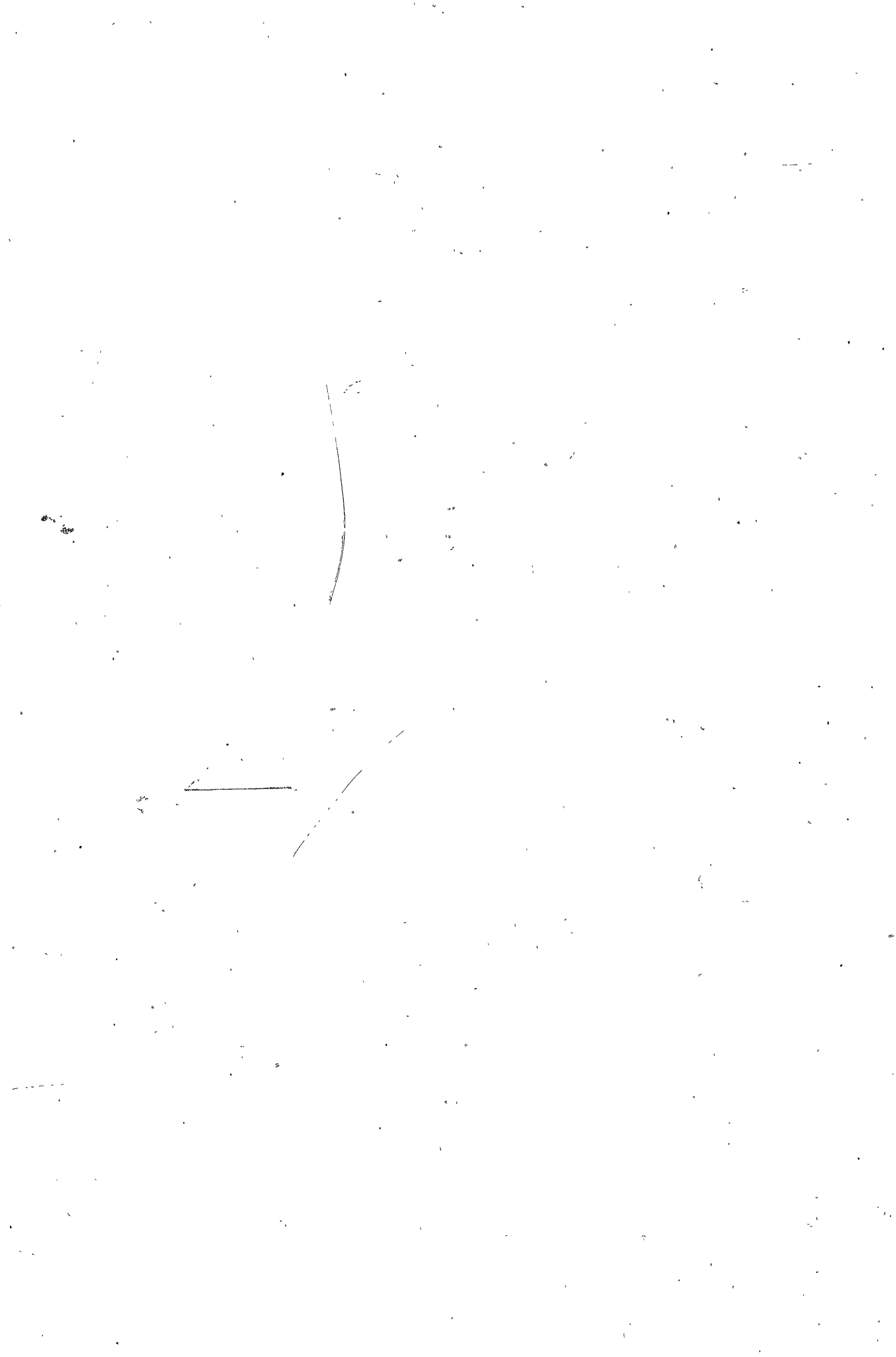
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COPY of a REPRESENTATION of  
the Lords Commissioners for Trade and  
Plantations to His MAJESTY, relating to  
the *Newfoundland* Trade and Fishery;  
dated 19th December 1718.

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*Ordered to be printed 11th March 1793.*

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lating to the *Newfoundland* Trade  
and Fishery; dated 19th December  
1718.

To the KING's Most Excellent MAJESTY.

May it please Your MAJESTY,

**T**HE Fishery at Newfoundland having been obstructed and discour-  
aged for many Years past, not only by the late Wars, but by the  
Irregularities of the Inhabitants, Traders, and Fishermen, who reside in  
and resort to that Island;

We have, in Obedience to Your Majesty's Commission, whereby we  
are directed to enquire into the several Obstructions of Trade, and the  
Means of removing the same, considered the past and present State and  
Condition of the aforesaid Fishery, in what Manner it was formerly and is  
now carried on, and by what Regulations and Laws it has been and still is  
directed and governed.

And thereupon we most humbly crave Leave to represent to Your  
Majesty,

That the Fishery in Newfoundland was at first settled by Merchants and  
other Adventurers inhabiting the Western Parts of this Kingdom, and  
succesfully carried on for many Years, under the Restriction of such Cus-  
toms and Laws as were agreed upon by the Fishermen among them-  
selves.

That although the Harbours and Fishing Places were for some Time  
left open and free to all Nations (without Prejudice, however, to the So-  
vereignty of Your Majesty's Royal Predecessors) nevertheless great Num-  
bers of Ships and Seamen were Annually employed by the said Advon-  
turers, some in fishing, and others in supplying them with Salt from France  
and Portugal, and in carrying their Fish to Foreign Markets; which Ships  
being furnished with Provisions and all other Necessaries of English Pro-  
duction and Manufacture for the whole Voyage, it was not only a parti-  
cular Advantage to the Western Counties, but likewise to the Nation in

general, by increasing the Factories in Foreign Countries, and by promoting the Consumption of our Manufactures.

And forasmuch as the Fishing Ships required more Hands than were barely necessary to navigate them, the Masters and Owners constantly bred up many Servants and others unacquainted with the Sea, by which Method the Charge of the Voyage was lessened, and the Number of Seamen for the Service of the Crown and Kingdom was wonderfully increased; and to excite their Industry, as well as to reward their Labour, instead of allowing them Wages by the Month or Voyage, according to the present Practice of most of the Fishing Towns, every One had a certain Share or Shares in the Fish and Oil that was taken and made during the Voyage; and upon their Return the whole Cargo was sold, and the Proceed divided, Two Thirds to the Owners, and One Third to the Ship's Company, in such Proportions as were agreed on, which made it their Interest to attend diligently to their Employment, and raised an Emulation among them to outvie one another.

The First Account of this Fishery that we have met with is from Mr. Anthony Parkhurst; who relates, that in the Year 1574 Thirty English Ships were employed in fishing at Newfoundland, and that in 1578 their Number was augmented to Fifty Sail.

The succeeding War with Spain checked the Increase of the Fishery for some Years; but after the Peace was concluded in 1604 it flourished exceedingly. Afterwards, in the Year 1615, Captain Richard Whitburn, who was sent to Newfoundland with a Commission from the Court of Admiralty to enquire into the Disorders and Abuses committed on that Coast, reported, that 250 Ships belonging to this Kingdom were engaged in the Fishery, which he computed, One with another, at 60 Tons and 20 Mariners, and that each Ship had taken 120,000 Fish, and made Five Tons of Train Oil.

In all 15,000 Tons of Shipping,  
5,000 Seamen, and  
1,250 Fishing Boats.

Which encouraged the Merchants of London and Bristol, in 1610, to solicit a Grant, which they obtained from his Majesty King James the First, for a considerable Part of Newfoundland, in order to settle Colonies, that by their Assistance they might be enabled to share the Advantages of the Fishery with the Western Adventurers: But after they had expended large Sums to no Purpose, they quitted their Design, being convinced that the Country was not capable of subsisting English Colonies; and if it had, that the Charge of supporting and governing them was too great to be borne by a Fishery.

However, as some of the looser Sort, both of the Planters and Mariners, remained in the Country, because they vainly imagined that they could not be impeached there for such Injuries and Wrongs as they had committed, and were supplied with Rum, strong Liquors, and Tobacco from New England and other Parts, they retailed them, contrary to the Rules of the Fishery, among the Seamen; whereupon Idleness and Debauchery soon prevailed, and increased to that Degree, that at last the Masters and Owners of the Ships were

were obliged to petition his Majesty King Charles the First to restrain, by his Royal Authority, those Disorders, which evidently tended to the Ruin of the Fishery.

His Majesty, to prevent these Irregularities and Excesses for the future, upon granting the Propriety of Newfoundland to several Noblemen and others, ordained, "That no Person should plant or inhabit within Six Miles of the Sea Shore between Cape Race and Cape Bonavista."

And, that nothing might be wanting to encourage the Adventurers diligently to attend to and vigorously to prosecute the aforesaid Fishery, the Star Chamber, in January 1633, adjusted and settled several Orders for the Regulation and Government thereof; and on the 20th February following, his said Majesty was graciously pleased to grant a Charter to all his Subjects trading to Newfoundland, according to the Tenor of the said Orders, which was commonly called the Western Charter; whereby it is provided,

1st, That if a Man kills another, or steals to the Value of 40s. he shall be brought Prisoner to England; that the Earl Marshall shall take Cognizance of the Cause; and if it be proved by Two Witnesses, the Delinquent shall suffer Death.

2nd, That no Ballast or Prestones be thrown out to the Prejudice of the Harbours.

3d, That no Person deface or spoil any Stage, Cook Room Flakes, &c.

4th, That according to ancient Custom, every Ship that first entereth a Harbour shall be Admiral of the said Harbour, &c.

5th, That no Person cut out, deface, or alter the Marks of any Boats or Trainfats, to defraud the right Owners.

6th, That no Person steal any Fish, Train, or Salt, or other Provisions belonging to the Fishing Ships,

7th, That no Person set Fire to the Woods, or rind the Trees, except for Cook Rooms.

8th, That none cast Anchor so as to hinder the haling of Seynes for Bait.

9th, That none rob the Nets of any Drift Boats, or take away any Bait or Nets.

10th, That no Person shall set up any Tavern for selling of Wine, Beer, Strong Waters, or Tobacco, &c.

11th, That on Sundays the Company assemble to hear Divine Service.

And, that speedy Punishment may be inflicted upon the Offenders against the said Laws and Constitutions,

It is ordained, that the Mayors of Southampton, Weymouth, &c. take Cognizance of all Complaints made against the Offenders of these Ordinances upon the Land: And,

That

That the Vice Admirals of the Counties of Southampton, Dorset, Devon, and Cornwall proceed against the Offenders upon the Sea:

That these Laws be in Force until annulled by His Majesty: And,

That the Admirals proclaim the same in every Harbour, and on the Shores.

The ancient Customs and Constitutions of the Fishery being in this Manner confirmed, and the Magistrates in the Western Counties impowered to put the aforesaid Laws in Execution, the Fishing Trade was again revived, and at length, by the frugal Management and industrious Application of the Adventurers (notwithstanding they were frequently obstructed and injured by the Governor and Inhabitants, contrary to the Conditions of the Grant in 1628, by virtue of which they had settled there) most of their Foreign Competitors were constrained to abandon the said Fishery, and the European Markets were plentifully supplied with dry Fish by the Subjects of this Kingdom, at such moderate Rates as promoted and secured its Consumption, to the vast Encouragement and Increase both of Navigation and Trade.

The best and exactest Account of the Fishery under this Regulation, that is to be found in our Office, is in a Representation from the Merchants and others of the Western Ports in 1674 to his late Majesty King Charles the Second, wherein it is asserted, that about the Year 1644 at the least 270 Fishing Ships were Annually employed in the Newfoundland Fishery, besides those that supplied them with Salt and other Necessaries, and that carried their Fish to Market.

The Burthen of these 270 Sail may be computed at 80 Tons each, and for every 100 Tons 50 Men and at least 10 Boats.

In all 21,600 Tons,  
10,800 Seamen, and  
2,160 Boats.

To each Boat they generally allowed 5 Men, and usually made 200 to 300 Quintals of Fish per Boat, which was then sold in the Country at 14 to 16 Rials, or from 7 s. to 8 s. per Quintal, and some Times higher, as the Season proved more or less favourable.

But the Course of this Success was soon after interrupted by that unnatural War which broke out in this Kingdom; by the Measures that were concerted and taken by the Government in 1650 and 1655 for settling a Governor and Colonies in Newfoundland; by the many Losses sustained by the Adventurers during the Wars, first with Holland and then with Spain, especially in the latter; and by a pernicious Practice, lately introduced by the Masters and Owners of the Fishing Ships of carrying to Newfoundland Bye Boatkeepers, and their Crews and Servants, to assist the Inhabitants in their fishing.

So that at the Time of the Restoration of King Charles II. the Fishery was very inconsiderable.

In order therefore to retrieve and recover the Fishing Trade, his Majesty was graciously pleased, upon the humble Petition of the Western Adventurers, by Letters Patent, bearing Date 26th January 1660, to confirm



firm the aforesaid Charter, with an additional Clause to prevent the transporting of Bye Boatkeepers and Servants; viz<sup>t</sup>.

“ Moreover, and further than was ordained by the Laws of Our said late Father, and for the Encouragement of Our Subjects in Newfoundland, and in the Seas adjoining, and for the Benefit of the said Trade there, We do hereby straitly charge, prohibit, and forbid all and every the Owners of Ships trading in the aforesaid Newfoundland, that they nor any of them do carry or transport, or permit or suffer any Person or Persons to be carried or transported, in their or any of their Ships, to the said Newfoundland, other than such as are of his or their own Ship's Company, or belonging thereunto, and are upon the said Ship's Hire and Employment, or such as are to plant and do intend to settle there.”

But this Prohibition not being enforced by proper Penalties (which were now become more necessary than formerly) it was evaded and opposed by some of the Masters and Owners of Fishing Ships, who chose rather to quit Part of their Annual Fishery by lessening the Complements of their Men and Boats than to lose the Advantage they made by carrying of Passengers, and by disposing of their trifling Adventures to the Inhabitants; from whence several unhappy Consequences ensued; viz<sup>t</sup>.

That the Number of the Fishing Ships and Seamen employed in Newfoundland was considerably reduced, and that the breeding up of young Men for that Service was generally neglected:

That the Price of Fish in Newfoundland was enhanced, from 14 or 16 Rials per Quintal as aforesaid, to about 24 Rials the Quintal, whereby the Consumption thereof was lessened in all Foreign Parts:

That the Merchants of London were induced to set up a Fishery in New England, which has been ever since carried on to the great Discouragement of the Adventurers; and though it may possibly be a Question, whether this unlucky Management did not first prompt and encourage the French to settle at Placentia in 1662; yet it is not to be doubted, but that it contributed to the Establishment of their Fishery, and enabled them to supply not only their own Markets, but to rival us in Portugal, Spain, and Italy.

However these Innovations, by the Remissness of some, and by the Contrivance of others, were not restrained; nor does it appear that any Notice was taken of the Complaints exhibited against those that had violated the aforesaid Law and Constitution, until the latter End of the Year 1663, when by His Majesty's Command circular Letters were wrote by the Lords of the Council to the Mayors and Magistrates of the Western Corporations, requiring them to be careful that the said Law should be punctually observed, and duly executed; and at the same Time the Officers of the Customs were directed to charge all Masters of Ships to observe and keep the said Rule. But this Order being likewise eluded, in February 1669 his Majesty in Council again enjoined the Observance thereof, and commanded that a Return should be made of the Names of such as were Offenders, and in the mean Time to stop their proceeding on the Voyage.

And whereas the Western Adventurers had been for some Time past opposing the placing of a Governor in Newfoundland, which was proposed as

absolutely necessary to check the Encroachments of the French, His Majesty, on the 4th of the said Month, upon the Report of the Lords of the Council for Foreign Plantations, rejected the said Proposal, and thereby removed the Fears and Jealousies that the Adventurers had entertained, to the great Discouragement of the Fishing Trade.

Nevertheless the Fishery was so severely affected by the aforesaid Disorders and Disputes, that the Merchants, Owners, and Masters of Ships, and Inhabitants of the Western Parts of this Kingdom adventuring to Newfoundland were obliged, in December 1670, to petition His Majesty, that the said Fishery might be maintained by Fishing Ships according to its ancient Custom, that Encroachments thereupon might be removed, and that the Majors mentioned in their Patent might be empowered to authorize and depute, from Time to Time, Persons to execute the Laws and Constitutions for the Fishery according to the Intent of the same; and on the 11th of February following, after the Petitioners, and those that opposed them, had been fully heard by His Majesty in Council, the whole Matter was referred to His Majesty's Council of Plantations; and it was ordered that their Lordships should consider of the best Ways and Means whereby the Fishing Trade in Newfoundland might be regulated and advanced, and also protected and secured from Foreigners, and how the said Trade might be managed for the Increase of Seamen, and the Advantage of His Majesty and His Subjects, as likewise to take into their Consideration His Majesty's Charter, and the additional Powers desired by the Western Traders, and to report their Opinion upon the Whole to His Majesty.

Accordingly their Lordships, on the 2d of March following, made their Report, and offered it as their Opinion and humble Advice to His Majesty, that the several new Regulations contained in the said Report be added to the Charter; and on the 10th of the same Month, after the said new Regulations had been seriously considered by His Majesty in Council, those that related to the Adventurers were all approved, except One, whereby it was proposed, that Encouragement might be given to the Inhabitants to transport themselves and their Families to Jamaica, St. Christopher's, or some others of His Majesty's Plantations; and it was ordered that the said Rules should be added to and inserted in the Charter.

But when the Adventurers found that the Removal of the Inhabitants from Newfoundland could not be obtained, they seemed to be very indifferent about renewing of the Charter, so the Trade was left to take its Course; and in 1671, Captain Davies, the Commander of the Convoy, affirmed, "That the said Trade was not then by Two Third Parts so good as he remembered it, when 200 Sail of Ships and 10,000 Men were Yearly employed, and at length trained up to the Sea," with which Account the Memorials of the Adventurers also agree.

In 1674 the Solicitations for a Governor were again renewed, and on the 12th of February it was ordered by His Majesty in Council, That the Lords of the Committee should re-consider this Affair; who reported on the 15th April 1675, that it had been clearly made-out to them,

That the French had considerably advanced their Fishery at Newfoundland.

That

That the People of New England took on their own Coast Yearly about 60,000 Quintals of Fish:

That the Adventurers had lost many of their Ships in the late War:

That the Hands which used to make Fish were diminished; and that the Inhabitants destroyed the Woods, and whatever the Adventurers left Yearly behind; that they possessed early the Places of greatest Conveniency; and that most of them sold Wine and Brandy, whereby the Seamen were withdrawn from their Labour, and many seduced to stay on the Place.

From all which Reasons it was easy to believe there was a Decay in the Trade as to England; but as to the Proposals for curing all by a Governor, their Lordships could not find that a Governor could cure any Part;

“ Because the Planters lived scattered in 25 several Harbours, which are almost 80 Leagues asunder.

“ That in the Winter, when the Abuses are done, there is no passing by Sea or Land from one Place to another.

“ That besides the Charge of Forts and of a Governor, which the Fish Trade cannot support, it is needless to have any such Defence against Foreigners, that Coast being defended in the Winter by Ice, and must in the Summer be defended by the Resort of His Majesty's Subjects, for that Place will always belong to him that is superior at Sea.

“ So that unless they had seen proper Reasons for a Colony, they could see none for a Governor; and against a Colony there are not only the Rigours of the Climate, and the Infertility of the Land, but that they, the Inhabitants, chiefly consumed the Products of New England, and other Foreign Parts, &c.

“ Their Lordships further observed, That the French managed their Trade by Adventurers Ships Yearly going out and returning Home; and that upon computing and comparing the Charge of catching Fish to the Adventurers and to the Planters, they found the former could do it cheaper than the latter, and they had Reason to believe that the English Adventurers in general preserved a Superiority in the Trade, and that they did catch their Fish as cheap, cured it as well, came as early to Market, could there sell as dear, or afford it as cheap, as any of the French could do.”

So that upon the Whole their Lordships having Recourse unto the Rules settled in Council by His Majesty's Order of the 10th of March 1670, found them all so proper and effectual for the Advantage of the Trade, as to need only the following Additions to make the Trade revive and flourish:

1st. That all Plantation and Inhabiting in that Country be discouraged; and in order thereunto that the Commander of His Majesty's Convoy should have Commission to declare, at his going this Year, His Majesty's Will and Pleasure to all the Planters, that they come voluntarily away; and in case of Disobedience, that the Charter be put in Execution next Year, for in  
this

this single Point consists the Validity and good Effect of the whole Regulation.

2d. That the Convoy help and assist those in their Transportation who desire to return Home; and to declare that if they choose to betake themselves to any other of His Majesty's Plantations, that the Governors are wrote unto to receive them with all Favour, &c.

On the 5th of May following His Majesty in Council thought fit, for the several Considerations in the said Report mentioned, to order the Commander of his Convoy bound to Newfoundland to admonish the Inhabitants, either to return Home to England, or to betake themselves to others of His Plantations, and to direct that Letters be prepared unto the several Governors of the said Plantations, that in case any of the said Inhabitants of Newfoundland should arrive within their respective Governments, that they be received with Favour, and that all convenient Help and Assistance towards their Settlement be afforded unto them.

And on the 27th of January 1675, His said Majesty, after due Consideration had of the best Ways and Means of regulating, securing, and improving the Fishing Trade in Newfoundland, passed the new Charter which recited and confirmed all the old Laws, and several others were added for the better Government of the Fishery; which if they had been as steadily supported and executed, as they were carefully concerted, in all Probability the Subjects of France and the People of New England had reaped very little Benefit by their Fisheries, and this valuable Branch of the British Trade had been firmly re-established and secured.

The additional Regulations to the Charter are as follows:

1st. That His Majesty's Subjects may take Bait and Fish in Newfoundland, and cut Wood for Stages, &c. provided they submit unto and observe the Rules and Orders that are or shall be established.

2d. That no Alien take Bait or Fish between Cape Race and Cape Bonavista.

3d. That no Planter cut down any Wood, or inhabit within Six Miles of the Shore.

4th. That no Planter shall take up any of the Stages, &c. before Arrival of the Fishermen; and that they be all provided for.

5th. That no Master of a Fishing Ship transport any Seaman or others to Newfoundland, unless they belong to his Ship's Company.

6th. Nor more than 60 Persons to 100 Tons.

7th. That every Fifth Man carried out of England be a Green Man, and not a Seaman; and that the Masters provide in England Victuals and other Necessaries for the whole Voyage, Salt only excepted.

8th. That no Fishing Ship do depart directly for Newfoundland in any Year, before the 1st of March.

9th.

9th. That the Masters give Bond in £. 100 to His Majesty before the respective Mayors, conditioned not to carry out any Persons to Newfoundland as aforesaid, and to bring back such as they shall carry out, unless employed in the carrying Fish to Foreign Markets.

10th. That no Master take up any Stage already built with less than 25 Men; and that no Fisherman remain in the Country after the Fishing Voyage is ended.

11th. That the Admirals, Vice Admirals, and Rear Admirals be and are authorized and required to preserve the Peace in the Harbours as well as on the Shore, and to see the Rules of the Fishery put in Execution.

12th. And to secure and bring Offenders Home to England.

13th. That they Yearly publish in their respective Harbours, on the 20th of September, these Orders, forbidding all Seamen to remain in Newfoundland after the last of October.

14th. That they keep Journals, and deliver Copies unto His Majesty's Council for Foreign Plantations.

And lastly, because there is no Court Martial in England at present, that if any Man in Newfoundland shall kill another, or steal Goods to the Value of 40 s. he shall be brought Prisoner into England, and his Crime made known to One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, to the End Order may be given to punish such Offender according to Law.

Upon these Encouragements and Assurances the Western Adventurers immediately returned to the Fishery, and employed

	In 1675	1676	1677
Fishing Ships -	105	126	109
Seamen - - -	3,278	4,556	4,475
and Boats - -	677	894	892

and in the same Years the Number of the Inhabitants (besides Women and Children) was as follows :

	1675	1676	1677
Planters - - -	140	138	152
their Servants -	1,250	943	1,355
and Boats - -	277	206	337

for, notwithstanding His Majesty's Orders as aforesaid, they still remained in the Country.

However, the Adventurers being encouraged by the Lords of the Committee to put the Laws of the Charter in Execution, they began in 1676 to restrain the Disorders of the Planters, and to prevent the Transportation of their Servants; but upon the Petition of the said Planters in November following, and the Solicitation of those who were either excited by the Hopes of procuring Advantages for themselves, or influenced by the French, whose Fishery must have been soon rendered precarious if the Charter had been observed, an Order was obtained on the 18th of May 1677, importing,

“ That the Planters in Newfoundland be continued in Possession of their Houses and Stages according to the Usage of the last Years, until further Orders.”

The said Inhabitants being flushed with this Success, the old Schemes for establishing the Colony and settling a Governor were again revived, and the Necessity thereof strenuously asserted by some, and opposed by others.

The Right honourable the Lords of the Committee hereupon directed the Commissioners of the Customs to consider those Proposals, and to report their Observations and Opinion relating to the Settlement of the Trade and Fishery at Newfoundland.

Accordingly the said Commissioners, on the 26th March 1680, after they had fairly stated the whole Matter, offered to their Lordships, as their Opinion,

That the Settlement of a Governor and a Colony in Newfoundland, under such Rules and Methods as were proposed, and that to entrust the regulating of the Fishery in a Governor, will tend greatly to the Prejudice of the Newfoundland Fishery; that by discouraging the English Fisherman the French will be greatly encouraged; that what little of this Trade shall remain in the Hands of the English will by Degrees fall wholly into the Hands of the Planters and New Englanders, and that by consequence His Majesty's Customs both Outwards and Inwards will be greatly prejudiced.

But if His Majesty should think fit to fortify the Harbour of St. John's, and to make a Governor of the Fort, and to arm the Governor with a Military Power to command the People of that Country (on Occasion) for their Defence, and with Civil Power for punishing Vice and keeping good Order, without having a Power over the Fishery, or infringing the Charter, they thought the same might be of good Use; and no Prejudice to the Trade or His Majesty's Customs.

Nevertheless these Arguments had not their due Effect; and on the 18th of April 1680 it was further ordered, that His Majesty's Intentions to settle a Governor and erect a Fort in Newfoundland for the Preservation of His Sovereignty, and good of the Fishery, should be signified unto the Magistrates of such Towns in the West of England as were chiefly concerned in that Trade, that they might transmit their Opinions in what Manner and under what Regulations such a Governor might be settled.

In Obedience to His Majesty's said Order the Western Corporations respectively represented the Hardships and Difficulties they had formerly struggled with under a Governor in Newfoundland, and that they apprehended the Fishing Trade would be greatly discouraged and prejudiced if a Governor was settled there, and therefore they pray that His Majesty's Sovereignty may be maintained by Ships of War to be sent Annually thither, and that the Charter granted by His Majesty in the 27th Year of His Reign, for the Encouragement of the Fishery, may be enforced and put in Execution, as the best and only Methods to preserve and secure the Trade.

These Representations had so much Weight that the aforesaid Proposals relating to a Governor were laid aside; but the Regulations and Laws of the Charter being enervated by these Disputes, the Fishing Trade very sensibly

ſenſibly declined from the Time that the Order for removing the Planters was revoked.

And in 1682 and 1684 it was reduced to

32	43	Fiſhing Ships,
1,012	1,489	Seamen,
183	294	Boats,

though the Inhabitants employed in the ſame Years

299                      304 Boats.

But this Decay of the Fiſhing Trade was not the only Loſs this Kingdom ſuſtained on this Occaſion; for as Captain Jones, One of the Commanders of the Convoy in 1682, hath affirmed of his own Knowledge, the Traders from New England to Newfoundland Yearly *made Voyages for the Sake of ſpiriting away the Fiſhermen*; ſo that the Newfoundland Fiſbery, which was formerly the great Nurſery for breeding up ſtout and able Mariners, was now become a mere Drain, that carried off very many of the beſt and moſt uſeful of all the Britiſh Sailors; and it is too notorious that this Practice has prevailed ever ſince.

Neither can we omit obſerving, from the Accounts tranſmitted to the Lords of the Committee by Sir Francis Wheeler, the Commander of the Convoy in 1684, that the Planters carried on their Fiſhing Trade with great Diſadvantage, their extraordinary Charge of Wages and Proviſions amounting to One Third Part more than was expended by the Weſtern Adventurers; and although their ſelling of Strong Liquors to the Fiſhermen at dear Rates did ſomewhat help them, yet this was ſuch an apparent Prejudice and Diſcouragement to the Adventurers, that it was no Wonder ſo many of them were driven away from the Fiſbery in 1682 and 1684, as has been already mentioned.

Nor doth it appear to us that the Fiſhing Trade was afterwards, during the Reign of King James the Second, upon a better Foot, or that the leaſt Care was taken to remove the aforeſaid Obſtructions, much leſs to retrieve Trade; but, on the contrary, notwithstanding the French Fiſbery was prodigiouſly increaſed both at Placentia and to the Northward of Cape Bonaviſta, and that the Value of the Fiſh taken by the Engliſh Adventurers after the Year 1682 fell ſhort of the Value of what was taken in 1676 at leaſt £. 100,000 per Annum; nevertheleſs the Subjects of this Kingdom were reſtrained, by the Treaty concluded between Great Britain and France in 1686, from fiſhing in ſuch Places as were held or poſſeſſed by his Moſt Chriſtian Maſteſty in America; which ſeems derogatory to the Charter, and to the Statute 15 Car. II. Chap. 16. whereby ſeveral Regulations are preſcribed and ordained to be obſerved in any of the Harbours in Newfoundland.

Moreover, the ſucceeding War with France in 1689 ſtill added to the Miſfortunes of the ſaid Trade, not only as it was thereby rendered impracticable to purſue ſuch Meaſures as were neceſſary to reform the aforeſaid Diſorders and Miſmanagement, but from the Difficulties and Hazards that unavoidably attended the Adventurers in proſecuting the ſame. However,

ever, they employed every Year some Ships more or less, as they could obtain Protection for their Men; and the Inhabitants maintained (as formerly) about 300 Boats per Annum, until the French, in 1696, without any Regard to what was stipulated by the 18th Article in the Treaty of 1686, ravaged several of the Harbours in Newfoundland, and destroyed all that appertained to the Fishermen; whereupon His late Majesty King William the Third erected a Fort at St. John's for the better Security and Protection of His Subjects and their Trade.

But upon the Conclusion of the Peace at Ryswick, the Adventurers, either forgetting the Difficulties their Predecessors were not able to surmount, or imagining that the Inhabitants, by Reason of the severe Losses they had lately suffered, were rendered incapable of carrying on the Fishery; or else very probably adhering (for their own private Ends) to the Practice of those refractory Masters of Ships who could not be restrained from transporting Passengers, they re-assumed and returned to their old Trade with fresh Vigour;

And in 1698 there were employed by the			
Adventurers	—	—	—
			143 Fishing Ships,
			—
		And	532 Boats,
And by the Inhabitants and Bye Boat			
Keepers	—	—	—
			397 Boats.

In all, Boats 929, who took  
265,198 Quintals of Fish.

The Fishery at Newfoundland being thus revived, and His said Majesty, in His most gracious Speech from the Throne on the 9th December 1698, having recommended it to His Parliament *to employ their Thoughts about some good Bills for the Advancement of Trade*, they were engaged to take the State of this Fishery into their Consideration; and in order to restore good Government, and to prevent Contentions and Disorders for the future, an Act was passed in that Sessions, intituled, *An Act to encourage the Trade to Newfoundland*.

The Abstract whereof is as follows:

1st, That it is and shall be lawful for all His Majesty's Subjects residing in England to have and enjoy a free Trade to Newfoundland as formerly; and that no Alien or Stranger whatsoever take any Bait or Fish there.

2nd, That no Ballast be thrown out to the Prejudice of the Harbours.

3d, That no Person destroy or deface any Stage, Cook Room, Flakes, &c.

4th, That according to ancient Custom, every Ship that first entereth a Harbour shall be Admiral of the said Harbour, &c.

5th, That Stages, &c. taken up and detained since 1685, be relinquished for the Use of the Fishing Ships.

6th,



6th, That no Inhabitant shall possess any Stage which since 1685 did or shall belong to any Fishing Ship, until the Fishing Ships from England are provided.

7th, Provided that such Persons as have built any Houses, Stages, &c. that did not belong to Fishing Ships since 1685, may enjoy the same.

8th, That no Bye Boat Keeper shall meddle with Stages, &c. which did belong to Fishing Ships since 1685.

9th, That Bye Boat Keepers shall carry out, and Inhabitants employ, Two Fresh Men in Six, and Fishing Ships One Fresh Man in Five; and that the Masters of the Ships and Boats make Oath accordingly.

10th, That every Master of a Fishing Ship shall have in his Ship's Company One Green Man in Five.

11th, That no Person cut out or alter the Marks of any Boats or Trains to defraud the right Owner.

12th, That no Person shall rind the Trees, nor set Fire to or destroy the Woods, except for necessary Uses;

Nor cast Anchor so as to hinder the haling of Seynes in Baiting Places;

Nor rob the Nets of any Drift Boats, or take away any Bait or Nets out of the Fishing Boats.

13th, That Murders, Felonies, and all other Capital Crimes, committed in Newfundland, shall be heard and determined in England.

14th, That the Admirals of the severall Harbours be and are required (in order to preserve Peace and good Government as well in the Harbours as on the Shore) to see this Act put in Execution.

15th, That the said Fishing Admirals determine all Differences between the Masters of the Ships, Inhabitants, and Bye Boat Keepers, concerning the Right or Property of Fishing Rooms, Stages, &c.

But if any think they are aggrieved by such Determination, they may appeal to the Commanders of any of His Majesty's Ships of War.

16th, That the Lord's Day shall be strictly and decently observed; and that none of the Inhabitants shall sell or dispose of any Liquors on that Day.

Upon the passing of this Act, and the Success of the Fishery in the last Year, the Adventurers, Bye Boat Keepers, and Inhabitants, applied themselves very earnestly to the Fishery; and there was employed,

	In 1699		In 1700	
By the Adventurers	—	}	168	—
	—		669	
By the Boat Keepers	—		115	—
And by the Inhabitants	—		457	
			171	} Fishing Ships.
			800	
			90	} Boats.
			674	

But as this Act had not that good Effect which the Adventurers expected, they were from this Time forwards constrained to give Place to the Inhabitants; for in 1701 the Fishery of the Adventurers was reduced to 75 Fishing Ships and 338 Boats.

Whereas there was then kept,

By the Bye Boatmen	—	—	97	} Boats.
and By the Inhabitants	—	—	558	

Afterwards during the War there was employed,

	Fishing Ships.	Fishing Ships Boats.	Bye Boats and Inhabitants Boats.
In 1702	16	35	380
1703	23	44	214
1704	23	—	—
1705	20	60	200
1706	46	136	232
1707	70	196	257
1708	49	170	356
1709	35	130	258
1710	49	153	365
1711	62	168	439
1712	66	198	370

That is, *Communibus Annis*, 41 or 42 Ships *per Annum*.

And since the Conclusion of the Peace,

	Fishing Ships.	Fishing Ships Boats.	Bye Boats.	Inhabitants. Boats.
In 1713	46	162	195	288
1714	106	441	133	362
1715	108	376	197	468
1716	86	319	184	408
In the said 4 Years	346	1,298	709	1,526
That is, <i>Com<sup>t</sup> Annis</i>	86	324	177	381

According

According to the preceding Accounts of the Fishery, it may be asserted,

That the Western Adventurers in 1615, whilst the Trade was open and free to all Strangers, employed

In and about 1644, when the Colony was in a Manner deserted, and the Foreigners fairly driven out of the Trade, at least

Before the Year 1660, and for several Years after, it was generally agreed that the Fishery was reduced, by divers Misfortunes and evil Practices, to less than One Third Part, or

That upon restraining the Transportation of Passengers by the new Charter, and enjoining the Planters to remove by a special Order, the Trade began to revive again in 1676, and maintained

Upon the Revocation of the said Order, and the Design to settle a Governor, a full Stop was put to the Increase of the Trade, and in 1684 it sunk to

Fishing Ships Boats.	Bye Boats and Inhabitants Boats.
1,250	
2,160	
720	
894	206
294	304

And it is computed that it continued (*Communibus Annis*) near upon the same Foot from that Time to the Conclusion of the Peace at Ryfwick in 1697.

That in the Three following Years there was Annually employed in a Medium

But in 1701, the Adventurers being discouraged, the Trade fell off to

Afterwards during the War, from 1701 to 1712 inclusive, it was carried on, *Communibus Annis*, by no more than

And on a Medium of Four Years, from the Conclusion of the Peace, by

Fishing Ships Boats.	Bye Boats and Inhabitants Boats.
677	577
338	655
120	300
324	558

So that the Difference between the Fishery in 1644 and since the present Peace may be computed as follows:

In

In 1644 the Adventurers employed 2,160 Boats, and by the great Industry of the Fishermen there was seldom less taken than 250 Quintals of Fish *per* Boat.

In all, Quintals 540,000 *per Annum*, which produced about 3,375 Tons of Train Oil, at One Hhd. for 40 Quintals.

And since the Peace, the Adventurers, Bye Boat Men, and Inhabitants, have employed, *Com. Annis*, 882 Boats ;

And have taken	- - -	95,424	Quintals of Fish ;
That is	- - - - -	108	Quintals <i>per</i> Boat.
And	- - - - -	365½	Tons of Train Oil,
at One Hhd. <i>per</i>	- - -	64	Quintals.

Consequently therefore the Quantity of Fish taken in 1644, and about that Time, exceeded what has been taken since the Peace 444,576 Quintals *per Annum*.

Which at 8 s. <i>per</i> Quintal, amounts to	—	£. 177,830	— —
and of Train Oil 3,009 ½ Tons.			
Which at £. 12 <i>per</i> Ton, amounts to	—	36,114	— —
		<hr/>	
Value of the Fish and Oil in Newfoundland	—	213,944	— —
Freight of the said 444,576 Quintals of Fish to Europe, at One P <sup>s</sup> of 8, or 4s. 6d. <i>per</i> Quintal	—	100,029	— —
		<hr/>	
Lost Annually to England by the Decay of the Trade	—	313,973	— —

Not including in this Account what was gained by the Merchants upon the Sale thereof in Foreign Markets, nor what was paid for Provision, strong Liquors, &c. to New England and other Places.

It is therefore very apparent, from what has been already mentioned,

That the Fishery at Newfoundland, from its first Establishment, has either flourished or languished according as the Inhabitants have been discouraged or encouraged.

That the principal Obstructions which have attended that Trade since the Reign of King Charles the First, when it was at the greatest Height (exclusive of those that proceeded from the Wars this Kingdom has been engaged in) are entirely owing to the Project for carrying on the said Trade by a Colony of Fishermen, in Opposition to the Fishing Ships belonging to the Adventurers.

That the first immediate Cause of the Decay of the Fishing Trade, and of the Disorders that have depressed it ever since, was from the Encouragement that was given to the Transportation of Passengers, by appointing Mr. John Treworkey Governor of Newfoundland in 1650, and by granting a Patent and Commission to Sir David Kirk, John Claypole, and others in 1655.

That

That the pernicious Consequences which evidently ensued upon the diverting the Course of the Fishery into this new Channel, were the only Motives that induced King Charles the Second (after every Circumstance relating to the Trade had been strictly examined and seriously considered) to order the Commander of the Convoy in 1675 to admonish the Planters to return Home, and to grant in the same Year a new Charter, which provided and guarded against every Inconveniency and Abuse that had interrupted the Adventurers in the Prosecution of their Fishing Trade.

That when these Regulations were settled there was a fair Prospect of retrieving and reviving the Trade; but that the Indulgence shewn to the Planters in 1677, by permitting them to remain in the Country, rendered the Charter ineffectual, reduced the Fishery to the lowest Ebb, and favoured both the French and New Englanders in carrying on their Fishing Trade.

And that the unhappy State of the Trade from that Time to this (which is upwards of Forty Years) is an undeniable Argument that it cannot flourish under the present Regulations; which will be farther demonstrated by examining and comparing the Rules and Methods that were formerly observed by the Western Adventurers, with the extravagant and irregular Measures and Practices that of late Years have been introduced and pursued in the Management of the Fishery. For Instance:

Before the Fishing Ships became Transports to the Planters and Bye Boat Keepers, the usual Complement of a Ship containing 100 Tons fitted out for a Fishing Voyage, was 50 Men and 10 Boats, and this Practice was continued until 1677; in which Year, according to Sir William Poole's Accounts, there were employed in the Fishery 109 Fishing Ships, containing 9,035 Tons and 4,475 Men which amounted to upwards of 49 Men for every 100 Tons; but upon a Medium of Four Years, since the Peace of Utrecht, the 86 Fishing Ships Annually employed in the Trade as aforesaid contained 9,010 Tons and but 1,839 Men, which is little more than 20 Men for every 100 Tons. The present Adventurers have therefore Annually wanted 2,666 Men to complete the Number their Predecessors maintained formerly on the same Tonnage in the Fishery; and had their Ships been fully manned, the aforesaid 2,666 Men would have taken to the Value of at least £. 20 each, that is in the Whole £. 53,320 per Annum, over and above what they have now gained, and whatsoever is taken by the Fishing Ships entirely belongs to and is a certain Addition to the Stock of Your Majesty's Subjects residing in this Kingdom.

Whereas all the Advantages that the Inhabitants enjoy at present by the Fishery (unless the Season proves exceeding favourable) never answers their Charge; for as they are in general very idle, indigent, and necessitous, they are always indebted and enslaved to the Traders from New England and other Parts, by whom they are supplied with Provisions for their Subsistence, and with vast Quantities of strong Liquors, Molasses, and Tobacco for Sale; and many of them not having wherewithal to satisfy their said Creditors, they are in course stript of all they have taken before the Fishery is well over, and the rest when their Debts are discharged have seldom enough left to secure a sufficient Stock for their own and their Servants Support and Debaucheries in the Winter; so that New England reaps all the Fruit of their

their Labour, except what is paid for the Passage of their Servants, and for the Goods that are exported from Great Britain for their Consumption.

How much the Transportation of their Servants out and Home may amount to is uncertain; but since few return from thence, we compute it cannot exceed — — — — — £. 4,500

And the Value of the Goods exported thither, according to the Custom House Accounts, upon a Medium of 3 Years after the present Peace, was — — — — — 8,133

*Communibus Annis* — — — — — 12,633

Another Instance of the Prejudice that Great Britain receives by the Inhabitants of Newfoundland, is from their Abuse of that Liberty which is given them to transport Servants to assist them in carrying on their Fishery.

For it must be observed that in the Years	—	1677	and	1701
The Number of the Inhabitants and their Men Servants amounted to	—	1,507		2,159
And they maintained Boats	—	337		558
Which in the first Year falls short of Men $4\frac{1}{2}$ , and in the last Year of Four Men to each Boat.				
But in the Years	—	1715	and	1716
The Number of the Inhabitants was	—	3,153		2,611
And they maintained only, Boats	—	464		408

Which being after the Rate of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  Men to every Boat, it necessarily follows they were supplied in 1715 and 1716 with 920 Men per Annum more than they would have employed in the same Number of Boats, according to their Management in the Year 1677; and since the Fishing Ships, in Proportion to their Men, have taken a greater Quantity of Fish than was taken at the same Time by the Inhabitants, and that in the Year 1716 Servants were so scarce in Newfoundland, that they were forced to give £. 18 to £. 20 per Man for the Fishing Season, it can never be pretended that the said 920 Supernumeraries were employed in the Fishery; but it manifestly confirms the Truth of all those Complaints that have been made for upwards of 40 Years past, that the New Englanders, by the Assistance of the Planters of Newfoundland, have carried away every Year from thence as many of the English Fishermen as they could persuade or seduce to proceed with them; by which Means they have established a very considerable Navigation, and gained a Fishery on their own Coast, which at present is probably superior to that at Newfoundland. Moreover, it will serve to justify and support what Captain Passenger, the Commander in Chief of the last Year's Convoy, has advised us on the 1st of October past, that he was very well informed the New England Vessels had carried away from Newfoundland, in 1716, One thousand Three hundred Men.

From

From hence therefore it plainly appears, that the Navigation of this Kingdom has suffered exceedingly ever since the Transportation of Passengers to Newfoundland has been connived at; and there can be no Doubt but that it has been One of the principal Causes of the Want of Seamen for Your Majesty's Service.

The next irregular and pernicious Practice of the Inhabitants that must be taken Notice of, is, their retailing of Rum and other Strong Liquors among the Fishermen.

That the Fishery was severely affected by the unhappy Consequences of this Practice soon after the First Planters were settled in Newfoundland, is apparent from the Charter of King Charles the First: whereby it is ordained in the 10th Article,

“ That no Person shall set up any Tavern for selling of Wine, Beer, &c.  
“ to entertain the Fishermen, &c.”

And it is as certain that the flourishing State of the Fishing Trade during the aforesaid Reign was, in a great Measure, owing to this wholesome Prohibition; for as long as it was maintained, so long the Trade prospered, and it was no sooner dispensed with but the Trade sensibly declined; and although the Planters were afterwards kept in Awe for some Time by the Charters that were granted by King Charles the Second, which confirmed the said Prohibition; nevertheless, when that Difficulty was surmounted, and they were at Liberty to pursue their own Measures, the Fishery immediately languished. Nor has it rendered to this Kingdom from that Time above One Third Part of the Profit that was formerly enjoyed thereby; excepting only after the Conclusion of the Peace at Ryswick, when for Three Years the Fishing Trade was vigorously carried on, in Hopes that the said Peace would have favoured the Consumption of their Fish in Foreign Parts, and that the settling of the Trade by an Act of Parliament would have effectually prevented all Abuses and Disorders, and restored good Order and Government in the Fishery. But the said Act having only restrained the Inhabitants who keep Public Houses from selling upon the Lord's Day, or Sunday, any Liquors whatsoever, and without imposing any Penalty upon the Transgressors, even upon that Day, Newfoundland is now become a perfect Scene of Drunkenness and Debauchery; nor can it be otherwise whilst such vast Quantities of Rum and Strong Liquors, Tobacco, and other Stores, are Annually imported from New England, the Leeward Islands, and other Places; and that the Inhabitants, who carry on their Fishing Trade at a much greater Charge than the Fishing Ships, and are under the Necessity of selling their Fish at the same Price, have no other Way to reduce the Price thereof but by what they gain upon the Sale of their said Liquors to the poor Fishermen, who being always too prone to drink, are easily drawn into Debaucheries and Excesses, until they have profusely expended and consumed all, or at least a large Part of their Wages, to the great Prejudice of their Families. And as this has been always justly resented as an intolerable Abuse and Burthen, so the Disorders that naturally arise from the said Debaucheries have obstructed the Trade, by discouraging the Masters and Owners of the Fishing Ships from engaging in these Voyages; it being evident that the Fishermen are become negligent and careless in their Employment; that they are hereby rendered unfit for their Labour; that

that they are often refractory and ungovernable; and that, to support their Extravagances, they are guilty of many Embezzlements and Thefts; which are Difficulties that are insuperable in a Fishing Voyage, the Success whereof absolutely depends upon the utmost Care and Frugality of the Master, and the Diligence and hard Labour of the Fishermen, especially when they are to contend with a Foreign Rival, who cherishes Industry, and crushes every Irregularity that increases the Charge of their Fishery.

Neither are these the only Hardships under which the Fishing Ships labour, for upon their fitting out, the best and ablest Fishermen generally decline serving in them until the Boat Keepers have their full Complements, the Boat Keepers Crews being exempted from working on Board Ship in their Passage, and in Newfoundland, when bad Weather hinders their Attendance on the Fishery.

And whereas the said Bye Boat Keepers always take their Passage on the earliest Ships and best Sailors, the Fishing Admirals, under the Pretence of their being Freighters of Ships, put them in Possession of the best and most convenient Places by the Water Side, to the great Prejudice and Discouragement of the later Ships, whose Masters have been frequently constrained to hire both Stages and Room from the said Boat Keepers, and obliged to carry their Fish so far backward, that they could not avoid allowing One Man extraordinary to each Boat.

Moreover, since it is now customary for many of the Bye Boat Keepers to remain every Winter in the Country, to secure their Stages and Rooms against the next Fishing Season, and that the aforesaid Act of 10th and 11th Gul. III. has provided, "That all such Persons as since the 25th of March 1685 have built, cut out, or made (or at any Time hereafter shall build, cut out, or make) any Houses, Stages, Cook Rooms, Trainfats, or other Conveniencies for Fishing there, that did not belong to Fishing Ships since the said Year 1685, shall and may peaceably and quietly enjoy the same to his or their own Use, without any Disturbance of or from any Person or Persons whatsoever:"

It is found by Experience, that the Shipping which was employed in the Fishery about the Time King Charles the Second granted his Second Charter, cannot be now accommodated as formerly in the principal Harbours where the Planters generally remain.

For the Number of those Ships being reduced some Years before 1685 to One Third Part or thereabouts of the Number that was Annually employed in 1675, 1676, and 1677, and the Trade continuing near upon the same Foot from 1685 to the Time the said Act was under Consideration, the said Ships neither did nor could occupy in that Interval more than One Third Part of the Stages and Rooms which had been in the Possession of the Fishing Ships in the aforesaid Three Years; and without Doubt the rest were either decayed or destroyed in their Absence. But the Inhabitants having built, cut out, and made, since 1685, several Houses, Stages, Trainfats, &c. in the same Places where the other Two Third Parts of the Fishing Ships, Rooms, and Stages were formerly erected and fixed, the Fishing Ships are deprived by the Act of the Right they had to the said Places; wherefore, therefore, they shall be again encouraged to return to the Fishery, they will be obliged to hire their Conveniencies of the Planters in the same



same Manner as in 1698, in which Year, according to the Accounts transmitted by Sir John Norris from Newfoundland, they paid from £. 5 to £. 15 per Boat, which must be assigned for One of the Reasons why they quitted the Fishing Trade so soon after the Act passed, and why they have declined it ever since; nevertheless, as the said Act has directed, by a preceding Clause, that those who had detained after 1685 any Beach or other Places for curing, drying, or husbanding of Fish, which before that Time belonged to the Fishing Ships, should relinquish the same to the public Use of the Fishing Ships arriving there. It cannot be imagined that the aforesaid Proviso was intended to abridge them of so great and necessary a Privilege, much less to permit the Planters to possess more Flakes and Beach than they actually want for curing and drying their Fish, in proportion to the Number of Boats they employ, or to extend their Flakes and Huts by the Water Side, or behind those of the Fishing Ships, contrary to the ancient Custom of the Fishery.

It must be also remarked, that notwithstanding Placentia and several other Places lately possessed by the French in Newfoundland, were surrendered to Great Britain in compliance with the Treaty of Utrecht, the Fishing Ships enjoy no other Advantage thereby than by fishing at the Island of St. Peter's; the Stages, Beaches, &c. at Placentia, and in those Parts, being engrossed by some of Your Majesty's Subjects inhabiting there. For although the French, by the 14th Article of the said Treaty, were only allowed to remove with their moveable Effects, yet her late Majesty, by her Letter of the 23d of June 1713, to Colonel Nicholson, having permitted them to dispose of their Houses, Beaches, and other Immoveables, they were bought up by particular Persons in Hopes of letting them out Annually to the Fishermen, which has effectually discouraged the Fishing Trade in that Part of the Country.

To which may be added, That the Importation of Wine, and all other Necessaries (except Salt) for the Fishery by the Ships which proceed to Newfoundland from Portugal, Spain, and other Foreign Parts, is a Discouragement to the Adventurers in general, whose Ships are victualled, and Stores provided in this Kingdom.

Nor can we conclude without taking Notice, that we have lately received Letters from Your Majesty's Consuls, and the Merchants residing in Spain, Portugal, and Italy, that the Fish brought to those Markets from Newfoundland, for some Years past, has been for the most Part so very ill cured, that the Consumption thereof is greatly abated, and that the Trade is in Danger of being thereby lost.

Upon the Whole, therefore, we most humbly crave Leave to offer it as our Opinion to Your Majesty,

That this important Fishery at Newfoundland can never be revived or restored to its former flourishing State and Condition until it be again wholly carried on by Fishing Ships, according to its ancient Custom, and regulated by Laws agreeable thereunto.

And that the most effectual Method to remove all the afore-mentioned Obstructions, and to restrain the Irregularities and Disorders of the Fishermen, as well as to encourage the Adventurers to return to their Employment, would be to remove the Inhabitants or Planters to Nova Scotia, or to some other of Your Majesty's Plantations in America.

Nevertheless, lest this should be esteemed a Hardship on such of the Inhabitants as have erected Houses, or made any other Conveniencies for their fishing in Newfoundland, under the Encouragement which seems to have been given them by the Act of the 10th and 11th Gul. III. we shall shortly beg Leave to offer to Your Majesty some Heads of a Bill for remedying the Difficulties and Abuses the said Fishing Trade doth at present labour under, to the great Prejudice of Your Majesty's British Dominions.

All which is most humbly submitted.

(Signed) J. CHETWYND,  
CHA. COOKE,  
P. DOCMINIQUE,  
T. PELHAM,  
MARTIN BLADEN.

Whitehall,  
Dec. 19th 1718.

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

A true Copy.

GEO. CHALMERS,  
Ch<sup>r</sup> Cl<sup>k</sup> Com. C<sup>t</sup> Trade.

