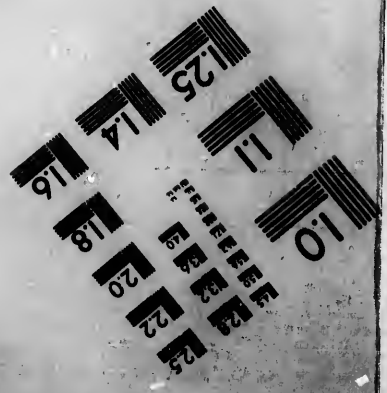
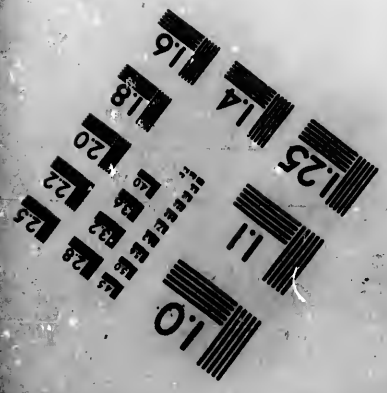
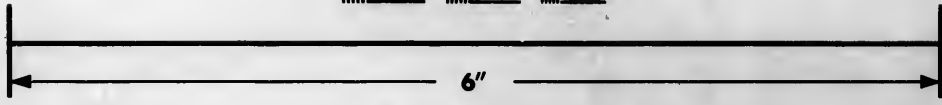
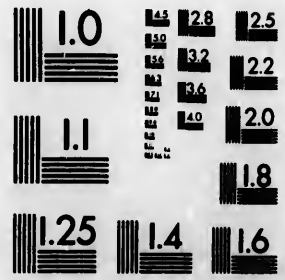


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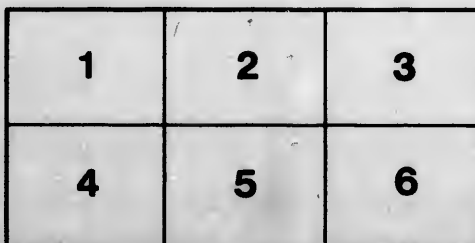
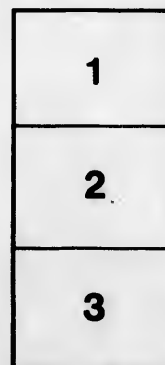
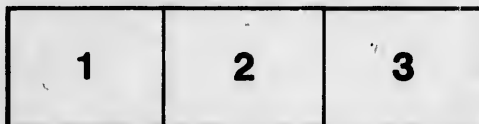
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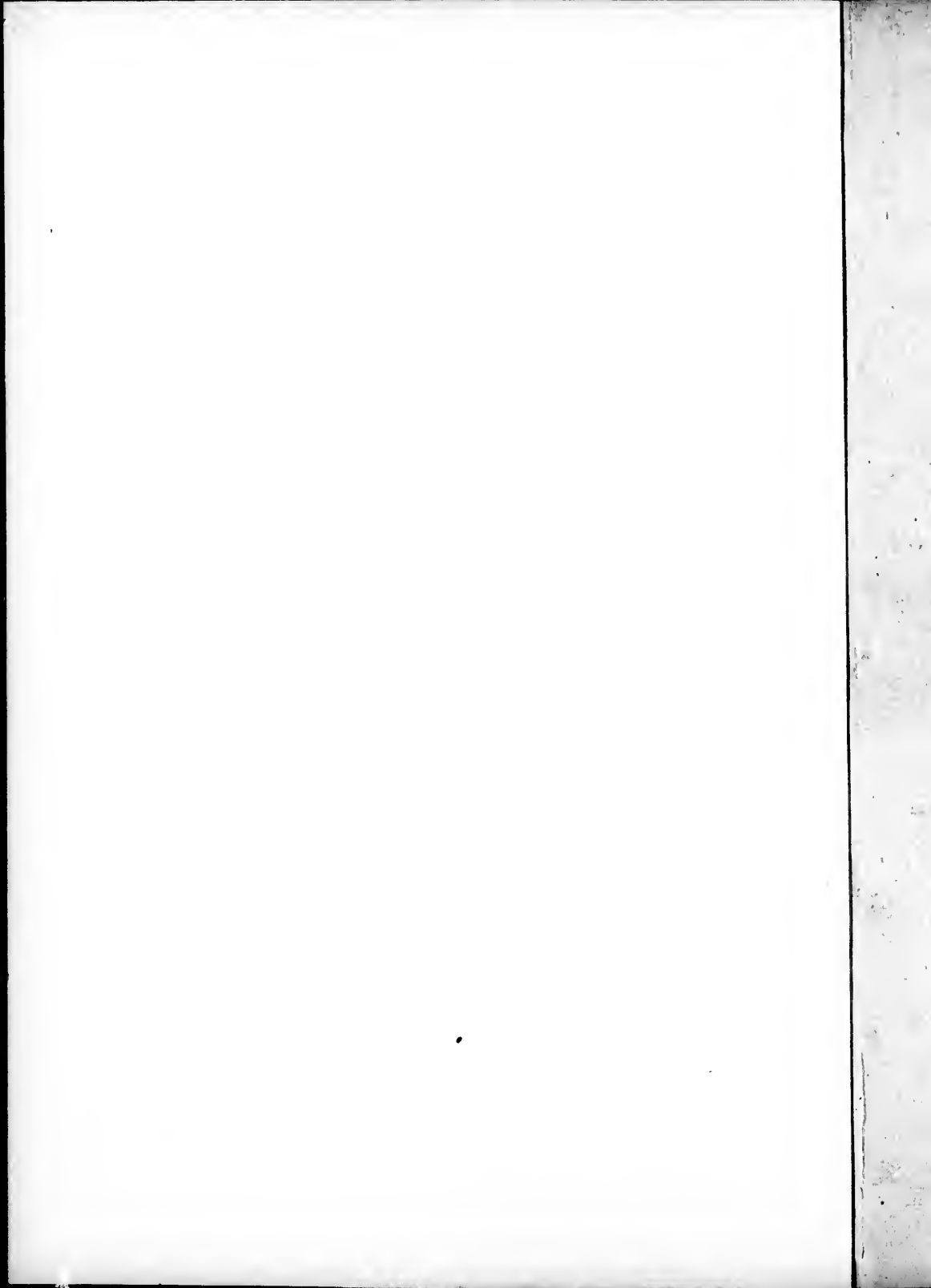
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CONSIDERATIONS (1)

On the STATE of the

BRITISH FISHERIES

I N

A M E R I C A,

And their CONSEQUENCE to

G R E A T B R I T A I N.

W I T H

PROPOSALS for their SECURITY,

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CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE STATE OF THE

BRITISH FISHERIES

IN AMERICA

AND THE CONSEQUENCES

TO GREAT BRITAIN

BY JOHN GALT

OF THE CITY OF LONDON

PRINTED AND SOLD BY G. ALLEN, 10, BLENHEIM STREET, LONDON, W.

1844

Printed by G. Allen, 10, Blenheim Street, London, W.

CONSIDERATIONS

On the STATE of the

BRITISH FISHERIES

IN

A M E R I C A.

IN the years 1738, to 1741, inclusive, were employ'd in Newfoundland, per annum, From Cape-Race, along the eastern shoar, to Cape-Bonavista, St. John's being near the centre _____ 870
 From Cape-Bonavista northward _____ 80
 From Cape-Race, westwards, including Placentia 360

Fishing-boats per annum 1310

1310 boats, at a moderate computation, catch _____ } 420,000 } quintals
 The ships fishing on the banks of } of fish
 Newfoundland catch _____ } 30,000 } annually.

In all 450,000 per ann.

These

These 450,000 quintals of fish pro- }
duce _____ } 2250 } tons of
Seal-oil caught in the winter ——— 400 tons.

————— Tons of oil per annum 2650

450,000 quintals of fish yields at market, on	£.
an average, 10l. per quintal is	225,000
2650 tons of oil sold in England at 20l. per	53,000
ton is	
1200 tierces of salmon, caught per ann. yields	
3l. per ton, is	3,600
Furs caught in the winter worth	4,000

On a moderate computation the annual produce is 285,600

The trade of Newfoundland requires above 25,000 tons of shipping to be employ'd therein annually; and there are about 8000 people, in the fisheries and the ships which carry off the produce.

New England hath also a very considerable fishery at two seasons in the year, which they call the summer and winter fisheries; the former begins the 1st of June, and ends the 1st of September; the latter commences the beginning of October, and ends the 1st of May: The fish caught in both are reckon'd to be worth 70 to 80,000l. The chief of the fish caught in both these colonies is sent, in time of peace, to Spain, Portugal, and Italy; and some small quantities go to our West-India islands, particularly Jamaica, which is mostly the inferior sort.

Great quantities of bread, flour, &c. are sent from Great Britain, New York, and Philadelphia; and also many cargoes of beef, pork, butter, &c. from Ireland; annually, for the use of the people at Newfoundland.

The people employ'd in the Newfoundland fishery mostly go in the spring, annually, from Pool, Dartmouth, and other of our western ports; and a great many fresh land-men are always taken, who mostly come home in autumn, tho' some are shipp'd there in the vessels which carry off the fish to foreign markets. These are, by the time they

they come home, become pretty good sailors; and 'tis certain these fisheries are some of the best nurseries for sailors that we have; for 'tis a laborious business, and they employ'd in it endure all weathers; the sailors rais'd therein are inur'd to hardships, and yet grow strong, from the healthfulness of the northern climate.

The shipping us'd in these fisheries require great quantities of sail-cloth, (now a valuable manufacture of our own, which heretofore we were supply'd with from the Dutch) cordage, iron-work, &c. in which trade abundance of people in these kingdoms get good livelihoods for themselves and families.

The French, by the treaty of Utrecht, were admitted to fish from Cape-Bonavista (on the island Newfoundland) to the northern point of the island, and from thence running down by the western side to Cape or Point-Riche, and no further; and were allow'd to dry their fish on land, within these limits; which they have continued to do ever since; and not only so, but have greatly encroach'd on that liberty, by extending their fishery down on that side of the land to Cape-Ray; and, to justify this, they have made Point-Riche in their maps to be but 16 leagues from the north end of the island Breton; whereas that which they so miscall is Cape-Ray, and Point-Rich lies 56 leagues more northerly, up the bay of St. Laurence: and since the commencement of the war with Spain, the French have found the sweets of supplying the Spanish markets; which will doubtless induce them yet to extend their fisheries as much as possible.

By the treaty of Utrecht we unhappily exchanged Cape-Breton for Placentia, and gave the French the aforesaid liberty on Newfoundland; since which they have carry'd on an unbounded fishery, wherein, 'tis asserted, and by good judges, that they employ a thousand sail of ships annually, from 200 to 400 tons burthen, and 20,000 men on board them. There was a computation made in the year 1730, that there was then lying at Marsilles, for a market, 220,000 quintals of cod-fish: And 'tis judg'd that they cure (communibus annis) above five millions of quintals.

The next necessary consideration respecting the trade and fishery of Newfoundland is (in my humble apprehension) how to secure it against the French. And I think there can be no way of doing it effectually, but by regaining the island of Breton from the French.

And in order thereto, 'tis propos'd,

That five ships, of 50 Guns each, with one or two old regiments, and proper artillery and warlike stores, should be sent from hence to Boston so early in the spring as to sail from thence the 20th of April 1745, for Cape-Breton, that being as soon, or sooner, than any vessels can arrive there from France.

That orders should be forthwith sent to all our North-American colonies, more especially New England and New York, directing the Governors there to make immediate preparation, by raising men, and disciplining of them, to be in readiness for an expedition, on the arrival of the said five men of war from hence at Boston.

That the men so raised should be commanded by some of his Majesty's experienced officers; that the officers under them in the respective regiments should be gentlemen of the country; that the troops be subsisted by the respective provinces; and that they be paid by his majesty, as his regular troops here.

That these troops leave Boston so as to reach the island of Breton by the time the five men of war may be off it at sea, in order to make an attack at once both by sea and land: and as there are no cannon commanding the entrance of Gaberose-Bay, which is within four miles of the rampart of Lewisburgh, the men of war, with the fleet, may safely ride there, and will prevent any assistance to the place by sea, while the troops by land do the like; so that the want of provisions may probably oblige them to surrender the place soon.

Some smaller, nimble men of war, or sloops, full of men, might at the same time be usefully employ'd in cruising on the banks of Newfoundland, and off the coast of North America, as well to secure our own, as to annoy the French, trade; and particularly to prevent their correspondence

response from old France to the gulph of St. Laurence and Quebec; for otherwise they will probably annoy our North American settlements from thence, and instigate the Indians on the back of us to disturb our people, and draw them from the design against Cape-Breton.

These proposals may seem to require a certain great expence; and tho' that is allow'd, 'tis apprehended to be well worth it; for, if we recover the island of Breton again, we not only secure our own Newfoundland and New England fisheries, but shall deprive the French of theirs, which is now so valuable to them; as also of the Key to their settlements in North America, on the back of ours. And what is yet a greater benefit to us, and loss to them, they will have no port for their ships to lie in on the continent, to secure them from us in time of war, nor to send out their men of war or privateers from, to endanger our trade; which as well from our sugar islands, as both to and from North America, must come in the way of them, while Breton continues in their hands.

Had France been deprived thereof, on the breaking out of the present war with them, how probable it is that their East India ships, and about forty others, which are lately arrived from Cape-Breton at Port l' Orient, would have fallen into our hands.

If they are suffer'd to remain in possession of it, may it not reasonably be expected that our settlements and fishery at Newfoundland will be destroy'd by them? That tho' they were not to get any thing immediately by doing it, they may then have the fish-markets of Portugal, Spain, and Italy, wholly to themselves?

All which is humbly submitted.

London, January 11, 1744.

SINCE the foregoing, I have a letter from Philadelphia, with the following paragraph, dated 8, September, 1744:

“ By

By a letter from New York of the 3d Instant, we had intelligence, that a 70, 56, 44, and 26 gun ships: are arriv'd at Cape-Breton from France; that they had with them 18 merchant-ships, from 20 to 26 guns, and from 70 to 80 men each; that they carried with them men, ammunition, and stores, for a new 70 gun ship, ready at Quebec; and that they have now 1200 regular troops at Cape-Breton. This news takes up our attention at present.

Letter from one of the principal engineers before Cape-Breton.

ON June 17, the governor surrender'd to us the town and forts of Lewisburgh. We had some time before taken the Vigilante man of war of 64 guns, laden with ammunition and other stores, valued at 60,000 l. sterling: and six other ships besides, laden with stores and provisions. Without the taking of these prizes, it had been absolutely impossible for us to succeed, notwithstanding the arduous and good conduct of our land and sea forces: for it is the strongest harbour in the West Indies. The French engineer told me, the fortifying it had cost two millions of livres; and if we keep it well garrison'd, and supply'd with stores, I may venture to pronounce it impregnable. It is the key to North America, as Gibraltar is to the Mediterranean. By this conquest, the French fishery is entirely ruin'd; their trade up the river of St. Lawrence, and to Canada, is commanded; and their homeward-bound Indiamen, who us'd to put in here, in their return, for provisions and stores, are depriv'd of all recourse; so that it is the severest blow that could have been given to the enemy, and in the very tenderest part.

Embrasures (or port-holes) in the town-wall, 148.

Cannon mounted, 64.

Embrasures in the grand-battery, 31. Cannon 30.

Embrasures in the island-battery, 36. Cannon 31.

Mortars, of 13 inches bore, 10.

Mortars of 9 inches, 6.

And almost all the balls were 42 pounders."



