

voyage; there is another description of Fishery carried on, which is a kind of boat Fishery, which is carried on without going a great distance from the shore, by a numerous description of people, who fish a great part of the summer, and at the same time carry on a small cultivation upon the shore. They have little establishments of their own; one may cure twenty, and another a hundred quintals of Fish; and then the product of those little Fisheries is collected by trading vessels that go round. So that there are two descriptions of Fishery, the one boat Fishery, and the other a Fishery carried on by sea vessels. But none of the Fisheries are carried on upon the principle of the United States on shares.

546. Are you able to inform the Committee of the precise nature of that mode of fishing by shares?—The mode of fishing by shares is conducted in this way; the owner finds the vessel, he finds the salt, and he finds the provisions; the men find the lines and the labour, with sometimes a small charge, just according as they make the bargain; they sometimes make an allowance towards to outfit, and some times do not, that depends upon circumstances; but generally speaking, the labour is set against the outfit of the merchant, and they divide the proceeds upon the return of the vessel; or otherwise the fishermen, who share their half of the proceeds, make an agreement with the merchant on shore, to make him a certain allowance for curing their fish; if the division of the proceeds is made in green fish, upon its return from the fishery they divide half and half.

547. What do you mean by the term green fish?—Fish undried; it is salted down in the hold of the vessel, and lies in heaps, and when it is taken out it is dried; but they call it green fish while it is in its soft state, before it is exposed to the sun. The whole fishery of the United States is carried on in the same way, it is all carried on upon shares; every man who goes out a whaling voyage has a certain share in the product of the voyage; his payment depends upon the success of the voyage; all the persons engaged share the proceeds in different shares, according to the different degrees of skill of the persons engaged, because in the whale fishery there are a variety of degrees of skill.

548. You consider that the system of fishing by shares is a preferable system to that adopted in the British colonies?—No doubt of it; and it is a singular thing, that some persons have tried to introduce that system into our Fishery without success, as most of our fishermen come out from Ireland by way of Newfoundland where they acquire the habit of receiving wages, and it is hardly possible to get them out of that habit.

549. Does not the principle of fishing by shares involve a necessity of more capital than exists in New-Brunswick and Nova Scotia?—No doubt it does; it wants not only capital, but it wants also experienced fishermen in aid of that capital; for although there may be capital enough, and I think there is capital enough for the trade now, there is nothing equal to that which would be expended in the fishery if it could be carried on on a better principle.

550. What is the annual produce of the fisheries of Nova Scotia and New-Brunswick?—I cannot say with certainty; but I suppose the produce of Nova Scotia may be 100,000 quintals of fish; New-Brunswick and Nova Scotia may produce from 250,000 to 300,000 quintals of fish, and probably 250,000 barrels of fish, including the salmon, herrings, mackerel and alewives.

551. What is the difference between a quintal and a barrel?—A quintal is a hundred pounds weight, not a gross hundred weight, but one hundred pounds; a barrel contains thirty-two gallons, it must gauge thirty-two gallons before it can pass the survey.

552. Where is the market for the produce of fish you have already described?—The principal demand for the barrelled fish, particularly mackerel is in the U. States; all the southern states consume a great quantity of salted mackerel; the herrings and the alewives go generally to the West Indies. Part of the dried fish goes to the Mediterranean, to Spain and Portugal; the other part, which is the inferior kind goes to the West-Indies. There is a great demand for the best kind, what is called the European Fish, in South America; formerly in the West-Indies, they only took the interior part of the dried fish, and Europe took all the better description, but now the better kind of fish goes as well to

South America as to Europe, particularly to the Brazils.

553. Have not the fiscal regulations in Spain and Portugal materially diminished the import of fish from New-Brunswick and Nova Scotia?—That was not so much occasioned by the law; formerly a very large part of the fish that was imported from the American Fisheries into Spain and Portugal, was re-shipped again and sent to their colonies in America; they kept the trade of their colonies so close, that all the fish that went to Spanish America went first to Spain and Portugal, and was repacked again at Lisbon and Cadiz, because no vessel could go direct from any part of America to the Spanish or Portuguese colonies; so that a considerable part of the fish that formerly went to the European market, went again to the Spanish and Portuguese colonies in America; now it goes the direct course instead of going that circuitous course. Independently of that, the consumption of the European market in any way materially affects the British Fisheries.

554. You stated that you considered the demand for fish, the produce of those coasts was indefinite; will you now explain more in detail to the Committee, how the trade, in your opinion, could be extended in a material degree?—As far as I am able to judge I do not think the fishery could be exhausted; there is a possibility of it, but it would be almost incredible to conceive to what an extent the fishery must be carried before the banks and sources of the fishery would fail; but with respect to the markets for it, that depends altogether upon the consumption; at present the West-Indies and South America are the great places of consumption, except for salmon and pickled mackerel in the United States. The deranged state of the governments in South America, and the consequent deranged condition of the trade, make that market not so good as it will become when things are more settled; but I am convinced that the markets now open for British fish would take a larger supply than the present state of the fishery affords them, and that those markets will improve annually faster than our fisheries can increase, unless some uncommon event was to happen in those countries to prolong the disturbance and confusion which exist there. I think those markets will increase as rapidly as

we can by any means increase the fishery.

555. If an increased demand should be found to exist in South America for fish, the produce of the northern seas, what will prevent the Americans from competing with the British colonies in the supply of those markets, which will have the effect of lowering the price of the commodity?—A variety of causes; in the first place the whole fishery of the United States is confined to the northern states, the whale fishery to the island of Nantucket, and the cod fishery principally at Massachusetts Bay; there is a small fishery carried on in New-Hampshire, and in the new State of Maine, but not of any great importance; those who fish from the State of Maine, and New-Hampshire, confine their fishery altogether to the Bay of Fundy. If they were excluded from our ground, they would have no fishery at all, for that fishing ground belongs to us! but they will come and fish there, though they have no right to do so. The fishing establishments in the United States are so remote from the fishing grounds that when we can make four voyages, they can scarcely make two.

556. Is not it the fact at the present moment, that the American fishermen do compete with the British North American fisherman with advantage?—They do; and the reason of it is this, the whole world is open to them for their resources, and they supply their fishermen upon better terms than we can under the restrictive trade, therefore they have all that advantage over us; independently of that, our fishermen depend on Great Britain for their coarse manufactures; in the United States, they supply all the coarse wearing apparel that the fishermen use, their boots, their shoes, and their jackets, from their own manufactories, and they supply them upon better terms than we can get them from the European market. They are allowed to import their hemp free of any kind of duty; there is a duty upon cordage, but they import their hemp free of duty, and by that means they make all their twine and their lines, and all the materials for their fishery, at once upon the spot, whereas hemp with us is subject to a duty as well as cordage, so that we pay a duty on the raw material; that duty presses heavily on the British