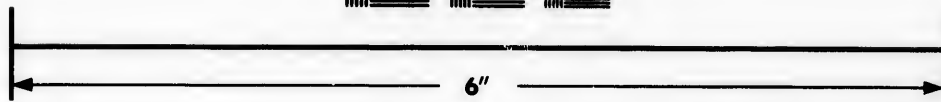
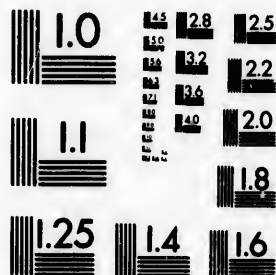


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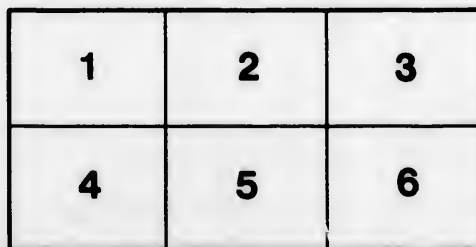
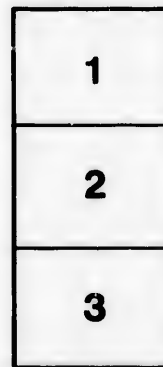
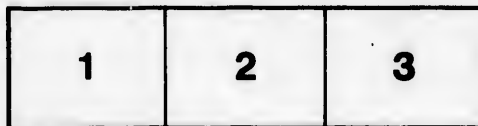
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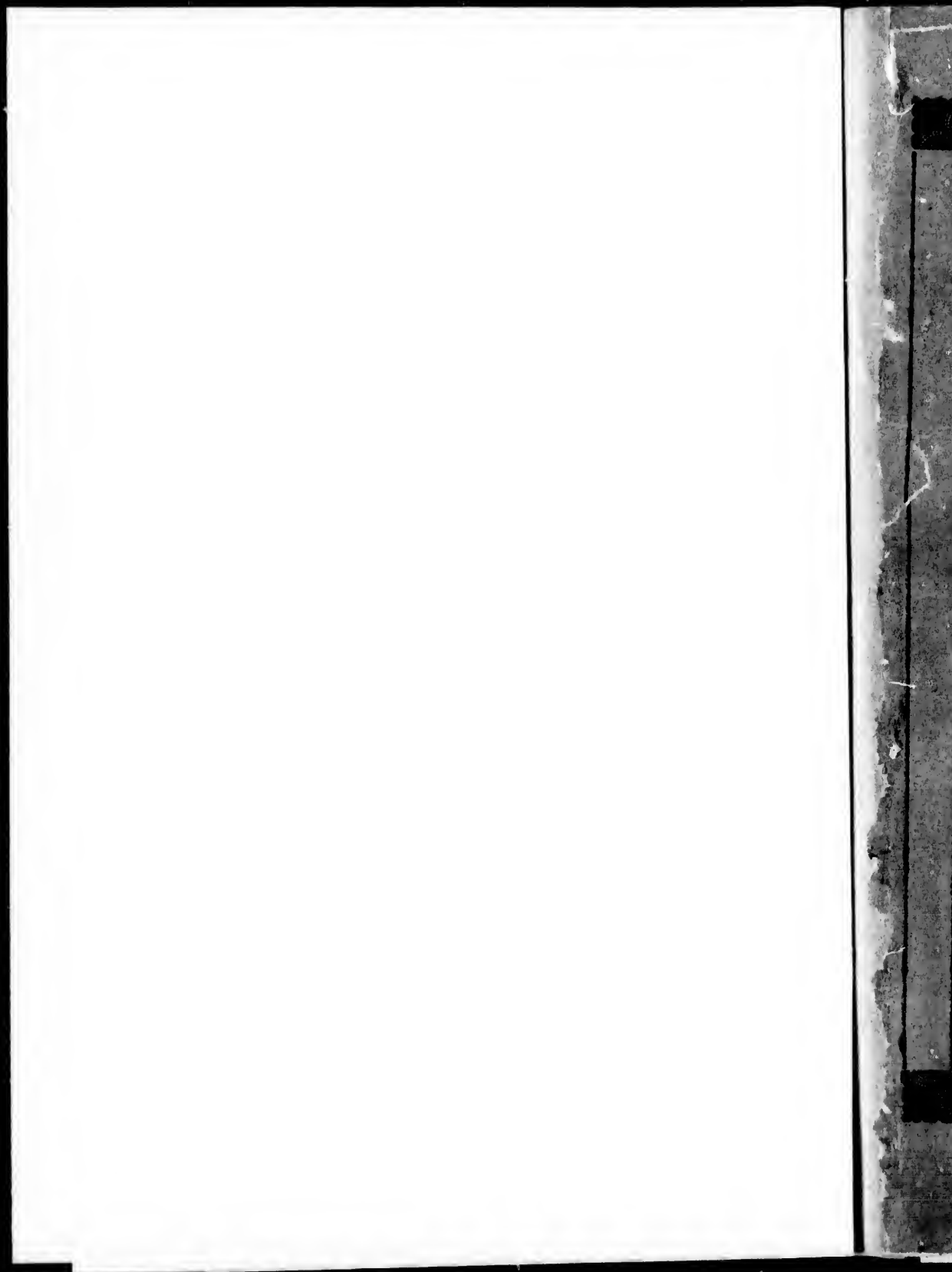
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LECTURE
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AND ITS
FISHERIES,

DELIVERED BY

MATTHEW H. WARREN,

Before the Mechanics' Institute,

At St. John's,

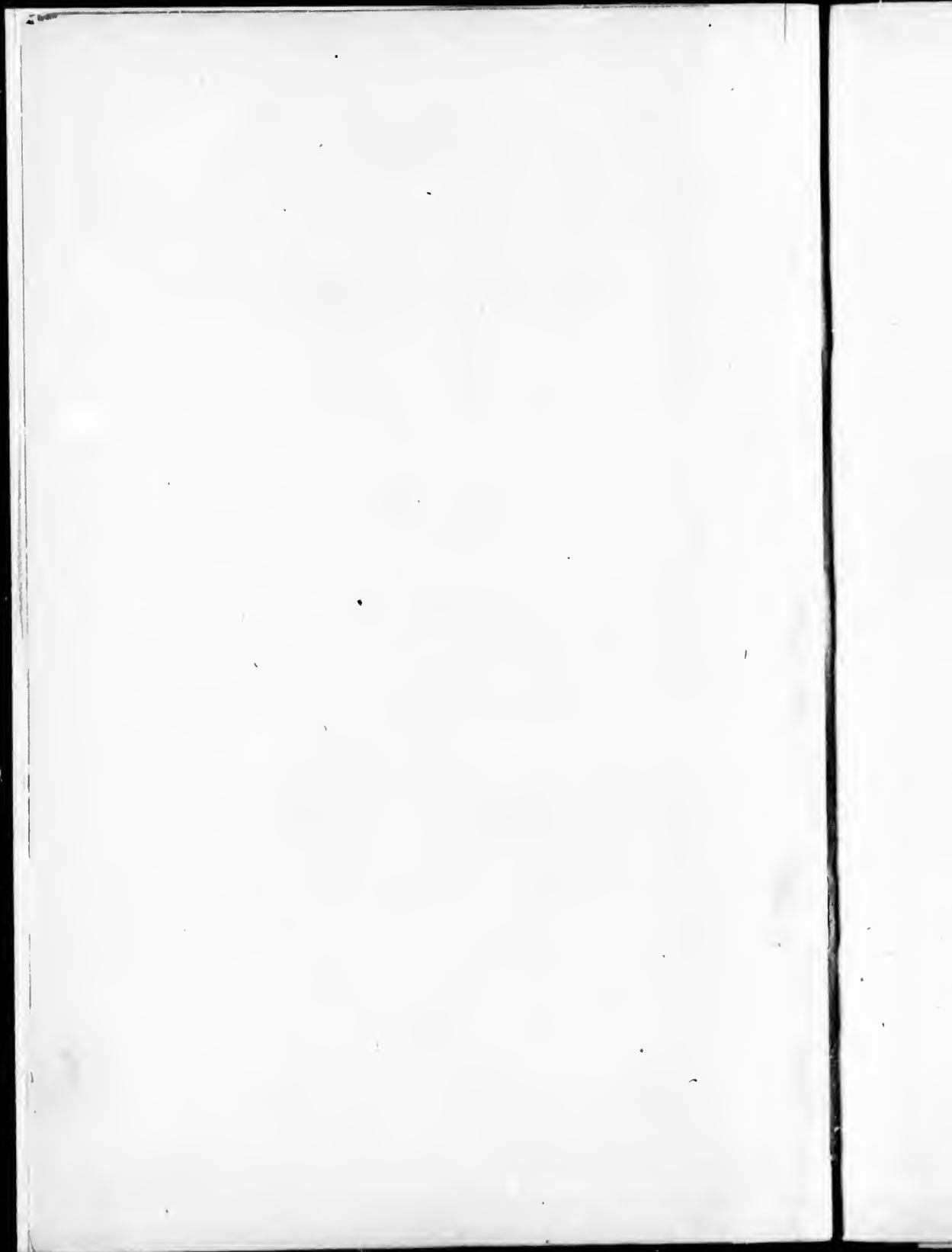
14TH MARCH, 1858.

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE "MORNING POST,"

St. John's, Newfoundland.

1858.





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LECTURE

Delivered at the Mechanics' Institute, St. John's, N.F., March 14, 1853.

MR. VICE-PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :—

HAVING been induced to address you on Newfoundland and its Fisheries, I feel myself inadequate to the task, and by no means profess ability to do justice to the subject; yet a natural desire to develop the resources of a land, long the residence of my forefathers, and with which my own interests are identified, in which I have resided the past eighteen years, and the greater portion of whose Coasts I have visited, lifts me in some measure for the subject. My endeavours shall be to point out the vast resources of this Island, the boundless and inexhaustible wealth of its fisheries. Now that the fishery question is engaging the attention of the British and American Governments, we, who are so much concerned, cannot but view the subject with deep interest, and I ask your kind indulgence, ladies, if I am too prolix in my remarks.

Newfoundland lies between the parallels of 46 40 and 51 30 North latitude, and the meridians of 52 40 to 59 30 longitude West of Greenwich; it is in a curve, 420 miles long, and in its broadest part 300 miles wide; it is bounded on the whole Eastern shore by the Atlantic Ocean; on the North-East and North it is separated from Labrador, by the Straits of Belle Isle, which are about fifty miles long and twelve broad; on the North-west by the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

According to tradition it was discovered and taken possession of by Biron or Pjörn, a sea-king or pirate of Iceland, who was driven here, and it is said, took shelter near Port Grace Harbour about the year 1001. It is doubtful, however, whether his party colonised the Island, if so, it is supposed they had become extinct before its second discovery by John Cabot, who during his first voyage, in 1497, discovered a head land which, as a lucky omen, he named BONA-VISTA, which name it still retains. Cabot took home with him three natives who were clothed in skins, and speaking a language which no person understood.

Robertson and Pinkerton were of opinion that Newfoundland was first colonised by the Norwegians, and the latter thought the Red Indians degenerated savages from the Norwegian settlers, whom Eric, Bishop of Greenland, went to Winland in 1221 to reform. Winland was the first name given to Newfoundland, that name it retained until 1479.

Among the Norwegian and Icelandic historical records, the discovery of a country, called by them Winland, on account of its abounding in wild grapes, is frequently mentioned, and that in 1221, Eric, Bishop of Greenland, went to Winland to reform his countrymen, who had degenerated into savages, that he never returned, and that nothing more was heard of Winland for several centuries. It is very probable that the adventurous Norwegians discovered Newfoundland and Labrador, but that they made settlements, as in Greenland, is doubtful. As to grapes abounding in Newfoundland, that we may safely deny. The vast quantities of wild fruits with which this Island abounds, particularly wild cranberries, which are large, rich and juicy, might very naturally have been called grapes by the Norwegians.

The History of the Red Indians was ably given you by the Honorable Joseph Noad, a short time since, in addition to which you will permit me to give the following extract from a rare and valuable work by Richard Whitburne, issued from the London press in the year 1622, being the first book published solely on Newfoundland. I also append several curious and interesting extracts from the same work, but that which refers more immediately to this part of my subject is as follows:—"It is well known that the natives of those parts have great stores of red ochre wherewith they use to colour their bodies, bowes, arrows and cannows in a painting manner, which cannows are their boats that they use to go to sea in, which are built in shape like the wherries on the River of Thames, with small timbers no thicker nor broader then hoops, and instead of boards they use the barks of birche trees, which they sew very artificially and close together, and then overlay the seams with turpentine, as pitch is used on the seams of ships and boats; and in like manner they use to sew the barks of spruce and firre trees round and deep in proportion like a brasse kettle to boil their meet in, as it hath been well approved by divers men, but most especially to my certain knowledge by three mariners of a ship of Tapson, in the County of Devon, which ship riding there at anchor neere by mee at the Harbor called Hearts Ease on the North side of Trinity Bay,

and being robbed in the night by the savages of their apparell and divers other provisions did the next day seeke after them, and happened to come suddenly where they had set up three tents and were feasting, having three such cannows by them, and three pots made of such rinds of trees, standing each of them on three stones, boyling, with twelve fowles in each of them, every fowle as big as a widgeon and some so big as a ducke ; they had also many such pots so served and fashioned, like leather buckets that are used for quenching of fire, and those were full of the yolks of eggs that they had taken and boyled hard and so dried small as it had been powder sugar, which the savages used in their broth as sugar is often used in some meates ; they had great store of the skins of deere, beavers, beares, seals, otters and divers other fine skins which were excellent well dressed, as also great store of severall sorts of flesh dried, and by shooting off a musket towards them they all ran away, naked, without any apparall but only some of them had their hats on their heads, which were made of seale skins, in fashion like our hats sewed handsomely with narrow bands about them set round with fine white shels. All their three cannows, their flesh, skins, yolks of eggs, targets, bows and arrows, and much fine okar, and divers others things they tooke and brought away and shared it among those that tooke it, and they brought to me the best cannow, bows and arrows and divers of their skins and many other artificial things worth the noting which may seeme much to invite us to endeavour to finde out some other good trades with them."

Newfoundland, after its discovery by Cabot, was visited by Cotereal, a Portuguese, and Cartier, the celebrated French navigator, who reported favourably on the abundanee and excellence of its eod fishery, owing to which it was called Bacalao, the Indian name for that fish. In 1550 a considerable trade was carried on, a number of British ships fished on the Banks, and dried their fish on the shores. In 1583 Sir Humphrey Gilbert, of Devonshire, landed in St. John's Bay, having a Patent from Queen Elizabeth for any 200 leagues of coast he choose to settle on. He took possession in the Queen's name, in the presence of the crews of 36 vessels of different nations, and in testimony of Her Majesty's sovereignty, erected a pillar of wood, to which the arms of England, engraved on lead, were affixed. Desirous of securing the best land before the expiration of his Patent, he proposed to prosecute his discoveries South; one of his vessels was lost with her crew of 100 men; and in her the silver ore discovered in Newfoundland by a

Cornish miner. Sir Humphrey Gilbert was lost on his homeward voyage.

In 1598 Richard Stray sailed from Falmouth with two vessels, having on board several butchers and coopers, for the Ramea Islands. In the months of April, May, and June, at that time the Island was frequented by multitudes of Morses or Sea Horses. These creatures had two large teeth resembling ivory, which, as well as their oil and skins, were valuable articles of commerce. One vessel reached the Ramea Islands, but too late; she, however, found a French vessel belonging to St. Maloes, lying at anchor, almost full of Morses, but she slipped her cables on the English vessel's approach, and stood out to sea, leaving twenty-two men and three shallops, or boats behind; the other vessel made Cape St. Francis on the 11th July, when she went to the Westward, made Cape Breton, and bore away South-west. At about one hundred and eighty miles distance she fell in with an immense quantity of seals, numbers of which they secured; this is the earliest record of the taking of those amphibious animals in this Western hemisphere.

In 1615 Captain Whitburne, who had been for many years employed in the British Bank Fishery, was sent out with a commission to empanel juries and investigate abuses. He received the complaints of the masters of one hundred and seventy English vessels, a proof of the extent of the fisheries at that time, and of their being exclusively British. The first permanent settlement was formed by Sir George Calvert, afterwards Lord Baltimore. The settlers fixed their head quarters at Ferryland, and he called his colony Avalon after the ancient name of Glastonbury, in Somersetshire.

In 1654 there were three hundred families residing here, but the Board of Trade and Plantations did every thing in their power to prevent settlers colonising the Island.

In 1674 petition was made for a Governor. On its being referred to the Lords of Trade and Plantations, they proposed that all plantations in Newfoundland should be discouraged, and that the Commanders of Convoys should compel the inhabitants to depart from the Island, by putting in execution one of the conditions of the Western Charter. His Majesty approved of this, and, under its sanction, the inhabitants were most most cruelly treated, their houses burnt, and extreme measures used to drive them from the country. In 1676 His Majesty, owing to the representations of George Downing, an inhabitant, directed that none of the settlers should be disturbed.

In 1696 France had taken from England all her Possessions

in Newfoundland except Bonavista and Carbonear. The English soon, however, repossessed themselves of St. John's, and all other places taken by the French.

By the Treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, Placentia and other places were ceded to Great Britain, France having only the license of coming and going during the season, for the purposes of the fishery.

In 1729 Captain Henry Osborne was appointed Governor. The petty jealousies of the Fishing Admirals, Merchants and Planters, prevented Osborne and his successors from carrying into effect the objects and regulations, to enforce which, they were appointed. The Board of Trade, which, it appears, had the regulating of all matters that regarded this country, was abolished in 1782.

Newfoundland up to this time had been governed by Admirals, Vice-Admirals, and Rear-Admirals, as they were designated, namely, the master of the first ship that arrived was the Admiral, the second, Vice-Admiral, the third Rear-Admiral in the harbours they frequented. Few of these men could read or write. Every effort had been used to prevent the colonization of this country. The West of England Merchants, who came out in the Spring for the prosecution of the Fishery, wished, by every means in their power, to prevent the settlement and colonisation of the Island. They found that the residents who remained in the country, could, by cultivating the soil, and from the advantage of being on the spot to repair and get ready their boats and fishing-rooms,—catch fish at a cheaper rate than those who resided in England; they therefore represented to the Government, who viewed Newfoundland only as a nursery for seamen, that should the Island be colonised, there would not be so many vessels required; that green hands, as they were termed, would not be brought out, and the fishery would be carried on in boats, which, they said, would not make sailors of the fishermen. These men having powerful influence, for a long time had the ear of the Government. The many cruelties the planters suffered and the disadvantages they laboured under, were unknown, or, at least, paid little attention to, in fact a few merchants residing in England, had for a series of years the monopoly of the Newfoundland fisheries, deluding the Government by false representations, making them believe that the fishery carried on by themselves was the only one calculated to promote the trade of England, and to prove a nursery for seamen. By thus imposing on the Government, representing the soil as incapable of cultivation, they induced the Govern-

ment to pass restrictive enactments and rules. The cultivation of the soil was deemed a Felony. Residence in the country was made a transportable offence. Such were the injurious effects of the system pursued, that Sir Hugh Palliser in his report to the Privy Council says:—"Such is the effect of the Newfoundland fishery running into monopoly, that the rest of the merchants, if they cannot have a monopoly likewise, will let the New-England men, Frenchmen, or any body run away with it."

The following is the substance of the evidence of William Knox, Esq., given before a Committee of the House of Commons. Mr. Knox represented himself as having been formerly Under-Secretary of State for the American Department; and stated that he furnished much of the information upon which the government of Lord North acted, he said—"That the Island of Newfoundland had been considered in all times as a fishing-ship, moored on the Banks during the fishing season, for the convenience of English fishermen. The Governor was considered as Ship's Captain, and all those concerned in the fishery business, as his crew, and subject to naval discipline. To prevent the increase of inhabitants on the Island, the most positive instructions were given to the Governors not to make any grants of land, and to reduce the number of those who had already settled there. Their vessels, as well as those belonging to the Colonies, were to be denied any priority of right, in occupying stations in the bays or harbours for curing their fish, over the vessels from England; and he was entrusted to withhold from them whatever might serve to encourage them to remain on the Island. And as Lord North expressed it, whatever they loved roasted, he was to give to them raw, and whatever they wished raw, he was to give them roasted.

Such was the evidence of William Knox, Esq., given before the Committee of the House of Commons, April 24, 1793.

Chief Justice Reeves, appointed in 1791, justly holds a high place as one of the greatest benefactors of Newfoundland. The English Government at that time began to think Newfoundland required some consideration, and it was chiefly through his representations that an Act was passed, doing away with the authority of the Fishery Admirals, whose acts of oppression and rapacity had become intolerable.

During the War, Newfoundland was in the height of her prosperity, fish selling in foreign markets at 45s. per quintal.

In the year 1814, according to McGregor, the exports from Newfoundland sold for £2,830,000.

The Peace dissipated the flattering prospects these prices had

raised, as fish fell from 45s. to 12s. per quintal; the consequence was universal ruin to the merchant and shop-keeper. It was estimated that in the years 1815, 1816 and 1817, Bills to the amount of £1,000,000 were returned protested, occasioned by the Insolvency of Houses engaged in the fishery. Our best fishing grounds at the close of the War, were yielded up to the French and Americans, who receive from their governments enormous bounties, thereby enabling them to undersell us in our own markets. Indeed it is a matter of surprise how the British subjects of Newfoundland have been able to withstand the competition; it is only the auxiliary aid of the Seal Fishery, and the extension of agriculture that has enabled this Colony to maintain its inhabitants.

The Treaties between France and England whereby was conceded to the French the concurrent right of fishing on certain portions of the coast of Newfoundland, are of considerable importance, as, up to the present time, the French still enjoy the advantages they obtained therefrom.

The following Declarations, which bear more immediately on the point, I give entire, as they will probably be viewed with interest:—

DECLARATION OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY.—1. “The King having entirely agreed with His Most Christian Majesty upon the articles of the definitive treaty, will seek every means which shall not only insure the execution thereof, with his accustomed good faith and punctuality, but will beside give, on his part, all possible efficacy to the principles which shall prevent even the least foundation of dispute for the future. To this end, and in order that the fishermen of the two nations may not give cause for daily quarrels, His Britannic Majesty will take the most positive measures for preventing his subjects from interrupting, in any manner, by their competition, the fishery of the French, during the temporary exercise of it which is granted to them upon the coast of the island of Newfoundland; and he will for this purpose cause the fixed settlements, which shall be formed there, to be removed. His Britannic Majesty will give orders that the French fishermen be not incommoded in cutting the wood necessary for the repair of their scaffolds, huts, and fishing vessels.

“The thirteenth article of the Treaty of Utrecht, and the method of carrying on the fishery, which has at all times been acknowledged, shall be the plan upon which the fishery shall be carried on there: it shall not be deviated from by either party; the French fishermen building only their scaffolds, confining themselves to the repair of their fishing-vessels, and not wintering there; the subjects of his Britannic Majesty, on their part, not molesting in any manner the French fishermen during their fishing, nor injuring their scaffolds during their absence.

"The King of Great Britain, in ceding the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon to France, regards them as ceded for the purpose of serving as a real shelter to the French fishermen, and in full confidence that these possessions will not become an object of jealousy between the two nations; and that the fishery between the said islands and that of Newfoundland shall be limited to the middle of the channel.

"MANCHESTER."

"Given at Versailles, the 3d September, 1783."

COUNTER DECLARATION OF HIS MOST CHRISTIAN MAJESTY.—"The principles which have guided the King in the whole course of the negotiations which preceded the re-establishment of peace must have convinced the King of Great Britain that his Majesty has had no other design than to render it solid and lasting, by preventing as much as possible, in the four quarters of the world, every subject of discussion and quarrel.

"The King of Great Britain undoubtedly places too much confidence in the uprightness of his Majesty's intentions, not to rely upon his constant attention to prevent the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon from becoming an object of jealousy between the two nations.

"As to the fishery on the coasts of Newfoundland, which has been the object of the new arrangements settled by the two sovereigns upon this matter, it is sufficiently ascertained by the fifth article of the treaty of peace signed this day, and by the declaration likewise delivered to-day by his Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; and his Majesty declares that he is fully satisfied on this head.

"In regard to the fishery between the island of Newfoundland, and those of St. Pierre and Miquelon, it is not to be carried on by either party but to the middle of the channel; and his Majesty will give the most positive orders that the French fishermen shall not go beyond this line. His Majesty is firmly persuaded that the King of Great Britain will give like orders to the English fishermen.

"Given at Versailles, the 3d of September, 1783.

"GRAVIER DE VERGENNES."

Having thus pointed out the French right of fishery, as granted by the Treaty, I will now proceed to shew the right of fishery granted to the United States of America by the Convention of 1818, which was, that the people of the United States should have the right to fish forever on the Grand Bank, and all other Banks, of Newfoundland, and, in common with British Subjects, the liberty to fish on the Southern Coasts of Newfoundland, from the Ramea Islands to Cape Ray; on the Western and Northern Coasts from Cape Ray to Cape Quirpon; on the Coasts, Bays

and Harbours from Mount Joli on the Southern Coast of Labrador, through the Straits of Belle Isle, and thence indiscriminately along the coast Northwardly. Also the liberty for ever to cure and dry their fish in any of the unsettled Bays, Creeks and Harbours on the Southern Coast namely, from Cape Ray to the Ramea Islands. The French having endeavoured to exercise an exclusive right to the coast conceded them, and viewing this subject as one of deep importance, I wish to be explicit.

The French enjoyed by Treaty the joint right of fishery from 1712 to 1783, on the coast from Cape Bonavista to Point Riche; no formal demand was made of an exclusive right of fishery, or if made, it was never recognised, and they jointly participated in the right of fishery, on this line of the coast. The Treaty of Versailles ratified the Treaty of Utrecht as regards the fishery. The Treaty, of Paris 1783 gave to France in full, the right to St. Pierre and Miquelon, and stated that their limits should begin at Cape John on the East and extend round to Cape Ray on the West, as was assigned by the Treaty of Utrecht, and it was again stipulated by the Treaty of Paris, 1814, that the fishery should be enjoyed as in 1712. From a careful perusal of the Treaties and Declarations of the Kings of France and England, it will plainly be seen, not that the British were not to fish at all within the French limits, but that, with a view to prevent the evils they suffered by the concurrent right of fishery, the fixed settlements should be removed. It may well be asked what motive could the British have, at the time agricultural pursuits were unknown in Newfoundland, in maintaining a fixed settlement, if they were not allowed to fish? And even if fixed settlements were prohibited, it is not said the British were not to fish at all, or to have temporary establishments as permitted to the French. Mr. Pitt, the celebrated statesman, always spoke of it as a concurrent right. By the American Convention of 1818, Great Britain granted to the United States the right of fishing from Cape Ray to Cape Quirpon. Would America have accepted, or Great Britain have granted, to the United States, a concurrent right of fishing, if she had already granted the exclusive right of fishery to the French? The Americans have ever since 1818 exercised the right of fishery on the Western coasts.

In dwelling so long on our rights of fishery on the coasts from Cape Ray to Cape John, I do so from a knowledge of that portion which we are prevented from enjoying, and have been so unjustly deprived of; and as I view Newfoundland as a country capable of maintaining millions of inhabitants, and the coasts

now used by the French, as the best portion of the Island, possessing resources unknown to the other parts; I am anxious to impress on all who hear me, (our Legislators especially) that the time has arrived when we must look to our rights and adopt the necessary measures to obtain them. A better day is dawning for Newfoundland. The glorious spirit of Free Trade is abroad, infusing its invigorating influence into all commercial operations, and we should let no opportunity slip of furthering the advancement of the country of our birth or of our adoption. On the coast which the French claim are to be found coal, copper, iron, *silver*, and limestone, while the waters also yield salmon, herring and cod fish in the greatest abundance.

The land is in many places equal to any in Prince Edward Island or New Brunswick; the climate is superior, and free from the cold fogs and winds so hurtful to vegetation, and which prevail on this Eastern portion of the Island. On the North-East we find beautiful and well wooded bays abounding with splendid harbours. Are we, then; to be for ever debarred from enjoying the best section of the Island by the misconstruction of the Treaties? This is an important subject, and the day is not distant when it will be viewed with all the consideration it merits and deserves. Our inherent rights should be earnestly pressed on the notice of the parent government, and I trust they will be, and that too with success.

The cod-fishery on the Banks of Newfoundland commenced a few years after its discovery. In 1517 mention is made of the first British ship which had been at Newfoundland, where, at the same time, 50 Spanish, French, and Portuguese, ships were fishing. The French in 1533 were extensively engaged in this fishery, and in 1558 there were employed in it, by Spain, 100 ships, by Portugal 50 ships, and by England only 15 ships. The Biscayans had, about the same time, from 20 to 30 vessels in the whale fishery of Newfoundland, and some English ships in 1593 made a voyage in quest of whales and walrusses. England had in 1615 at Newfoundland 250 ships, and the French, Biscayans, and Portuguese, 400 ships. From this period Newfoundland began to rise into importance, and De Witt observes, "that the English Navy became formidable by the discovery of the inexpressibly rich fishing Bank of Newfoundland." In 1626 the French possessed themselves of, and settled at; Placentia. That nation always viewed the English fishery with great jealousy. The French, however, continued afterwards; until they were deprived of all their possessions in North America, to carry on more extensively than the English, the fishery

qu the Banks and coasts of Newfoundland. It was a maxim of the French Government that the North American fisheries were of more national value in regard to navigation and power than the gold mines of Mexico could have been if the latter were possessed by France. As the French have so largely monopolised the Bank fishery, their method of conducting it demands enquiry. The plan of bultow fishery, destructive as it is acknowledged to be, even while acted upon, by the French, is not allowed to be used on the French Shores or in the neighbourhood of St. Pierre's. It is contrary to the ancient mode of fishing, as prescribed by the treaty granting them the right to fish on this coast, and is opposed to the spirit of the Treaty of Utrecht, the basis of all the Treaties appertaining to the subject of the Newfoundland fisheries; as the 13th article of that treaty states;—"That the method of carrying on the fishery, which has been at all times acknowledged, shall be the plan upon which the fishery shall be carried on there; it shall not be deviated from by either party."

That the bultow system is injurious to our shore fishery, is shown by the good voyages obtained when the Frenchmen, from want of bait, or other causes, are late on the Banks, and vice versa. Besides, when we take into account that annually 360 French vessels are on the Banks, each with 8 to 10,000 fathoms of bultows; spreading over 500 miles of ground, baiting over one million of hooks, and more than 200 small craft on St. Pierre's Bank, it is but reasonable to conclude that a large quantity of fish is stayed on its progress towards us, and prevented from coming in with the shore.

The bultow fishing is carried on in the following manner:—The vessel is provided with three or four large boats, of a size fit to carry out, at considerable distances, large supplies of rope and line, with moorings and anchors sufficient to enable her to ride at anchor on the open Bank in rough weather. The boats carry out from 5 to 8000 fathoms of rope, to which are fastened leads, with baited hooks at certain distances from each other; these are placed out from the vessel in different directions, let down, and secured with suitable moorings; to prevent their being carried away by the strong currents which usually prevail on the Banks. They are laid out at stated distances from each other, with several thousand hooks well baited, and frequently occupying several miles of ground. Having been thus set out, they are taken up on the following day, and overhauled, the fish are taken off, and if the berth is approved of, the hooks are baited afresh and let down again, and this course continues to

be pursued daily during the voyage. Should the berth, however, not prove a good one, they heave up, and the vessel sails about until they find another and a better one. Complaints were made, and justly so, by the English Bankers, that when the French saw them catching fish freely, they anchored near, and laid out their bultows, which, spreading so large a quantity of bait, soon drew the fish from the few caplin or other bait presented by the English vessel ; and the latter was obliged to sail away in quest of another berth, while so numerous were the Frenchmen, that much time was lost in finding a berth clear of their vessels.

According to the report of Captain LOCH, of H. M. S. *Alarm*, in 1848, there were 360 French Banking vessels, of from 150 to 300 tons each, carrying from 16 to 17,000 Frenchmen, which vessels caught annually 1,200,000 quintals of fish on the Banks." He also states that Monsieur DELUCLUSE, the French Governor of St. Pierre's, had the honesty to tell him, it was the supply of bait obtained from the Newfoundland fishermen, that alone enabled them to carry on the Bank fishery. Captain LOCH also remarks :—" It is obvious that, by withholding from the French the supply of bait from our shores, their catch on the Banks would sensibly diminish, and their trade could not increase beyond the limits controlled by the comparatively very scanty supply of bait afforded by their own coasts and islands." All naval officers who have been on the Western station, as well as all disinterested persons who are acquainted with that coast, unite in stating that it is only by means of the bait supplied to them by British subjects, that the French are enabled to carry on the Bank Fishery. Is it, not then, a source of wonder, that our Legislators are so blind to the interests of the country as to permit this evil to continue ? Is it not surprising they should be so supine as to neglect their great and important duty of passing such laws, and adopting such measures, as will effectually check and prevent our foreign rivals from obtaining their supplies of bait from our shores ?

The French Government care not so much for the Coast as they do for the Bank Fishery, as it is by the latter they train and make their seamen. Check our people in supplying them with bait, and they cannot carry on that fishery to the extent they do now,—as it has again and again been observed that it is alone the bait they now obtain from us, that enables them to send nearly 400 vessels to the Banks, and which by spreading a network of Bultows over so large a space, prevent the fish from coming in with our shores. To this cause chiefly may be

attributed the scarcity of fish of late years in Conception and Trinity Bays, and on the Southern coasts of this Island. Prevent the French, (and it can be done at a small expense and with no great difficulty) from obtaining bait from our shores, and you will so materially affect their Bank fishery, that I may, with the utmost safety, venture to assert, that before a year passes over they will offer such terms and concessions to obtain a supply of Bait from us, as the most sanguine among us could dream of or desire. In fact, they would gladly give us exclusive possession of the coast from Cape Ray to Cape Norman, a portion invaluable to us, from its great natural resources, but comparatively useless to the French as they cannot settle, having only a temporary use of it, and being obliged to leave it for the winter.

The annual average of catch from 1831 to 1835 at the French Shore, on the Banks, and at St. Pierr's, was about 300,000 qtls., since then it has much increased. In 1848 we cannot reckon their catch at less than 1,500,000 qtls., as Captain LOCH reports it that year, on the Banks alone, at 1,200,000 qtls. The French have always exhibited a jealousy when questioned on the subject of their fishery, and therefore we cannot arrive at any accurate conclusion upon it. The amount of drawbacks, premiums, and bounties, paid by the French Government in 1845, was nearly 20,000,000 francs, or £833,000 sterling. The premium, per man employed, is 100 to 500 francs; though in some instances it extends to 1,000 francs. The bounty on fish re-exported from France to the West India colonies, was 40 francs or 33s. 4d. sterling per qtl. On fish sent direct to foreign Markets in the Mediterranean, or crossing the frontier by land into Spain, 10 francs per quintal, or 8s. 4d. sterling.

In 1845 the quantity of Herring supplied the French by our people, was nearly 10,000 barrels, and of Caplin 21,000 barrels, besides large quantities of sounds. The Caplin supplied the French from Lamaline alone amounted to 7,500 barrels. The sum paid in 1845 at St. Pierr's for bait was £12,000; and in 1848 it was estimated at £20,000. During the time Mr. Oke was on the station in the Colonial Cruiser for the suppression of this suicidal traffic, Herrings were worth at times 45 to 70 francs per barrel.

The men in the French Bankers are employed on shares; one third of the voyage is divided among the crew, and the Master receives two men's shares, and 500 francs for every thousand fish that are caught. In 1847 one vessel caught more than 5,000 qtls.

These enormous bounties alone would enable the French to carry on their Fishery, and it is by the fishermen employed on the Banks, that France mans her Navy. Most assuredly then is it the policy of the British Government to curtail their fishery, and the only means to accomplish this is to stop the supply of Bait to them.

With the method of the catch and cure of our shore Fish, all are so well acquainted, that it would be superfluous in me to enter into explanatory details; I will therefore proceed with the endeavour to convey some idea of the British Bank fishery, which, owing to the method of French Bank fishing and other causes, has of late years entirely fallen off. The Banking vessels formerly mostly came out from England early in the Spring, when having taken in bait they proceeded to the Banks. For the purpose of mooring there, they were provided with a large cable of about 9 inches in circumference, and 240 fathoms long; this cable was serviced or covered with a small rope, to prevent its chafing, or being cut on the bottom; after coming to anchor, they would veer out their cable according to the roughness of the weather, not requiring so much scope in a calm as in a gale. Every vessel was manned with about eight fishermen, a splitter, and a header and salter, besides the Captain, whose duty it was to count the fish and see that the business was properly conducted. Each fisherman was provided with lines and bobbing poles, which projected from the side, and kept the outside clear from the inside lines. They generally fished in about 45 fathoms of water, and each vessel would frequently catch in a day, 400 fish, although fishing in this depth of water, with heavy leads and lines, was hard and laborious work. The fish after being taken, were split and salted in the vessel's hold, the heads, sounds, bones, and entrails, were kept on deck, until the vessel made another berth, (which would probably not be for a fortnight), as, if thrown overboard, they would either frighten away the fish or feed them. Vessels of from 100 to 120 tons have loaded, by this method of hook and line fishery, in 14 days. at other times when fish was scarce, they would remain anchored on the Banks for a month or six weeks. To form some idea of the agreeableness of the Bank fishing, one must fancy the vessel rolling and pitching about, the men scarcely able to stand, the fog dropping like rain from the rigging, on a dark, cold, night, and feeling the hooks to bait them.

After the vessel had completed her loading, or when bait was required, she would proceed to the port at which the fish was to be cured, where it was washed out, taken on shore, and dried.

After the vessel had discharged, she would take in salt, bait, and other necessaries, and proceed again to the Banks, probably not having been more than twenty hours in the harbour; the Merchants of those times priding themselves on the short time the Banker was in port. The same spirit is evinced in the present day, as regards vessels loading for Brazils.

The fish caught on the Banks is large and of a superior quality, averaging but thirty to the quintal when dried. The greatest portion of the fish formerly taken was shipped to the Spanish and Portuguese markets, where it was more esteemed and commanded higher prices than the shore catch. The Bankers made generally four trips during the season, and in some seasons upwards of 1500 quintals were taken by each vessel. The last trip they split round tails, and took them in salt to England, without being dried, and there sold them in that state.

In 1835, a Portuguese company was formed in Lisbon, under the title of the *Compania Piscarias*, for the prosecution of the Bank fishery; they sent to England and purchased seven English schooners, of about 100 tons each, and shipped in Devonshire, at high wages, men who had been accustomed to the Bank fishery. After being fitted out at a large expense with all the luxuries they thought Englishmen were fond of, such as cheese, brandy, porter, &c., (and fine feasting these old Bankers had) the vessels proceeded to Lisbon, and on arrival there, an equal number of Portuguese were put on board, to be instructed in the method of fishing; then taking in sardines for bait, they proceeded to the Banks, and when they had completed their first trip, they returned to Fayal, in the Western Islands, where they landed their fish and then went on a second voyage, on the return from which those who had been successful landed the second cargo, and proceeded on their third voyage, the catch of which they took green to Lisbon, where it was sold in the same condition. In Fayal the fish was taken in waggons to the tops of the mountains, where flakes had been previously made, covered with boards, as a screen to protect the fish from the scorching rays of the sun, and it was there cured by the winds and heats, which in those climates are very drying, and when cured the fish was thence exported to Portugal, where it is admitted at a nominal duty. At the end of the season the Englishmen so employed were discharged and sent home. The Portuguese having thus obtained from them all the information they required, (they now fish with bultows;) the Company, however, is not in a flourishing state, having laboured

under many disadvantages. So ignorant were many of the Directors, at the time the Company was formed, that at one of their meetings, the Vice-President proposed drying the fish on the Banks! Their Government, I believe, have made overtures to Great Britain to take off a portion of the heavy duties they now impose upon our fish, on condition of having granted a portion of the Newfoundland coast, for them to form a settlement for the cure of fish; if such is the case, the Portuguese Government not having the means of granting bounties, it would be wise policy in Great Britain to accede to the proposal, as the consumption is much curtailed by the high prices the consumers have to pay, the duties being in many instances more than the price we obtain for the fish itself, and the quantity consumed would increase in a greater ratio, than the difference of quantity the Portuguese would catch.

The method of fishing generally used on the Newfoundland coast is the Hook and Line. Of late years, Cod-seines have much increased, notwithstanding the denunciations of Izaak Walton of Trinity, who, to his credit be it said, and with a perseverance worthy of success, always decried this injurious mode of fishing; nearly twenty years' experience enables me to say I entirely agree in his views, and in corroboration allow me to read from an old petition, sent in 1775 to the British House of Commons, the following extract:—

“Codseines we deem a great nuisance, by them we destroy great quantities of small fish, which after being enclosed (and not worth the attention of the person who hauls them) are left to rot, by which means a multitude of fish, that would else grow to maturity, perish.”

We learn from L'Abbey Raynall that the English fishermen, previously to the year 1763, used to repair to certain parts of the Island during the winter for the prosecution of the Seal Fishery, which always terminated at the close of the season. They placed their nets between the shore and the islands, or rocks, that lie at a small distance from it; the seals, which generally came in shoals from the Eastward, were caught in attempting to pass the narrow places. This plan appears to have been pursued until the end of the last century, when some enterprising Merchants of Conception Bay and St. John's commenced sending out small vessels of from 30 to 50 tons burthen, each manned by 12 or 14 men, who were generally hired at fixed wages. The number of vessels in 1800 did not exceed 50. The expense of the outfit of each vessel was about £75.—

In the year 1814, when the number of vessels had considerably

increased, there were exported 4,666 tuns Seal Oil and 156,000 Skins. The Seal Fishery then began to languish, and for a considerable period, remained in a low condition, owing to the depression in trade by the peace, and from other causes. From 1825 down to the present time, it has been yearly on the increase, and is the most profitable pursuit in the island, or, it may truly be said, in the world, more than equalling the gold diggings of California or Australia, and not more uncertain or precarious in its character. The Seal Fishery now annually employs upwards of 400 vessels of from 80 to 200 tons, manned by 15,000 men by whose intrepidity and laborious industry, an amount of not less than £300,000, the proceeds of Seal Oil and Skins, is added to the trade of this Island.

Up to the year 1774, vessels were sent in pursuit of Walrusses, Morses or Sea Horse, and in 1769 the value of the Seal-horse oil, skins and teeth, exported from Newfoundland, was £2,300. In 1843, three of these animals were taken on the French shore; their tusks were about 18 inches long; last season one was taken in Green Bay, and some few years since, the remains of one were brought in here by Mr. William Whealan of Brigus.

The next fishery in importance to the Cod and Seal, is the Herring Fishery. No correct idea can be formed of its extent or value. From St. George's Bay nearly 20,000 barrels are annually shipped to foreign markets; from Fortune and Placentia Bays, about 50,000 barrels, from other parts of the Island 45,000 barrels, and 10,000 barrels are supplied the French; making the total exports, so far as could be ascertained, 105,000 barrels, but this falls far short of the quantity actually exported.

This branch of our fishery has heretofore been much neglected. Free Trade with Canada and the United States, will tend so to increase the demand for this fine fish, that, ere long, the Herring fishery will rival in value and importance even the Cod fishery in this Island. I cannot omit to mention the bad character Newfoundland Herrings have acquired in foreign markets, owing in a great measure to the little pains taken in the cure; to the defects of our inspection system, and from allowing our Herrings to be shipped in bulk. Were sufficient pains taken in the cure and packing, I can imagine no reason why Newfoundland Herrings should not be as good as those caught in other countries.

In 1749 there were exported from this country 1,800 tierces Salmon, valued at 40s per tierce, and in 1852, 8,400 tierces.

In 1775 Commodore Duff reported the Salmon fishery in Cander Bay, and Bay of Exploits, as already large and rapidly increasing. But our best Salmon fisheries have been unlawfully and unjustly taken by the French; the splendid Salmon fishery in Bell Vue Bay is now monopolised by them.

The method of taking Salmon is generally in nets. The Esquimaux Indians residing Northward take them in weirs made of branches of trees, and of wood they prepare for the purpose.

In 1832 there were exported from Newfoundland, 916 barrels of Mackerel. This fish, so valuable an article of commerce as well so great a luxury, has deserted our coasts for many years, still we may reasonably hope they will visit us again, ere long, in abundance, as they naturally will follow their old custom of returning to their former haunts, after having deserted them for years. In Green Bay, during the past few years, they have already made their appearance; last season, about a barrel of Mackerel was taken per net. From information kindly afforded me by Mr. Knight, I am led to agree with him in opinion, that they are gradually appearing on the shores of the North East part of the Island. I am credibly informed they were in abundance in White Bay last season, and from these indications we may indulge the hope, that they will shortly gladden our fishermen by their presence in all the bays of the Island.

Newfoundland, so long deemed valueless as an agricultural country, is not so in reality; even that portion which is most thickly populated, and contains the worst land in the Island, the territory of Avalon, has 100,000 acres under cultivation; and though it labours under the disadvantage of being exposed to cold fogs and winds in the summer, yet even here the land repays those who cultivate it, and when the country shall be denuded of its forests, and the land more extensively drained, we shall find great improvements in the productive properties of the soil. And here I would read an extract from Whitbornes' work, before alluded to, in corroboration of these remarks:

"It is well knowne unto all those that have seene the countrey and observed it, how the land is over growne with woods and bushes, that have growne and so rotted into the ground againe, (in my opinion ever since the flood) the rottennes thereof hath so covered the earth and rocks in divers places of the countrey in great thickness, and by reason thereof the open land and woods doe a long time in the Summer, containe a great moisture under the same, so that a man may observe when the heate of the yeare comes on a kinde of fogge arising continually from it. Therefore in my oppinion, which I submit to deeper judgments; if those unnecessary bushes and such unserviceable woods were in some

places burned, so as the hot beames of the sun might peare into the earth and stones there so speedily as it doth on some other countreys that lye under the same elevation of the Pole, it would then there make such a reflection of heate that it would much lessen these fogs, and also make the countrey much the hotter Winter and Summer, and thereby the earth will bud forth her blossoms and fruits more timely in the yeere than now it doth, and so bring the land more familiar to us and fitter for tillage and for beasts, and also for land fowl than now it is, and thereby those islands of ice that come on that coast at any time will the sooner dissolve, which do speedily melt when they come neere the South-part of that land, &c."

The Western parts of Newfoundland are the best for Agricultural purposes, the land there is rich and loamy, the climate good, and equal to that of Prince Edward Island or New Brunswick. Magnificent St. George's Bay, as it is termed by some of our Naval Commanders, is one of the best sections of the Island. Bonne Bay is another of the beautiful Bays situate on the Western coast. I have heard it described as resembling Devonshire, the garden of England, and all agree in pronouncing that portion of our Island to possess a good climate, and a soil highly capable of cultivation. It is true the harbours are not so numerous there as they are on the Eastern coasts, but the Rivers and Bays are of a magnitude unknown in the Avalon district, the former connecting the coast with the interior, and affording water transport for the splendid lumber of various kinds which abound near the coast. In the North-East, that portion situate between Cape John and Cape Quirpon, the land is far superior to that to the Southward. The weather during the summer season is warmer, and free from cold winds and fogs, the reason probably to be assigned for which, is, that the land does not approximate so closely to the Bank.

We find the framers of the treaty were always taunted with having given away the best portion of Newfoundland, making over to our rivals the dry and beautiful climate of the West and North East, and retaining only the cold foggy South East portions of the Island.

True it is, we have the Eastern harbours, always easy of access at all seasons of the year, and admirably adapted for the prosecution of the fishery. Still we cannot but view with a feeling of regret, if not of envy, the land that should now be our own, but that we are debarred from enjoying; a portion of the Island easy of cultivation, and which would well repay the labour of the husbandman.

On the French Shore North the land is rich and loamy, free

in a great measure from rocks: the soil is so deep that I have often thrust a walking stick to the hilt when walking there. I have seen numbers of natural meadows, many of them from ten to twenty acres, where hundreds of tons of hay might be cut. I was told by John Dower, whom I saw cutting hay in Conche, that, with the assistance of his man, he had cut nine tons, and had it made in four days; this person keeps eight or nine cows, the most of which he bred there. In Conche, more than sixty British subjects reside, a Chapel was built there a few years since, in which a French clergyman officiates during the summer season.

In Pistolet Bay, immense quantities of kelp are to be obtained, the accumulation of a series of years; the strong tides of the Straits detach it from the bottom, and the sea throws it on shore, where it invites the attention of the Agriculturalist.

In making up the exports of the Island it is but fair to take into account the quantity of fish abstracted from the Banks and Shores of Newfoundland, and our Coasts of Labrador. We therefore put down the catch as follows:

BY THE AMERICANS.

1,500,000 Qtls. Cod Fish at 10s.	£750,000
4,500 Tons Oil at £30	135,000
800 Tierces Salmon at £4	3,200
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	£888,200

BY THE FRENCH.

1,600,000 Qtls. Cod Fish at 10s.....	800,000
4,000 Tons Cod Oil at £30	120,000
1,000 Tierces Salmon at £4	4,000
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	£924,000

BY BRITISH SUBJECTS.

Exported from Newfoundland as per Customs returns.	
1,000,000 Qtls. Cod Fish at 10s.	500,000
4,000 Tons Cod Oil at £30	120,000
7,000 Tons Seal Oil at £30	210,000
110 000 Barrels Herrings at 12s.	66,000
535,000 Seal Skins at 2s. 6d.	66,875
3,400 Tierces Salmon at 80s.	13,600
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	£976,475

We have also to put down as exported from the Labrador of Fish caught in the Waters by British subjects, of which we have no returns,

300,000 Qtls. Fish at 10s.	150,000
Of Oil, Skins, Salmon and Herring, the value of.....	100,000
	<hr/>
	£250,000

making a total of 4,400,000 quintals of Cod Fish, caught on the Shores and Banks belonging to Newfoundland, and there is annually taken from our waters the value of £3,038,675. Have we not then just cause to be proud of our valuable fisheries, and of a country possessing such immense and important resources?

Taking a retrospective view of Newfoundland, we find that since 1830 she has given greater evidences of her capabilities for an increase of her products, and an extension of her commerce, than in any preceding period. Since then the Capital, and other towns, have assumed more of the characteristics of the cities and villages of the old country, than of merely temporary settlements. St. John's, since the great fire of 1846, has risen like a Phoenix from its ashes, adorned with public buildings, shops and private residences, that, could old Governor Millbank and his fishing Admirals in their buckskin breeches, top boots, and long queaus now look upon them, would afford them some difficulty to identify in the modern capital the fishing station of 1790, the scene of their prohibitions and short sighted restrictions. Or could we introduce, this evening, to the attractive portion of this brilliant assemblage, Major Lieut.-Governor Elford, who, so late as 1783, recommended to the British Parliament, that all the women located on the Island should be removed, and that in future no one of the gentler sex should be allowed to land; could we, I say, introduce him to the galaxy of female loveliness which now adorns this room, and could he but appreciate the worth of those around me, I am sadly afraid he would be the last to act upon his own recommended measure of expatriation, unless, indeed, he meant to accompany the fair exiles himself.

Mr. Vice-President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Had time permitted I would gladly have given far more extended views on the resources of this Island, as also a more detailed description of that most valuable portion of our country, denominated the French Shore, its fisheries and the customs of the French subjects frequenting that coast.

Labrador, the magnificent dependency of Newfoundland, and one day destined to assume and occupy an important position in the commercial world, I have here passed by unnoticed. This vast country and its inexhaustible resources, its wandering Indians, Esquimaux, and located inhabitants, afford much and interesting matter for separate attention, to which, with your approbation, I shall willingly devote myself, by making them the subject of another lecture on some future occasion.

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A P P E N D I X .

APPENDIX

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APPENDIX:

A Conclusion to the former Discourse—containing a particular description and relation of something omitted, touching the Natives of that Country—as also of a Strange Creature scene there, and likewise the reason why I have not set forth a Map of the NEWFOUNDLAND IN THIS BOOK.

GENTLE READER,—When you have perused my former discourse and discoveries contained therein and such good approbation as it hath receiv'd; which gives me ever an assurance it will also receive good acceptance from all His Majesties well affected subjects, when it shall be presented unto you, and if it do so appeare unto me, I shall be the better encouraged to set forth what I have taken notice of in my travells to that Country concerning the severall depths of the water; and diversities of the ground; in every severall depth that hath come in the Talle on the end of the Leade, when it hath been cast into the sea; which I conceive to bee necessary for those that shall henceforth trade thither; because as yet, no man to my knowledge hath undertaken so to doe, and whensoever it may please His Majestie, or the State shall seem good to command me, I shall be ready with my life and meanes to make a perfect discovery and description of the severall Headlands, Bays, Harbours and Roads, for Ship to anchor, as also the Islands, Rocks and Shelves round about the Newfoundland, which as yet no man hath done, neither are there (I suppose) but few men living of His Majesties subjects that did at any time saile round about the land between the continent of America; and that whereby to set forth a true Map of that Countrey, which as yet there is not but imaginarily because such as have usually travelled there have always made their voyages in the Harbours and Roads on the East and Southmost parts of that land, but never on the West and North parts thereof, and so by such an employment; (which may be well performed with a very small charge) there is no doubt but that some other good discoveries of trade may bee made in some parts of that Countrey and also with the

Natives there, not only with those which live in the North and Westmost parts of the Newfoundland, but also with those which border in the maine continent of America neere thereunto. For it is well knowne that they are a very ingenius and subtile kinde of people (as it hath often appeared in divers things) so likewise are they tractible as hath beene well approved, when they have beene gently and politickly dealt with all, also they are a people that will seeke to revenge any wrongs done unto them, or their Woolves as hath often appeared. For they marke their Woolves in the Eares with severall markes as is used here in England on Sheep and other beasts, which hath been likewise well approved, for the Woolves in those parts are not so violent and devouring as Woolves are in other Countries. For no man that I ever heard of could say that any Woolfe, Leopard, Beare, or any other beasts did ever set upon any man or boy in the Newfoundland, although divers times some men have been by themselves in the woods when they have suddenly come neerer unto them, and those beasts have presently upon sight of any christian speedly runne from them. Neither are there any Snakes, Toads, Serpents or any other venomous Wormes that ever were knowne to hurt any man in that Country, but only a very little nimble Fly (the least of all other flies) which is called a Miskiето, those flies seem to have a great power and authority upon all loytering and idle people that come to the Newfoundland: for they have this property that when they finde any such lying, lazily, or sleeping in the woods, they will presently bee more nimble to seize on them than any Sargeant will be to arrest a man for debt. Neither will they leave stinging or sucking out the blood of such sluggards, until like a Beadel they bring him to his master, where he should labour, in which time of loytering, those flies will so brand such idle persons in their faces, that they may be knowne from others as the Turks do their slaves. Now it may be well understood, there is great hope that those parts of the world will yield severall commodities of exceeding worth, whereon divers good employments may bee made for great numbers of His Majesties subjects.

It is well knowne that from the Newfoundland, unto a place called the Banke, which lyeth East from thence towards England; 25 leagues in the like altitude, which Bank is a sand and in most places twelve leagues broad, and in length North East and Southwest 100 leagues, on which Bank there is no less than 20 fadome of water at any place, and there doe fish yearly about 100 saile of French Ships, winter and summer; some of

them making two voyages there in a yeere and another voyage to some other place, also in the same yeere, and spend much time of the same yeere at their owne homes likewise.

I have often (sailing towards the Newfoundland) met with some French Ships, comming from thence deepe loden with Fish in the first of April, who have taken the same there in January, February, and March, which are the sharpest months in the yeere for storms and cruell weather.

To which Banke, may our Nation such as will adventure therein and doe great good in fishing saile from the Newfoundland in the latter part of the summer, when the fish begins to draw from that Coast as commonly it doth when the winter comes on. I meane such shipping as are to be imployed by whomsoever may undertake to plant there and likewise any others that saile thither a fishing, as now they use to do: who having disposed away such fish and traine oil as they take therein the summer time unto Merchants as usually every yeere, some such as adventure thither have done, they may then (salt being made there, as it may be fitly and cheaply) take in thereof a fit quantity and fresh water, wood, fresh fowels, great store, and other victuall and likewise a sufficient quantity of Herrings, Mackerell, Capeling and Lawnce to bait their hookes—withall for taking of fish on the said Bank, because such bait the Frenchmen are not able to have that saile purposely to fish there, but are constrained to bait their hookes with a part of the same Cod Fish which they take there werewith they load their Ships.

Now also I will not omit to relate something of a strange creature which I first saw there in the year 1610, in a morning early, as I was standing by the river side in the Harbour of Saint John's—which very swiftly came swimming towards me, looking cheerfully on my face as it had been a woman, by the face, eyes, nose, mouth, chin, eares, necke, and forehead, it seemed to bee so beautifull, and in those parts so well proportioned, having round about the head many blue streakes resembling haire, but certainly it was no haire, yet I beheld it long, and another of my company also yet living, that was not then far from mee, saw the same coming so swiftly towards mee at which I stepped backe, for it was come within the length of a long Pike, supposing it would have sprung aland to mee, because I had often seen huge Whales to spring a great height above the water, as divers other great fishes doe, and so might this strange creature doe to me if I had stood still where I was as I verily believe it had such a purpose. But when it saw

that I went from it, it did thereupon dive a little under the water, and swam towards the place where a little before I landed, and it did often looke backe towards mee whereby I beheld the shoulders and backe down to the middle to be so square, white, and smoothe as the backe of a man; and from the middle to the hinder part, it was pointing in proportion something like a broad hooked Arrow; how it was in the fore part, from the necke and shoulders, I could not well discern, but it came shortly after to a Boat in the same Harbour (wherein one William Hawkrige then my servant was) that hath been since a Captain in a ship to the East Indies and is lately there so employed again, and the same creature did put both his hands upon the side of the Boat, and did strive much to come into him, and divers then in the same Boat; whereat they were afraid; and one of them struck it a full blow on the head; whereby it fell off from them, and afterwards it came to two other boats in the said Harbour; where they lay by the shore—the men in them for fear fled to land, and beheld it. This (I suppose) was a Maremaid or Mareman: Now because divers have writ much of Maremaids, I have presumed to relate what is most certaine of such a strange creature that was thus then seen at Newfoundland, whether it were a Maremaid or no, I leave it for others to judge; and so referre you to the perusal of the copies of those letters following, which have been lately sent from the Newfoundland, which I doubt not but they will also give you some satisfaction of what I have written of that Country: whereby to bring you the more in love to the embracing of a Plantation in that Country, which may be well stiled—a Sister Land which God grant to blesse and prosper, &c:

RICHARD WHITBURNE:

Gentle reader, I have in my former discourse, something like unto a Harbinger, chalked out the way for a Plantation in the Newfoundland, whereby it may prove to be a work both profitable and necessary for his Majestie's Kingdoms in general. But because the affections and resolutions of men do sometimes freeze instead of heating, and most decline when to the eye of the world they seem most to advance, I have therefore adventured to fortify and assist my former Discourse with this second, by unfolding other reasons to make it more apparent that to settle an orderly plantation in that country, it bears divers great persuasions with it, yea, such as have all the grounds and runne on all the feet of good probabi-

litia; as Religion, Honour, Empire and Profit, the which may be performed with small charge and to have yearly good benefit with great facility. Therefore, I purpose now, more plainly to acquaint all such undertakers of that Plantation what particular profit may redound to themselves and posterities, and what honour through their industry will accrue thereby unto all his Majestie's other Kingdoms. Bear therefore, I beseech you, with my rough style and plain meaning, in which I strive rather to shew truth in her own brightness than to heap applause or glory to my self. To crown that country of Newfoundland with due praises it may (by the approbation and favour of his Majesty) be justly styled a sister land to this great Island of Brittania, Ireland, Virginia, the Summer Islands, New England and Nova Scotia.

And, that she may claim herself this bold and honourable title, the world I think, will be on her side, especially, because from her own mouth doth shew what infinite and unspeakable benefit for many years together, the negotiation of our Kingdom with her hath brought to all people—not only by the increase and maintaining of Mariners and Shipping, but also by the enriching of many a subject; and so consequently, by relieving of many thousands of families, which else, had lived in miserable wants for lack of honest employments. Our English having more than fourscore years together made thriving and profitable voyages to that country, the possession whereof began in our late Sovereign, of happy memory, Queen Elizabeth, and so continues more strongly now in his Majestie without the claim, interest and authority of any other Prince, This proper and commodious situation of the place together with the correspondency of benefits, which not only Great Britain but also other countries may, and do receive from the same, fills me more with an ardent desire so to have her called (Sisterland.) And worthily may that royalty be bestowed upon her, for as Great Britain hath ever been a cherishing nurse and mother to other foreign sons and daughters, feeding them with the milk of her plenty, and fattening them at her breasts, when they have been even starved at their own. Even so hath this worthy Sisterland, from time to time given free and liberal entertainment to all that desire her blessing, and chiefly (above all other nations) to the English.

What receive we from the hands of our owne Country, which in most bountious manner we have not had or may have at hers. Nay, what can the world yeild to the sustentation of man which is not in her to bee gotten. Desire you wholesome

ayre (the very food of life)? It is there—Shall any land powre in abundaunt heaps of nourishments and necessaries before you. There you have them—what seas so abounding with fish—what shores so replenished with fresh and sweet waters? The wants of other kingdoms are not felt heere, and those provisions which many other countries want are from them supplyed. How much is Spain, France, Portugal, Italy and other places beholding to this noble part of the world for fish and other commodities (it is to be admired), let the Dutch report what sweetness they have suckt from thence by trade thither in buying of fish and other commodities from our Nation, and (albeit all the rest should be dumbe) the voyces of them are as trumpets lowd enough to make England fall more and more in love with such a Sister-land.

I am loth to weary thee (good reader) in acquainting thee thus to those famous faire and profitable Rivers and likewise to those delightful, large and inestimable Woods and also with those fruitful and inticing Hill and delightful vallies—there to hawke and hunt where is neither savage people nor ravenous beasts to hinder their sports. They are such, that in so small a piece of paper as now my love salutes thee with, I cannot fully set them down as they deserve, and therefore I doe intreat thee with judgment, with patience, and with a true desire for the benefit of thy dread Sovereign and Country, to reade over this discourse which (I trust) may incourage thee to further so hopeful a Plantation as it appeareth to be, and also I trust give thee ample satisfaction and just cause to answere opposers, if any out of ignorance or any other sinister respect shall seek to hinder so honourable and worthy designs. So wishing thee all happiness, I rest,

Ever thine for my Countries good,

RICHARD WHITBURNE.

“ It is well knowne that they which adventure to Newfoundland a fishing begin to dresse and provide their ships ready, commonly in the month of December, January and February, and are ready to set fourth at sea in those voyages neere the end of February, being commonly the foulest time in the year. And thus they doe, striving to be there first in a Harbour to obtain the name of Admirall that yeere, and so to have the chieftest place to make their fish on, where they may doe it with the greatest ease and have the choyce of divers other necessaries in the Harbours which do them little stead, but the taking of them, wrongs many others of Your Majesties subjects which arrive there after the first.”

A Copy of a Letter from N. H., a Gentleman living at Ferry-land in Newfoundland, to a worthy friend M. P., of the 18th August, 1622.

Sir,—My humble service remembered accounting myself bound unto you in a double bond, namely love and duty. I could not bee unmindfull to shew the same unto you in these rude lines, thereby to acquaint you with our health, the tempera-
 ture of our Countrey and the commodities and blessings therein. And first, for the first concerning our health, there is not any man amongst our company that hath beene sicke scarcely one day since he came, but hath been able to follow his worke. The climate differs but little from England, and I myself felt less cold here this winter then I did in England the winter before, by much. The ayre is sweeter, for I never smelt any evil savour in the Countrey, nor saw any venemous creature to hurt me. Gods blessings upon this land are manifold, as for Wood and Water, it passeth England, the one most sweet in growing and burning, the other most pleasant to taste and good to drink. For in the Whitson holidays (I taking with me master Stoning) did coast some ten miles into the Countrey Westward from our Plantation to make some discovery of the Countrey and to kill a Deer, and being some 5 miles into the land where wee lodged that night in a Wood, wee found much champion ground and good levels of one, two, three or four hundred Acres together, and at the foot of each mountain and small hill wee always met with a faire fresh River or a sweet brooke, and it did quench my thirst as well as any Beere and much refresh us both and never offended our stomacks at all, we travelled three days but found no deer, save their footing, which came to pass by means of a great fire that had burned the Woods a little before ten miles compasse. It began between Formouse and Aquafort, it burned a weeke and then was quenched by a great raine. I know not who or what he was that gave fire to it, but I thinke he was servant hired by the divell to doe that wicked deed who (I doe not doubt) will pay him for his worke. In the night the Woolves being near did something affright us with their howlings, but did not hurt us, for wee have had dogs, fire and sword to welcome them. As for the Beares, although there be many, they beare us no ill will, I thinke, for I have eaten my part of two or three, and taken no hurt by them. Foxes here are many and as subtil as a Fox. Yet have wee coozened many of their rich coats, which our worthy Governor keeps carefully, as also of Cattagena's and Otters, whose covering wee preserve as fitting presents for greater persons. The

Fowles and Birds of the land are Partridges, Curleues, Fillidays, Blackbirds, Bulfinches, Larks, Sparrows and such like. Those of the sea are Goose, Ducks of four sort, Capderace, Tealo, Snipes, Penguyms, Murres, Hounds, Sanderlins, Redshanks and others, all very fat, sweet and wholesome. The Fowles of prey are Tercels, Goshawkes, Falcons, Laners, Sparhawk, Gripes, Ofpreis, Owls, Great and small Ravens, Gulls, Pittorils and some others, and of most of these sorts I have killed many. As for the plenty of Codfish, it is well known unto you, Salmon, Eeles, Mackarell, Herring, Laneo, Caplin, Dogfish, Hollibuts, Flowkes, Lobsters, Crabs and Muskles, all and more then all these are here in great plenty, very good and sweet meat. The wild Fruit and Berries are small, Pearls, Cherries, Nuts, Resberries, Strawberries, Parberries, Dewberries, Hurtleberries, with others, all good to cate. Many fair Flowers I have seen here, which I cannot name, although I had learned Gerrads Herball by heart. But wild Roses are heere, both red and damask, as fragrant and fair as in England. All our Corne and seed have prospered well, and are already growne, almost to perfect maturity. What shall I say. To say that I know not—I dare not. Thus much I know, as an eye witness, and much more good the Countrey doth promise to shew me, the which when I see you, my heart shall command my tongue to certifie you. Dear Governors letters (I doubt not) will bring you news at large. I wrote but this in haste to satisfie myself, and shew my duty desiring you to looke thorow it as thorow a prospective Glasse wherein you may discern a farre off what I have seene nere hand, and see, that your poore well wishing friend is alive and in good health at Ferryland, who in the lowest step of duty takes his leave with prayers for your preservation and will ever remain,

Your Servant to bee commanded,

Ferryland, 18th August, 1622,

N. H.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF GREAT
BRITAIN IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:—

*The Petition of the Merchants, Boat-keepers, and Principal
Inhabitants of St. John's, Petty Harbour, and Tor Bay, in
the Island of Newfoundland,*

Most Humbly Sheweth:

That your petitioners having Maturely Considered a Bill for
amending and rendering more Effectually an Act made in the

1775

Fifteenth year of His present Majesty (George 3rd, 1776,) entitled, "An Act for the Encouragement of the Fisheries carried on from Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Dominions in Europe, and for securing the return of the fishermen, sailors, and others Employed in the said fisheries to the ports thereof at the end of the fishing season," and for repealing certain provisions in the said Act relative to the said fisheries, are of opinion that its General tendency is well calculated for the Benefit of this Island, at the same time beg leave to lay before you some amendments and additions, which we apprehend will also be of public utility.

Relative to Bounties granted ships or vessels employed in the British fishery, on the Banks of Newfoundland, having been found in adequate to its intention (as to obtain it the adventurers were obliged to be at a considerable expence in outfitting their Vessels, carrying extra men, to entitle them to receive the same) that the said Bounties may be appropriated and allowed to such ships or vessels employed in the said fishery, navigated with ten men each, at the rate of six shillings per Ton, agreeable to their registers, subject to all the rules and restrictions as reserved in former Acts.

That all the Plantations, Houses, Gardens, and so forth, in this Island, on being established property, to be nevertheless liable to the payment of debts, otherwise those merchants and others who supply the Boat-keepers and Inhabitants will be deprived of that resource, for the discharge of their just debts.

That all Oil, Blubber, and Seal Skins, exported from this Island, caught by British subjects, may be imported into Great Britain free of Duty; oath being made by the Master or person having the charge of the said ship, that it was caught and cured as aforesaid.

If a Master or the person acting under him, should at any time see it necessary to correct any servant under them with moderation, (free from harshness or cruelty) for not doing his duty in a proper manner, that the said servant may not be allowed, for every frivolous disagreement or complaint to have his Master summon'd before a Justice of the Peace, which in the height of the fishery has been found very detrimental and often known to be the case without a just cause of complaint.

Fishing Admirals being authorized to hear and determine matters, relative to the fishery, the Trading People are often deprived of an immediate resource to them, they being employed fishing on the Banks.

That such fishing Admirals may be allowed to appoint deputy or deputies to act under them to hear or determine, on such matters as may come before them relative to the fishery aforesaid, with liberty to preside at any Court of Justice held in their different districts as a Justice, and also for their deputations to remain in force until the Twentieth of November, before which time the transactions, relative to the said fisheries are not adjusted, as frequently, the fishing Admirals are obliged to sail from this Island, early in October.

As Lumber is at present a scarce commodity, and the intercourse of supply from Quebec, and Port Roseway, not yet warranted, from whence no doubt large quantities will be sent to this Island, in the intermediate space, Regard should be paid to the Timber Trees growing in this Island, which if not wantonly cut down would in a few years, become large spars, for Masts of Ships and other uses, as well as to saw into boards.

To prevent the said Trees from being unnecessary cut down the principal person of each crew (of which there are a great many who prosecute the Business of making Shingles for covering houses, stores, &c; also hoops in the winter season) should be competent to judge such Timber as would suit his purpose, and not wantonly cut down any Trees but for their immediate use under certain restrictions.

Rinding Trees is also of a pernicious tendency, altho' that article is very necessary in the fishery, yet should be subject to Regulations, not for more Trees to be rinded than is necessary for curing and preserving the fish and for the covering temporary houses and huts, where boards are not to be obtained.

Codd Seans we deem a great nuizance as by them we destroy great quantity of small fish, which after being inclosed in the sean (and not worth the attention of the person who hauls them) are left to rot, by which means a multitude of fish that would grow to maturity, perish.

Contiguous to the Northern Part of this Island are a great many Islands where Birds breed in vast abundance which were of great service to the inhabitants residing near them, for food in the winter, and also for bait in catching of fish during the summer, of which valuable resource they are now almost entirely deprived, as great part of the birds are destroyed within a few years by the crews of men who make it their business to kill them in their breeding season, for their feathers (of which they make a Traffic) and burning the carcasses, we have applied to get this with many other grievances redressed but have yet

only retained a partial relief, therefore pray that an entire stop may be put to destroying the birds otherwise than for food or bait as before excepted.

Olive Oil and Cork, both articles very necessary for the fishery if allowed to be imported here duty free, we apprehend would not be detrimental to the revenue, and at some time of public utility, as at present we are not allowed to import either, except its being first sent to England, which is attended with additional expense.

When Bread and Flour is to be purchased in Great Britain Ireland and Quebec at Twelve Shillings per cwt. it can be supplied the inhabitant of this Island at such moderate prices as not to be a burthen or tax on the fishery, but when it exceeds the price before quoted, a bounty to be granted on what is exported from Great Britain and Ireland, to reduce it to the said price of twelve shillings per cwt. (in British vessels).

Every Ship or Vessel that brings Passengers to Newfoundland not provided with Masters (which is often the case) the Master of such Vessel on his arrival should be obliged to enter into Bond, that such men as do not get employed during the summer (by which means they became very burthensome here, and frequently through Idleness and want commit Outrages, Breaking open Stores and Shops for plunder) and are not provided with a Master in the fall, either to carry them back from where they came or give proper security for their passages so that they may not be burthensome here, which would prevent a number of Idle Men remaining here the winter, all of that description being a great nuizance.

It has been a Custom lately with several Masters of Vessels on their arrival, to land many Passengers (great part thereof unprovided for) and then go off with most of their Cargoes (chiefly provisions) supposed for some part of the United States, leaving the said Passengers and others without even the resource of their Cargoes, for supplying them as also the Inhabitants, and by this means doubtly distressing the Trade. This we pray may be prevented in future by a clause, that every Vessel bringing provisions to this Island, should not be suffered to carry away more than sufficient Stock for said Vessel's intended Voyage, by suffering the Exportation the Price here is consequently enhanced and the Inhabitants much distressed thereby.

As our Season for prosecuting the Fish is of a short continueance the utmost industry during that period is very requisite and therefore the fewer innovations or incentives to draw the

Servants off from their duty the strictest their attention will be in the discharge of it.

Some few years back when the Fishery was prosecuted in the Harbour of St. John's, with great vigour, three to four Houses Public by Licence for vending Spirituous and Malt Liquors were found sufficient, then the servant was obliged to apply to his Employer for Liquor when, if he made bad use of it getting intoxicated and thereby neglecting his duty, it was in the said Master's Power to prevent the like happening in future, but within a few years the number of Licenced Houses in the said Harbour are amounted to more than Eighty in number, many of which are houses of Ill-fame, where the fishermen and seamen resort, and get drunk, neglecting their duty to the great detriment of their Employers, it often happening through one servant's neglect of a few hours a considerable loss ensues, as fish is a perishing commodity too much care and attention can't be paid it. To prevent the like in future we pray that the number may be reduced (of Houses Licenced for Selling Liquors) to twelve, which we deem full sufficient for the Entertainment both of the Inhabitants, as well as Strangers resorting to the Harbour, and that each person so authorized to Vend Liquors should be obliged to keep a Fishing Shallop and cure all the Fish said Shallop may catch.

The number of Shopkeepers and Retailers of Goods have increased lately in St. John's to the great detriment of the Fish Catchers, as formerly every Employer had the supplying his own Servants, which we apprehend in Equity they are entitled to, from the very great wages given to them for the short season of prosecuting the Fishery, the profits arising from such supply was a small emolument to reduce the enormous wages given, but at present the Masters are deprived of this, by their Servants being supplied at those Retail Shops before alluded to, who in the fall of the year collect their Bills, in consequence of which the servants are often reduced to great distress during the winter, to prevent which we pray that each Shopkeeper of Goods may in future be obliged to keep a Shallop on the Fishery otherwise to have six months liberty to sell off his Goods and leave this Island, as we deem every person not immediatly concerned in the Fishery (except his Majesty's Servants) is a burthen to the Island, and that every Tavern-keeper, or other person, known to supply a Servant belonging to or Employed by Merchants or Boat-keepers in the Fishery, on Proof to be fined Fifty Pounds.

His Majesty's Officers having lately inclosed large Spots of Ground contiguous to this Harbour for erecting Houses, Planting Gardens, Farms, &c., by which means many of the public pathways leading to the woods are stopped, to the prejudice of the residents here, we therefore request that no more ground may be inclosed for farms, or otherwise, except as Gardens for the use of the said Officers families, which, when they may be recalled should go to the next that arrives according to their rank.

We therefore request you will deign to take the preceding matters into your serious consideration and grant us such redress as your Honourable House shall seem meet and as in duty bound your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

Letter from the Governor M. K. Milbanke, to George Hutchins, Esq., dated Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, 15th October, 1790.

Sir,— I have considered your request respecting the alteration which you wish to make in your Storehouse, near the water-side, and as it appears that the alteration will not be any ways injurious to the Fishery, you have hereby permission to make it. As to Alexander Long's house which has been built contrary to His Majesty's express commands, made known to the inhabitants of this place by my Proclamation of the 13th of last October, it must and shall come down. The pretence now set up of its being intended for a craft-house serves rather to aggravate than extenuate the offence for by the confession of your tennant to the Magistrate who forbade him to go on with the work after it was begun, as well as to me when I viewed the house on Saturday last, no such use was to be made of it: as he said it was intended only as a covering to his potatoe celler, though there is a complete chimney, if not two in it, and lodging for at least six or eight dieters. I shall embrace this opportunity of warning you against making an improper use of any other part of (what you are pleased to call) your ground for you may rest assured that every house or other building erected upon it hereafter, without the permission (in writing) of the Governor for the time being (except such building and erection as shall be actually on purpose for the curring, salting, drying, and husbanding of Fish, which the fishermen from any part of His Majesty's European dominions, qualified agreeable to the Act of the 10th and 11th of William the Third, and the 15th of George the Third, have a right to erect without asking permission) must unavoidably be taken down and removed

to obedience to his Majesty's said commands. And it may not be amiss at the same time to inform you, I am also directed not to allow any *possession as private property to be taken of, or any right of property whatever to be acknowledged in any land whatever* which is not actually employed in the Fishery, in terms of the aforementioned Act, whether possessed by pretended grants from former Governors or from any other (no matter what) unwarrantable pretences—therefore it behoves you, with all possible dispatch, to employ the whole of the ground which you owe lay claim to in the Fishery, lest others should profit by your neglect, and make that use of it which the Legislature of Great Britain intended should be made of all the land in this Country, and without which no one has a right to claim it as his own. The Sheriff will have directions about the removal of the house above mentioned, which you will no doubt assist him in executing.

I am, &c.,

To GEORGE HUTCHINGS, Esq.

A STATEMENT OF THE ADMIRALS

	1770	1771	1772
British Fishing Ships of which are Banked *Sack Ships.	368 238 123	369 244 120	306 190 146
Trading Ships from Colonies.	138	123	133
	620	612	500
No. of boats kept British fishing ships from Colonies †Bye boat men.	523	556	490
Inhabitants.	444 1220	559 1173	605 1330
	2201	2288	2425
Qntrs. Fish made British fishing ships from Colonies †Bye boat men.	252910 118768	236080 147599	305391 155847
Inhabitants.	277820	261240	298605
	649498	644919	759843
Qntrs. Fish carried Foreign Markets.	10910	560204	481347
Carried to Foreign Markets. Tierces Salmon.	649	1258	734
Tons of Train made.	2592	2723	2795
Prices. { Fish per Quarter Salmon per Train Oil per	10s. 16s. 10s. 45s. £14 £16	11s 6d 14s 35s. 45s. £12 £18	11s. 14s. 10s. 45s. 14/17 10s
Value of { Seal Oil made Sea Cow Oil, Teeth. Furs taken by Inhabitants Truck with Sa	£12358 £1299 £1028	£5509 £1290 £1109	£13406 £685 £966
Number of Stag Train Fats.	1144 910	1163 904	1132 861
No. of Acres of improved.	969	1264	1928

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A STATEMENT OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERY IN THE FOLLOWING WHO COMMANDED ON THE

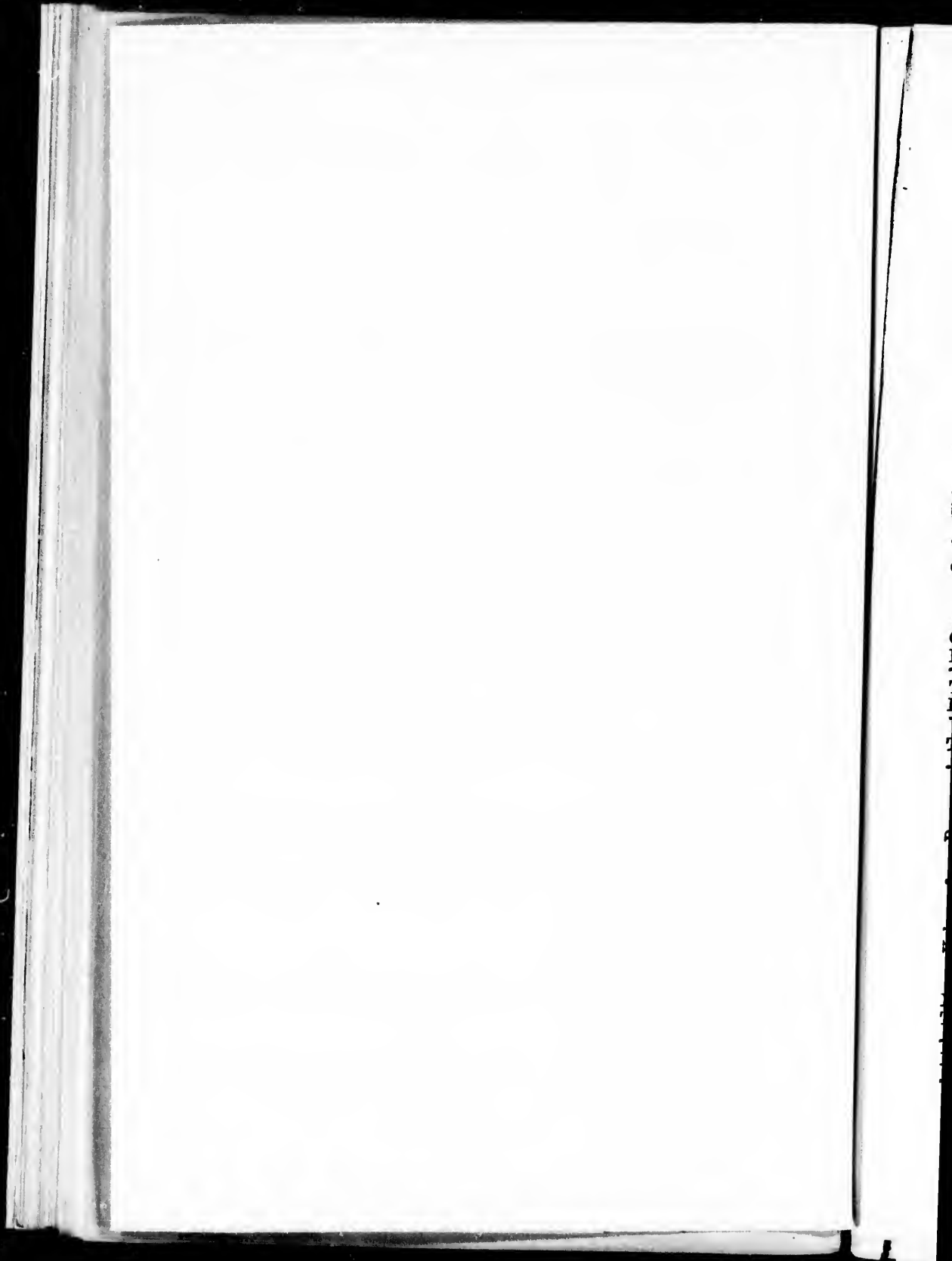
	1699	1700	1701	1714	1715	1716	1749	1750	1751	1752
British Fishing Ships of which are Bankers. *Sack Ships. Trading Ships from Colonies.	Total of Fishing & Sack Ships	171	75	85	108	86	80	93	122	122
		49	46	45	38	30	125	115	87	87
				20	42	31	66	75	103	103
		236	220	121	150	188	147	271	283	312
No. of boats kept by British fishing ships. Ships from Colonies. †Bye boat men. Inhabitants.		805	800	338	330	376	319	171	199	295
		115	90	97	120	197	184	349	485	2
		467	674	553	500	464	408	654	746	482
		1387	1564	993	1000	1037	911	1174	1430	1447
Qtls. Fish made by British fishing ships. Ships from Colonies. †Bye boat men. Inhabitants.				79680	50000	33375	30329	111300	55600	104C 10
								7100		
				136500	20000	20716	24310	94900	139700	117530
				45000	35521	33830	293100	236940	136140	38310
			216180	115000	612	88469	506400	432240	358310	506400
Qtls. Fish carried to Foreign Markets.			154370	129000	89622	88469	462076	445470	358310	462076
Carried to Foreign Markets. Tierces Salmon.					Fish—14000 Qtls., sold us by the French.		1802	1225	867	
Tons of Train Oil made.			Tons 1049	520	Hhds. 1835	320	2726	2465	2404	520
Prices.	Fish per Quintal.							12s. 13s.	12s.	13s. 13s. 6
	Salmon per Tierce.							35s. 42s.	35s. 40s.	36s. 41s. 40s.
Train Oil per Tun.							£9 £12	£12 £13	£13 £14	£14
Value of	Seal Oil made.						£1006	£1882	£3139	£
	Sea Cow Oil, Skins, Teeth.									
	Furs taken by inhabitants Truck with Savages.						£220	£920	£675	£
Number of Stages. Train Fats.	465	583	544	450	440	370	725 468	785 488	835 518	
No. of Acres of Land improved.							1717	291	546	
No. of Inhabitants which remain in the Country during the winter.	Masters.	3171		461	2470	3153	2611	649	804	482
	Men Servants.			166	340	390	263	3727	591	2435
	Mistresses.			2698				540	343	440
	Women Siv'ts.			3773						
Children Dieters.			250	350	500	421	202 920	941	214 1017	
		3171	3773	3575	3160	4043	3295	6038	2679	4588

* Sack Ships are Vessels that carry out supplies for the Fishery from England, and whose Vessel remains.
 † The bye boats are such as belong to the British Ships, or are manned by Fishermen brought from the Inhabitants.

RY IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS; TAKEN FROM THE RETURNS OF THE ADMIRALS WHO COMMANDED ON THAT STATION.

1716	1749	1750	1751	1764	1765	1766	1767	1768	1769	1770	1771	1772
86	80	93	122	141	177	204	258	296	354	368	369	306
30	125	115	87	97	116	104	92	93	222	238	244	190
31	66	75	103	205	104	83	115	114	117	123	120	146
147	271	283	312	443	397	391	465	503	120	138	123	138
									591	629	612	500
319	171	199	295	210	318	536	490	472	430	528	556	490
184	349	485	2	200	4							
408	654	746	482	366	345	361	372	437	429	444	559	605
			668	1236	1156	1117	1151	1095	1333	1229	1173	1330
911	1174	1430	1447	2012	1823	2014	2013	2104	2192	2201	2288	2425
30329	111300	55600	104C10	116570	136840	206676	208570	216795	221340	252910	236080	305391
	7100					1200						
24310	94900	139700	117530	92050	85096	87930	79590	82700	93220	118768	147599	155847
33830	293106	236940	136140	352390	310576	264179	265150	273955	263464	277820	261240	298605
38469	506400	432240	358310	561310	532512	559985	553310	573450	578024	649498	644919	750843
38469	462076	445470	358310	470188	493694	523626	533620	542960	544718	610910	560204	481347
					1172	1119	1006	40386	919	649	1258	734
	1802	1225	867	2320								
320	2726	2465	2404	5062	125 Sea Cows. 2509	2778	2612	2896	2535	2592	2723	2795
	12s. 13s. 35s. 42s. £9 £12	12s. 35s. 40s. £12 £13	13s. 36s. 41s. £13 £14	13s. 36s. 40s. 45s. £15 £17	11s. 12s. 6d. 40s. £16 £18	9s. 6d. 13s. 40s. £13 £15	9s. 13s. bl. 15s. btr. 40s. 45s. £14 £15	10s. 14s. 8s. 6d. 15s. 3d. 30s. 40s. 30s. 50s. £14 £15 £12 £18	10s. 16s. 30s. 45s. £14 £16	11s. 6d. 14s. 35s. 45s. £12 £18	11s. 14s. 40s. 45s. £14 £17 10s.	
	£1006	£1882	£3139	£3304	£5109	£3587	£8832	£12664	£5375	£12358	£5509	£13406
							£1238	£1200	£2267	£1299	£1290	£685
	£220	£920	£675	£2760	£980	£1728	£2041	£1593	£1077	£1028	£1109	£966
370	725 468	785 488	835 518	994 857	1005 806	1039 788	1138 853	1208	1117 952	1144 910	1163 904	1132 861
	1717	291	546	1141	1262	1399	1431	1328	1194	969	1264	1928
2611	649	804	482	1250	1139	963	1034	1136	1128	1167	1171	1197
263	3727	591	2435	8976	8837	6610	7056	6061	5417	5499	5751	6138
	540	343	440	753	860	677	739	750	737	811	826	884
421	202	941	214	776	785	393	408	397	429	392	356	437
	920		1017	4226	3863	3195	3316	3251	3270	3549	3353	3250
3295	6038	2679	4588	15981	15484	11843	12553	11595	10981	11418	11457	11906

fishery from England, and whose crews are employed on the boat Fishery during the summer season, or while the
 or are manned by Fishermen brought out by them, and are so called in contradistinction to the boats belonging to



A STATEMENT OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERY

	1773	1774	1784	1785	1786	1787	
No. of British Ships.	Fishing Ships	262	254	236	292	280	306
	of which are Bankers.	170	130		141	181	
	*Sack Ships.	93	149	60	85	173	167
	Trading Ships from Colonies.	125	175	50	58	34	37
	480	578	346	435	487	510	
No. of boats kept by	British fishing ships.	479	451	572	424	276	321
	Ships from Colonies.						
	†Bye boat men.	560	518	344	540	413	451
	Inhabitants.	1276	1446	1068	1434	1152	1709
	2315	2415	1984	2398	1841	2481	
Qntrs. Fish made by	British fishing ships.	262925	237640	131650	170372	212415	270215
	Ships from Colonies						
	†Bye boat men.	150957	145800	93050	111994	99180	114180
	Inhabitants.	366466	312426	212616	262376	257547	341620
	780348	695866	437316	544942	569142	732015	
Quintals Fish carried to Foreign Markets.	489665	516358	497884	606276	585897	732216	
Tierces Salmon carried to Foreign Markets.	3543	3501	725	2341	2596	3865	
Tons of Train Oil made.	3243	2962	2146	2633	2391	2749	
PRICES.	Fish per Quintal.	11s. 14s.	9s. 14s.	12s.	12s. 16s.	11s. 16s.	12s. 16s.
	Salmon per Tierce.	40s.	30s. 50s.		42s.	40s. 45s.	40s. 60s.
	Train Oil per Tun.	£14 £17	£15 £18	£18	£15 £20	£15 £18	£15 £17
Value of	Seal Oil made.	£26388	£17605	£3382	£4292	£6071	£5435
	Sea Cow Oil, Skins, Teeth.	£1452	£1065				
	Furs taken by inhabitants	£1359	£827	£540	£1640	£2575	£2093
	Truck with Savages.		£30		£20	£225	
Number of Stages.	1167	1219	942	1125	1170	1444	
Train Fats.	886	974	673	941	707	887	
No. of Acres of Land improved.	1447	2075	7349	8034	4773	6929	
No. of Inhabitants which remain in the Country during the winter.	Masters.	1210	1277	1052	955	1129	2178
	Men Servants.	5708	6436	4054	3649	5061	8007
	Mistresses.	844	964	1018	923	898	1517
	Women Srv'ts.	426	515	366	447	481	821
	Children	3388	1757	4211	4270	4205	5637
	Dieters.						
	11576	10949	10701	10244	11774	18360	

* Sack Ships are Vessels that carry out supplies for the Fishery from England, and summer season, or while the Vessel remains.

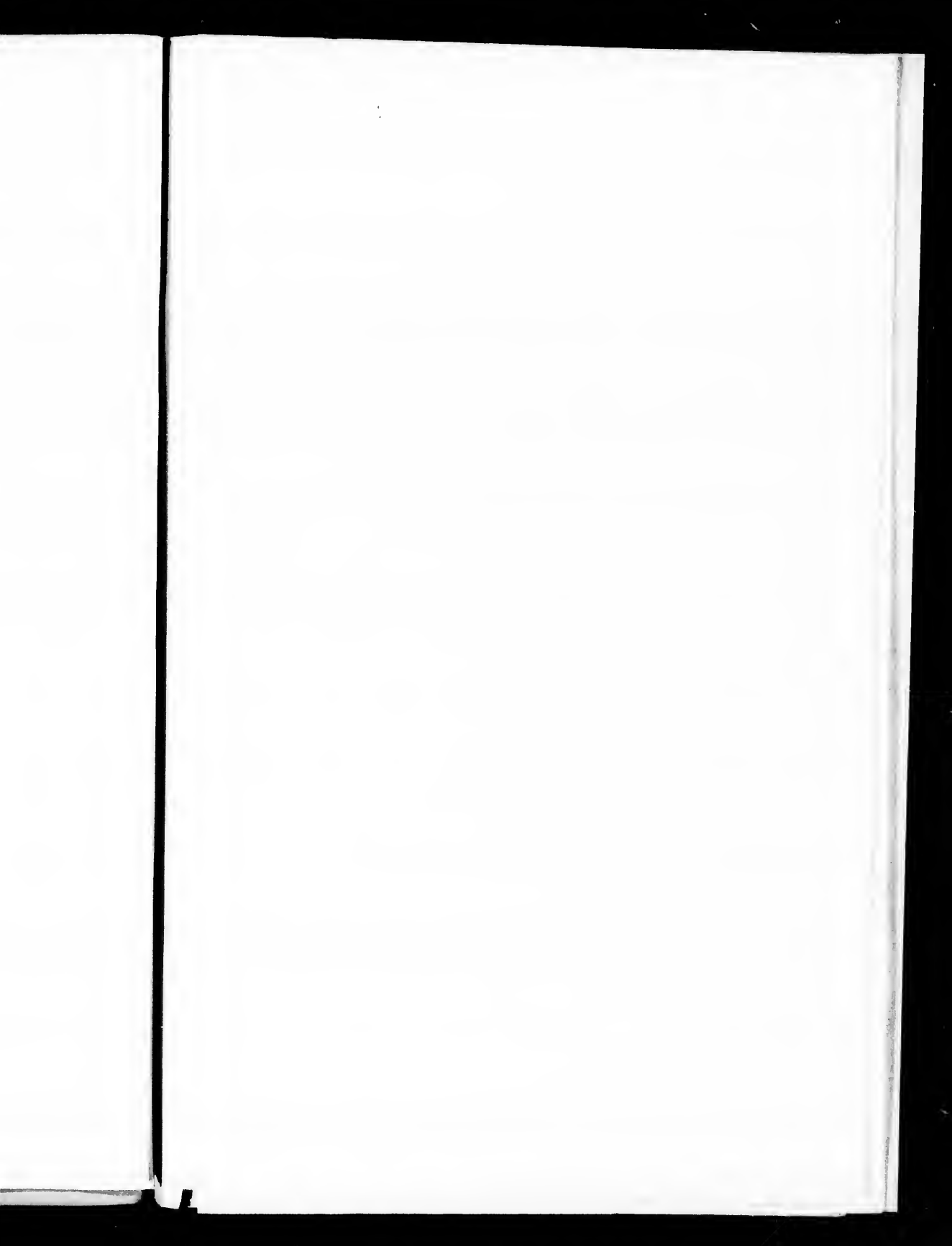
† The bye boats are such as belong to the British Ships, or are manned by Fishermen to the boats belonging to the Inhabitants.

FOUNDLAND FISHERY IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS:

1785	1786	1787	1788	1789	1790	1791	1792
292 141 85 58	280 181 173 34	306 167 37	389 150 28	304 182 168 70	259 156 143 69	245 158 151 76	276 187 161 57
435	487	510	567	542	471	472	494
424	276	321	273	413	370	375	150
540 1434	413 1152	451 1709	317 2090	533 1456	387 1414	584 1259	1997
2398	1841	2481	2680	2402	2171	2218	2147
170372	212415	276215	412580	Fishing Ships Boats. 97815	do. 106610	do. 71090	do. 16910
111994 262576	99180 257547	114180 341620	79285 457105	Bankers. 228994 106000 339260	do. 155638 83870 302974	do. 112404 123023 229770	do. 139450 395900
544942	569142	732015	948970	771069	649092	536287	552260
606276	585897	732216	776480	782791	632656	532270	452402
2341	2596	3865	3736	2327	2999	3585	4598
2633	2391	2749	2847	2372	2125	1923	2091
12s. 16s. 42s. £15 £20	11s. 16s. 40s. 45s. £15 £18	12s. 16s. 40s. 60s. £15 £17	10s. 6d. 15s. 6d. 40s. 50s. £12 £14 10s.	9s. 6d. 13s. 6d. 40s. 56s. £12 £16	9s. 14s. 40s. 58s. £14 £18	12s. 6d. 14s. 42s. 50s. £17 £21	14s. 16s. 40s. 50s. £17 £22
£4292	£6071	£5435	£7126	£11688	£3190	£3190	£11920
£1640 £20	£2575 £225	£2093	£1901	£1040 £12728	£800 £4080	£2405 £100	£2280 £50
1125 941	1170 707	1444 887	1578 873	1464 932	1334 915	1380 961	2356 654
8034	4773	6929	6235	4299	4292	4278	6374
955 3649 923 447 4270	1129 5061 898 481 4205	2178 8007 1517 821 5637	2099 8695 1595 692 5128	2232 7718 1563 877 5338 1378	1874 6488 1423 742 5468 840	1880 5075 1542 724 5348 898	1996 6726 1602 833 5306 697
10244	11774	18360	18209	19106	16835	15467	17160

the Fishery from England, and whose crews are employed on the boat Fishery during the
ships, or are manned by Fishermen brought out by them, and are so called in contradistinction





RETURNS OF THE QUANTITIES OF FISH CAUGHT AT, AND EXPORTED FROM, NEW
OCTOBER :

Years ending 10th October.		1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809
Fish made		Qntls. No return.	Qntls. 706314	Qntls. No return.	Qntls. 520522	Qntls. 478435	Qntls. 677761
Cod Fish exported and where	Spain, Portugal and Italy.	Qntls. 354463	Qntls. 377293	Qntls. 438918	Qntls. 262366	Qntls. 154069	Qntls. 326781
	British Europe.	189320	65979	84241	130400	208254	292068
	West Indies.	55998	81483	100936	103418	115677	133359
	British America.	18167	22776	32555	23541	40874	41894
	United States.	43131	77983	116159	155085	56658	16117
	Brazils.						
Total of Cod Fish exported.		661277	625519	772809	674810	576132	810219
Salmon exported	British Markets.	Tierces.	Tierces. 699	Tierces.	Tierces. 2303	Tierces.	Tierces. 3337
	Foreign Markets.		1397		1166		727
	Total of Salmon exported.	3759	1916	2040	3469	3272	4064

Office for Trade, Whitehall, 24th Ju

DUTIES IMPOSED ON BRITISH FISH IMPORTED INTO SPAIN DUR

Real	per hard dollar			
1792—21	per Quintal,	at 4s. exchange	is equal to	4s. 2d. per Ca
1802—43½	do.	do.	do.	8s. 8d.
1808—16½	do.	do.	do.	3s. 4d.
1814—46½	do.	do.	do.	9s. 3d.
1815—47, 31 mrs.		do.	do.	9s. 7d.

AND EXPORTED FROM, NEWFOUNDLAND IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS ENDING 10th OCTOBER :

	1807	1808	1809	1810	1811	1812	1813	1814	1815	1816
n.	Qntls. 520522	Qntls. 478435	Qntls. 677761	Qntls. 731066	Qntls. 618494	Qntls. 769163	Qntls. 816000	Qntls. 865132	Qntls. 863580	Qntls. 819200
	Qntls. 262366 130400 103418 23541 155085	Qntls. 154069 208254 115677 40874 56658	Qntls. 326781 292068 133359 41894 16117	Qntls. 611960 139561 152184 18621 1214	Qntls. 545451 67020 91867 4121 2600	Qntls. 706939 50678 119354 14389	Qntls. 708010 55791 97249 24712	Qntls. 952115 46189 159250 23750		Qntls. 884474 923540 711059 891360 947762 1086266
	Tierces. 2303 1166	Tierces. 3337 727	Tierces. 5747	Tierces. 2323 371	Tierces. 3494 337	Tierces. 2910 827	Tierces. 2247 1178	Tierces. 3469 3272 4064	Tierces. 5747	Tierces. 2694 3831 3737 3425

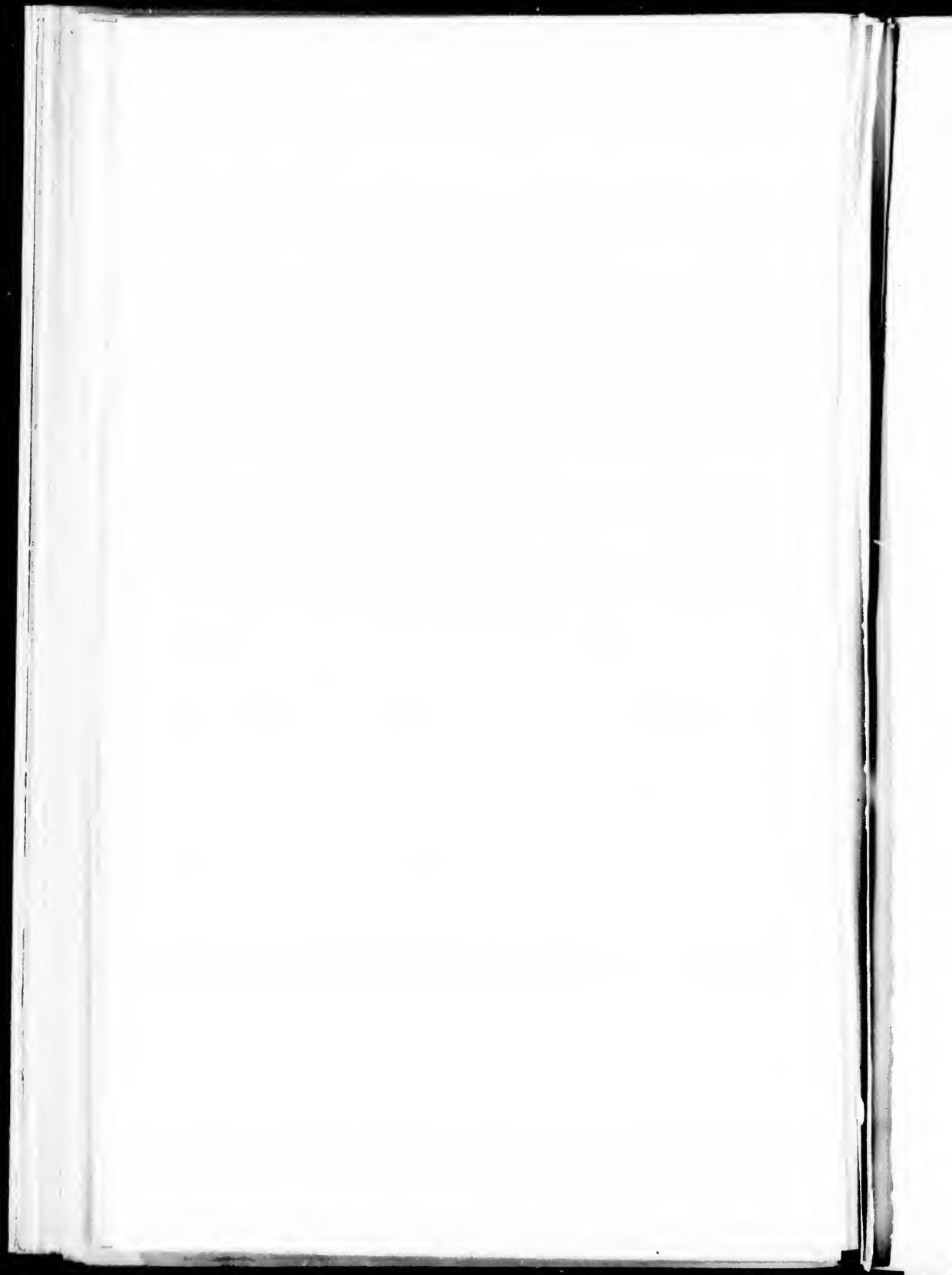
for Trade, Whitehall, 24th June, 1817.

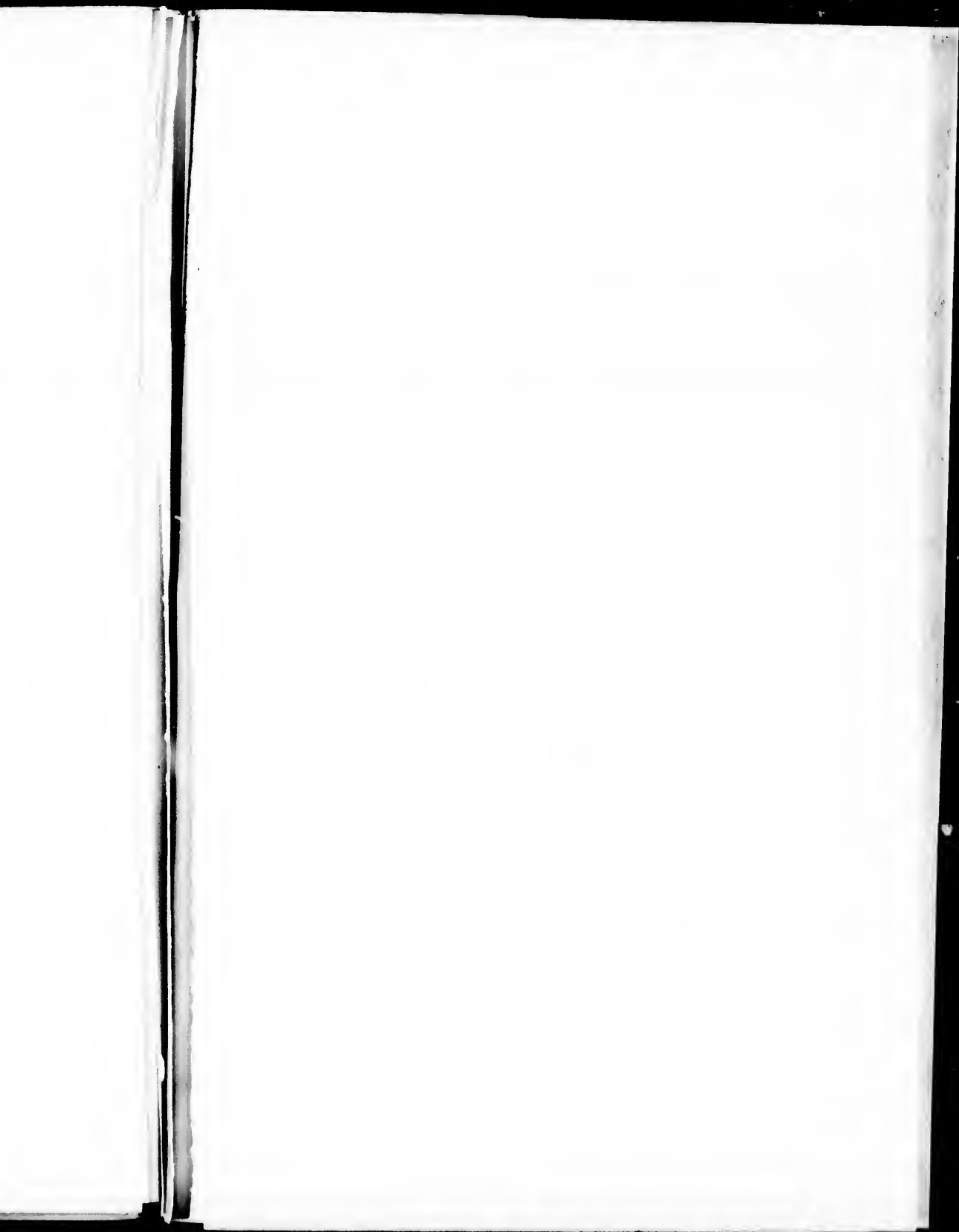
(Signed)

THOMAS LUCK.

IMPORTED INTO SPAIN DURING THE UNDERMENTIONED YEARS :

Charge is equal to	4s. 2d. $\frac{1}{2}$	per Castilian quintal or	4s. 7d. $\frac{1}{2}$	per English Cwt.
do.	8s. 8d.	do.	9s. 6d. $\frac{1}{2}$	do. "
do.	3s. 4d.	do.	do. 3s. 8d.	do. "
do.	9s. 3d.	do.	do. 10s. 2d.	do. "
do.	9s. 7d.	do.	do. 10s. 6d. $\frac{1}{2}$	do. "





AN ACCOUNT OF THE EXPORTS OF NEWFOUNDLAND FOR THE
OFFICIAL RETURN

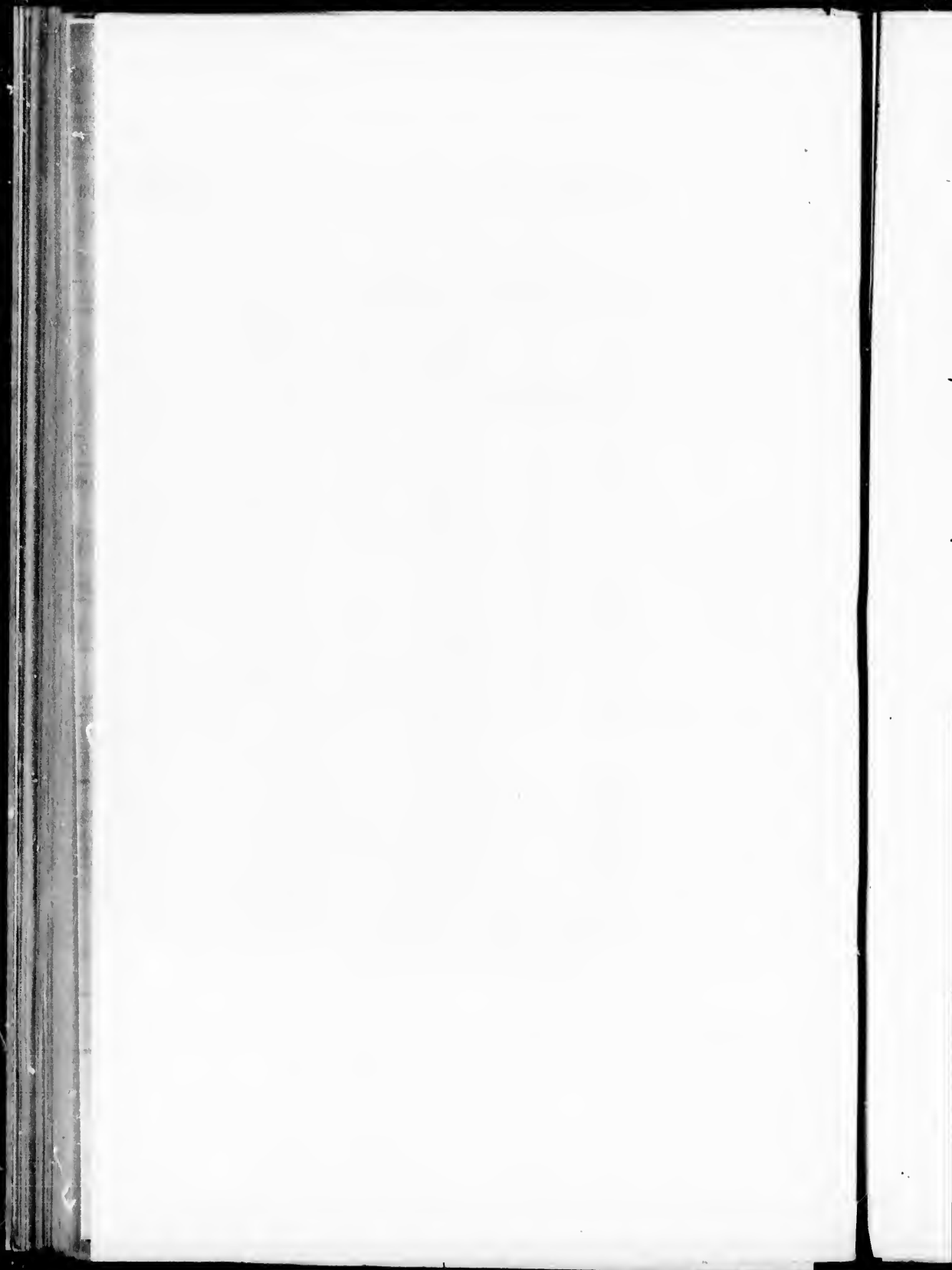
From 10th October to 10th October.	No of Shipping	Qntls. dried Fish.	Qntls. core Fish.	No. Seal Skins.	Tuns C Oil.	
1817	636	956094	7510	49046	3331	
1818	759	918974	9435	145072	2522	
1819	715	825197	12074	280817	2422	
1820	752	901159	7720	213679	4861	
From 1st July } to 1st June. }	1821	786	1020643	1398	27193	4970
	1822	726	925409	6675	244181	4790
	1823		864741	853	230410	6400
	1824	754	1039404	2726	202001	6931
	1825	809	998238	6046	295352	7660
	1826		952742	574	292007	9342
	1829	799	841466	2688	357523	8334
	1830	836	762619	4231	558942	12233
	1831		625901	3280	686836	12264
	1832		681746	2355	508407	10407
	1833		674988		360155	9133
	1836		860534	1532	384321	
	1837	862	786406		351620	
	1838		724515	1960	357361	Ccd & Se
	1839	834	865377	1223	437501	do.
	1840	952	915795	966	631385	12525
	1841		1009725	1376	417115	
	1842		1007980		344683	12100
	1843		936202		651370	12153
	1844		862162	773	685530	14085
	1845		1000333	422	352202	8069
	1846		879015	249	265169	3558
	1847		837973		436831	8688
	1848		920363	18	521004	10198
	1849		1175167		306072	8916
	1850		1089183		442392	3337
	1851		1017152	452	511630	3492
	1852		972921		534378	3912

1850—228 Tuns Cod Liver Oil.

1851— 77 Do. do. do. do.

NEWFOUNDLAND FOR THE UNDERMENTIONED YEARS, TAKEN FROM THE OFFICIAL RETURNS.

Year	Qntrs. core Fish.	No. Seal Skins.	Tuns Cod Oil.	Tuns Seal Oil.	Tierces Salmon.	Barrels Herring.	Casks Mackerel.	No. of Fur Skins.
04	7510	49046	3333	541	2858	1726	941	4820
07	9435	145072	2523	1638	1663	1601	1158	3975
07	12074	230817	2428	2542	2125	1663	780	2217
59	7720	213679	4861	3320	1773	3233	Hr'ng & M'kl.	2482
43	1398	27193	4970	3220	1777	526	700	3211
09	6675	244181	4796	3120	2651	305	923	3934
41	853	230410	6400	Cod—Seal.	2249	333	436	3300
04	2726	202001	6931	1238	1927	349	357	2684
38	6046	295352	7669	Cod—Seal.	2958	263	560	3565
42	5.74	292007	9342	do.	3172	267	752	
66	2688	357523	8334	do.	4340bls	970	bls. 621	4685
19	4231	558942	12283	Oil & Blubber.	4322	1524	560	
01	3280	686836	12364	do.	2763	3365	916	£1185
46	2855	508407	10407	do.	2729	3285	635	£3341
88		360155	9133	Cod & Seal.	2564	2271	149	3216
34	1532	384321		9010	1847	1534	79	2959
06		351620		8252	2262	5315	None caught.	
15	1900	357361	Cod & Seal.	8491	4408	15276	4	2200
77	1223	437501	do.	8766	2922	20806	None caught.	3815
95	966	631385	12525	Cod & Seal.	3396	14686	do.	3083
25	1376	417115		10443	3642	9685	do.	2325
80		344683	12100	do.	4715	13839	do.	
02		651370	12153	Cod & Seal.	4058	9649	do.	
62	773	685530	14055	do.	3753	13410	do.	2281
33	422	352202	8669	do.	3545	20903	do.	2037
15	249	265169	3558	3065	5201bls	12119	do.	2575
73		436831	8688	do.	4917	9908	do.	3053
61	18	521004	10198	do.	3822	13872	do.	3903
67		306072	8916	do.	5911	11471	do.	2106
81		442392	3337	6235	3108	19556	do.	
52	452	511630	3492	6968	4375	36259	do.	2526
21		534378	3912	7333	4048	42715	do.	



AN A

PLACES

Winter

**Bonavista.
King's Cove.
Greenspond.**

AN A

Winter.

**Bonavista.
Trinity Bay.**

Winter.

**Bonavista.
Trinity.
Labrador.**

Winter.

**Trinity.
Bonavista.**

Winter.

**Bonavista.
Trinity.**

AN ACCOUNT OF THE SEAL FISHERY IN THE YEAR

PLACES.	Seals.	Mon.	Tuns Oil.	PLACES.	No. Craft.
Winter.				Spring.	
Bonavista.	17714		43	Bonavista.	4
King's Cove.			21	Trinity.	5
Greenspond.			121	Conception Bay.	100
	17714		185	St. John's.	
				Ferryland.	

AN ACCOUNT OF THE SEAL FISHERY IN THE YEAR 1

Winter.					
Bonavista.	1099	106	29	Bonavista.	5
Trinity Bay.	593		6	Conception Bay.	71
				St. John's.	None.
				do.	do.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE SEAL FISHERY,

Winter.	Seals.	Tuns.			
Bonavista.	14878	153		Bonavista.	4
Trinity.	36700	613		Trinity.	5
Labrador.	1200	30		Conception Bay.	140
				Ferryland.	1
				St. John's.	32

SEAL FISHERY, 1821.

Winter.				Spring.	
Trinity.	770	9		St. John's.	39
Bonavista.	2448	42		Bonavista.	6
				Conception Bay.	152
				Ferryland.	
				Trinity.	10

SEAL FISHERY, 1822.

Winter.				Spring.	
Bonavista.	17776	388		Conception Bay.	164
Trinity.	250	3		St. John's.	
				Trinity.	9
				Bonavista.	5
				Ferryland.	3

SEAL FISHERY—Spring, 1

				PLACES.	No. Craft.
				Conception Bay.	168
				St. John's.	54
				Trinity.	"
				Ferryland.	3

SEAL FISHERY IN THE YEAR 1818, AS PER OFFICIAL RETURNS.

Years	PLACES.	No. Craft.	Tons.	Men.	Tuns Oil.	No. Seals.	PRICES.
185	Spring. Bonavista. Trinity. Conception Bay. St. John's. Ferryland.	4 5 100	58 84 1534	 165 5163	41 45 1272 289	3498 4133 118223 24735 90	5s. to 16s. 6s. 3d. to 11s. 6d.
						150684	

SEAL FISHERY IN THE YEAR 1817, AS PER OFFICIAL RETURNS.

29 6	Bonavista. Conception Bay. St. John's.	5 71 None. do.	35 3376	81 1217	29 None. do.	1813 27001	3s. 6d. to 6s. 3d.
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STATEMENT OF THE SEAL FISHERY, IN THE YEAR 1819.

Bonavista.	4	212	59	45	4013
Trinity.	5	304	67	71	4765
Conception Bay.	140	7523	2022	179051	
Ferryland.	1	43	12	9	950
St. John's.	32	1710	545	395	39052

SEAL FISHERY, 1821.

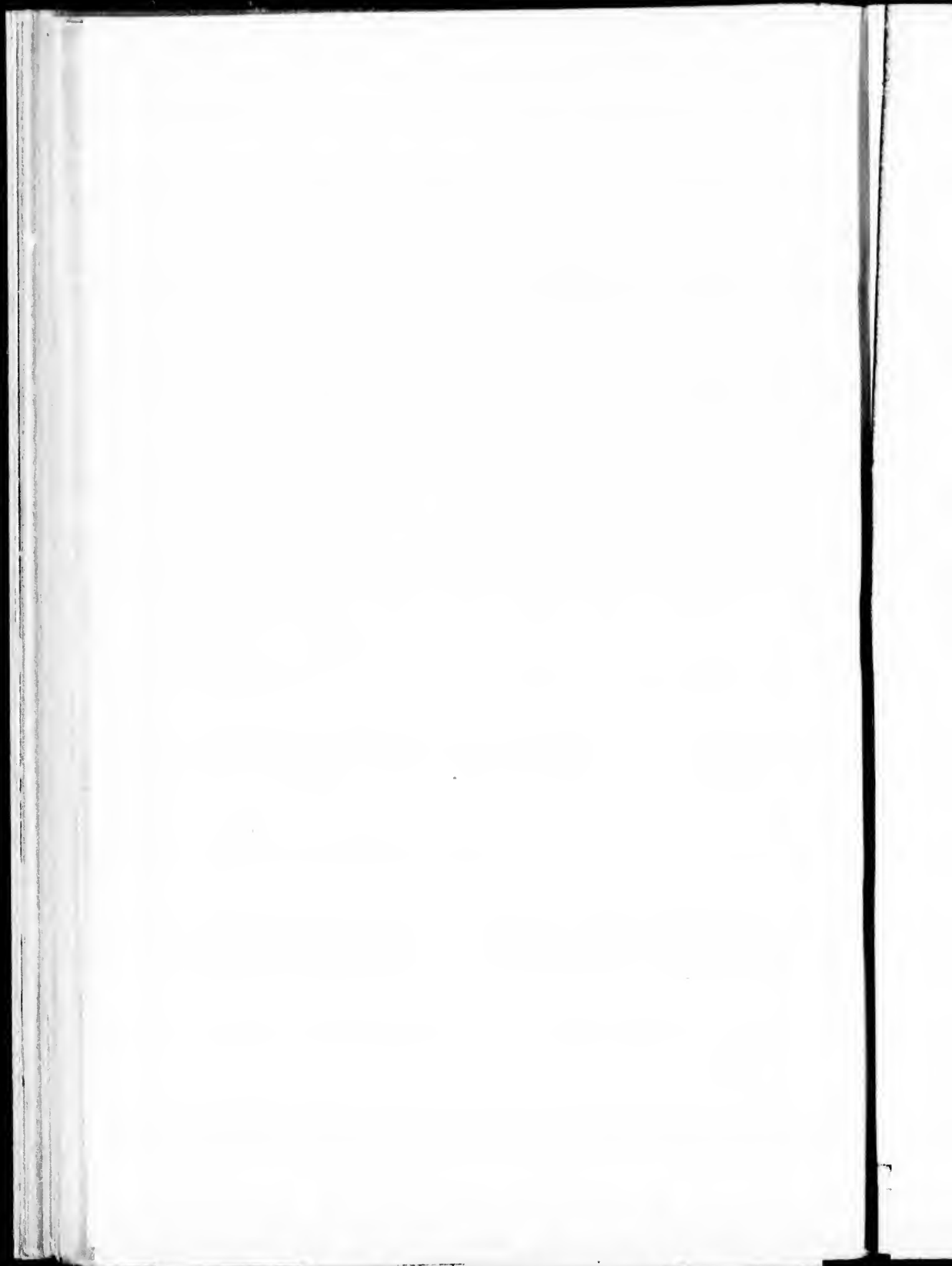
Spring.	No.	Tons.	Men.	Tuns.	No.	PRICES.
St. John's.	39	1998	651	523	39920	5s. to 8s.
Bonavista.	6		97	89	7738	
Conception Bay.	152	8778	2382	2180	801392	5s. to 9s.
Ferryland.				16	1270	
Trinity.	10	697	174	146	11654	4s. 6d. to 10s. 8d.

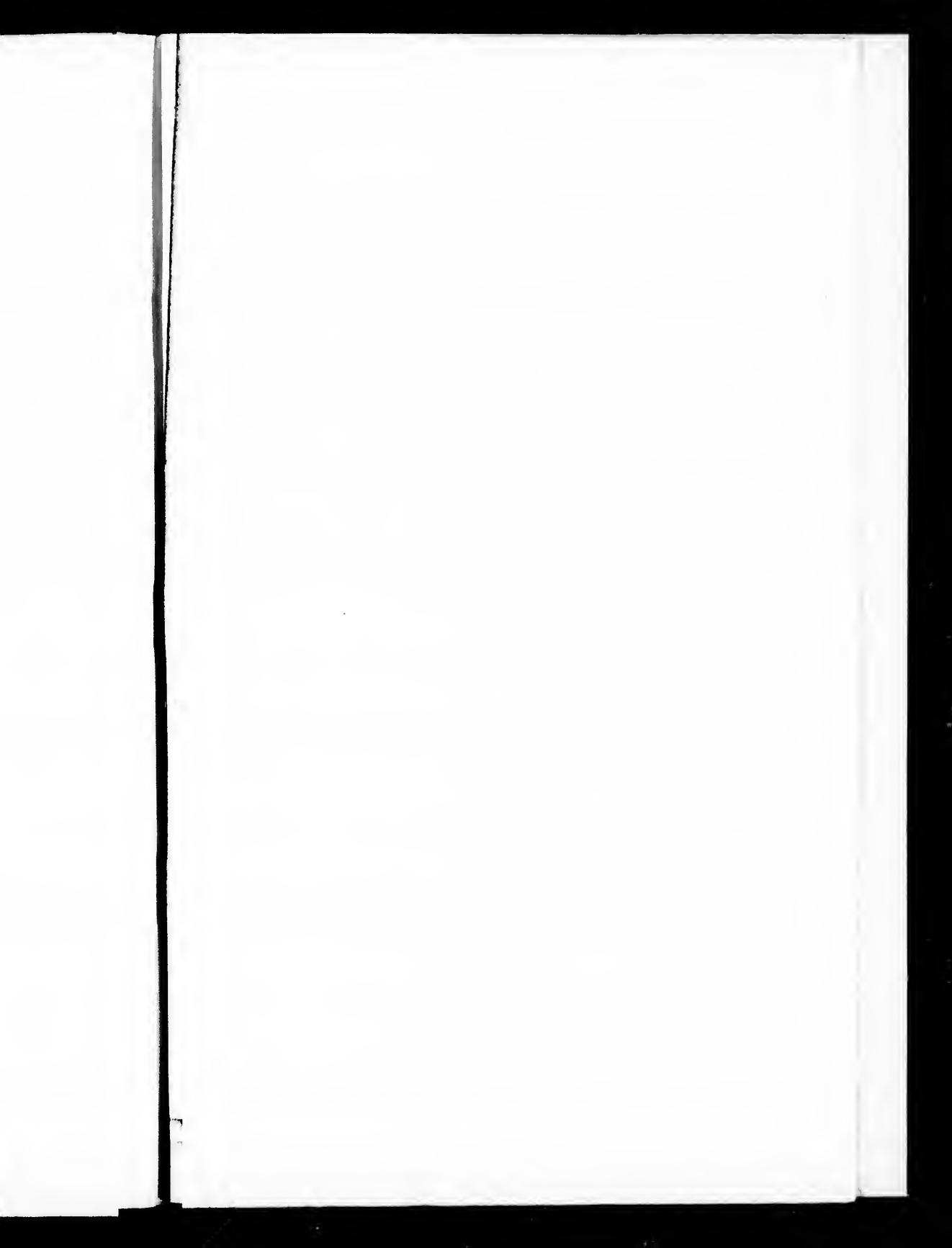
SEAL FISHERY, 1822.

Spring.					
Conception Bay.	164	9463	2636	2329	209158
St. John's.				1400	105504
Trinity.	9	534	146		11711
Bonavista.	5	301	72	160	9427
Ferryland.	3	82	36	19	1887

SEAL FISHERY—Spring, 1824:

PLACES.	No. Craft.	Tons.	Men.	No. Seals.	Tuns Oil.	PRICES.
Conception Bay.	163	9669	2708	70931	839	6s. 3d. to 7s.
St. John's.	54	9874	996	50038	707	4s. 6d. to 8s.
Trinity.	"	738	193	4844	60	
Ferryland.	3	143	47	620		6s. 6d. to 7s.





STATE OF THE FRENCH FISHERY AT NEWFOUND
 TAKEN FROM THE RETURNS OF THE BRITISH
 UPON THAT STATION.

Years.	No. of Ships.	Their Tonnage.	No. of Boats.	No. of men employed in the Fishery.	Quintals of
1769	431	44727	1455	12367	215030
1770	437	45541	1470	12855	435340
1771	419	42369	1327	12640	239864
1772	330	37257	1468	15248	388800
1773	284	33332	1452	14476	336250
1774	273	31530	1614	15137	386215
1786	86	22640	1532	7859	426400
1787	73	15690	1342	6402	128590
1788	86	20130	1560	7433	241262
1789	58	15900	1035	7314	239000
1791	43	10417	628	5895	49580
1792	46	9180	689	3397	94000

The average Tonnage of each ship employed in this period was 108, and the average Tonnage from 1786 to 1792, was 238 Tons per ship—35 to every 100 Tons shipping, and in the latter period—

A true copy, taken from returns

Whitehall, 19th March, 1783.

RECAPITULATION OF THE AFOREGOING

Average of years.	No. of Ships.	Burthen of Ships.	No. of men belonging to the Ships.	No. of Passengers.	No. of Boats.	Quintals of Fish.
1699, 1700, 1701	192	7991	4026		1314	2
1714, 1715, 1716	161	9198	2119		982	
1749, 1750, 1751	288	33512	4108	3149	1370	4
1764, '5, '6, '7, '8, '9	516	40691	5435	6441	2163	6
1770, '1, '2, '3, '4						
1784, '5, '6, '7, '8, '9	480	48950	4422	4617	2258	6
1790, '1, '2						

A true Copy, taken from the Ad.

Office of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, }
 Whitehall, 19th March, 1783. }

**THE FISHERY AT NEWFOUNDLAND IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS,
RETURNS OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALS, WHO COMMANDED
THEM.**

No. of Boats.	No. of men employed in the Fishery.	Quintals of Fish taken and cured.	Tuns of Oil made.
1455	12367	215030	} and 470000 of Fish by Talo.
1470	12855	435340	
1327	12640	239864	} and 470000 of Fish by Talo.
1468	15248	388800	
1452	14476	336250	4687 do.
1614	15137	386215	3358 do.
			3377 do.
1532	7859	426400	1059 Tuns.
1342	6402	128590	323 do.
1560	7433	241262	103 do.
1035	7314	239000	
628	5895	40580	120 do.
689	3397	94000	174½ do.

of each ship employed in this Fishery, for the years 1769, to 1774, was 238 Tons. The number of men in the former period, was 40 to every 100 Tons shipping, and in the latter period, 40 to every 100 Tons shipping.

A true copy, taken from returns of Admirals,

GEORGE CHALMERS,
Chief Clerk Commissioners Trade.

1783.

ABSTRACT OF THE AFOREGOING ACCOUNT.

No. of men engaged to Ships.	No. of Passengers.	No. of Boats.	Qtls. of Fish made.	Qtls. of Fish carried to Market.	Tierces of Salmon carried to Market.	Tuns of Train Oil made.	No. of inhabitants remaining in the country during the winter.
4026		1314	216320	154370		1049	3506
2119		982	97730	102363		891	3501
4108	3149	1370	432318	422116	1308	2532	5855
5435	6441	2163	626276	524296	5146	2882	12340
4422	4617	2258	637955	622103	2974	2364	15253

A true Copy, taken from the Admirals' returns in this Office,

(Signed) **GEORGE CHALMERS,**
Chief Clerk Commissioners Commercial Trade.

Trade, }
1783. }

