fishery and colonial navigation.

557. Do you consider that the change of system with respect to the colonial trade will produce an effect, diminishing the advantages which the American fisherman has hitherto possessed over the British fisherman?—Not a doubt of it; the duty on hemp should be taken off; the commercial alterations are too recent to feel the effects of it yet, but every body who knows the country, knows that the most beneficial effect will result from it; we have now the advantage of getting from the Baltic hemp and cordage, and the different materials for the fishery; the only thing that will enable us to compete successfully with the American fishermen, is to have those articles as cheap as possible; we can import cordage, and hemp, and sails and sail cloth, and all those things will have a tendency to benefit our fishery to a great extent; but they should be free of duty, particularly hemp and naval stores.

562. How many individuals are employed in the fishery?—I suppose about 20,000, in both provinces.

563. From whence do they procure their provisions?—Except for the article of potatoes and some pork, they depend wholly upon the United States and Canada for their supply; I believe Nova Scotia and New-Brunswick furnish very little provision for their fishermen, but potatoes and some salt pork, and those not to any great extent. There is one thing I would beg to suggest, with respect to the operation of the new commercial laws; a letter that I had by the March packet, mentions, that in the first operation of those laws, they met with a discouraging circumstance in the duty imposed under those laws upon the raw material of hemp, which is found to operate very much indeed against our being able to manufacture our own lines and other materials for the fishery, The opinion expressed to me by some merchants was, that it was right to impose a duty upon the cordage, as a manufactured article, but let hemp come without any duty; cotton comes without any duty; how it happened that a duty was imposed upon hemp I do not know, I should think it arose out of misconception; it would be a great benefit to let it come free of duty.

564. Have you read the paper which has been laid before the Committee, upon the subject of distress existing in Scilly Islands?—I have.

565. The inhabitants of the Scilly Islands being necessarily accustomed to fishing, are you of opinion that they could be removed with advantage to the coast of Nova Scotia and New-Brunswick?—I have no doubt that they could; upon the whole coast of that country we have not a harbour that has not a commencement of a settlement; it is not now as it was formerly with the first settlers; many of the difficulties are now removed from new settlers, as there is the commencement of a settlement in almost every harbour; and it is singular too, that one of our finest harbours, one I suppose as well adapted to the fishery, as any other upon the face of the earth, is one which the French selected, who were well acquainted with its advantages; I mean the site of the former city of Louisburg, which now remains almost an uninhabited harbour; if a colony of fishermen were to sit down at Louisburgh, which we at one time contemplated that the New-England fishermen would some day receive encouragement to do, I am convinced that a colony of fishermen established at Louisburgh, would have as good a situation as any in the world; and if there is to be any removal from the Scilly Island to any part of America, I think that would be the best place to select for them, as they would have in the first place all the cleared country that belonged to the old city of Louisburgh, and they would have a fine harbour there, scarcely occupied, and most advantageously situated for the fishery.

566. Supposing that from three to four thousand of those persons were to proceed to occupy the city of Louisburgh, should you be prepared to point out the regulations that would be desirable to give them a chance of success?—I am not sufficiently acquainted with the manner in which the fishery in the Scilly Islands is carried on, whether in boats or deck vessels; but if the vessels are of sufficient burden to enable them to pass the Atlantic ocean, they have nothing to do but to remove with their vessels at once to the fishing place; but if the vessels they fish in are only open boats, it will be necessary to transport them to the place of their settlement; and at the same time to furnish them with materials to build those vessels that must be employed in the fishery. It is very probable that the circumstance of a colony of that kind going there, would be an inducement to persons of some capital, who would go with vessels there, and at once put vessels into the hands of those persons to fish in; I have no doubt that capital might be drawn to their assistance in that way; but I cannot speak as to their skill as fishermen, not being acquainted with the fishery of the Scilly Islands.

567. Are there many parts of Scotland where it is understood that there is a fishing population in great distress, that you equally consider might be removed?—A great number of Scotch fishermen have already gone to that country, and settled themselves in the neighbourhood where the herring and mackarel fishery is carried on; but that is all done from the shore, and does not require sea vessels. The Bras d'Or Lake in Cape Breton is particularly well adapted to receive a colony of that description; so is Canso, and the north side of Prince Edward Island.

572. Do the fishermen cooper for themselves?—In a great degree one cooper will do the business of a good many, because almost every man, after some practice, can split and set a hoop or stave, and he can do a great deal of the work that the tradesmen here are obliged to do.

573. Do you consider that the demand for the fish is so extensive that there is no danger of over-doing it?—I should rather think not; I do not apprehend that fishing is a very precarious pursuit; sometimes there is an unlucky season and sometimes a lucky season; like the harvest, sometimes a good one and sometimes a bad one; but there is no reason to apprehend that the British fisheries will ever sink for want of a market.

577. To what do you attribute it, that the fishermen in Nova Scotia are in a so much more prosperous state than the fishermen in Newfoundland?—The planter of Newfoundland keeps no men in his employment in winter; In Nova Scotia, any fisherman who understands the sea, goes a voyage during the winter, to the West Indies; a vessel that is employed in the fishery of sixty or seventy or eighty tons burthen, will carry the produce of the fishery to its market; so that in the winter time those people are either away from the country altogether, or are employed at home preparing for the next fishing season.

NOTICE.

THE Business of the late concern, will continue to be conducted by the Subscribers under the Firm of John & James D. Fraser, & Co.

JOHN FRASER,
JAMES D. FRASER,
ALEX. G. FRASER.

Beaubairs Island, 27th Sept. 1826.

THE PARTNERSHIP HERETOFORE existing under the Firm of JOUETT, AGNEW, & Co. is by mutual consent this day dissolved.

Tuesday, 17th Oct. 1826.

ALL persons indebted to the Subscriber, or to the late Firm of

EZEKIEL SLOOT, & Co,

are requested to call at his Store as early as possible, to adjust the same, to enable him to make satisfactory arrangement with his Creditors; and all persons having claims against him, will please send them in.

JAMES SLOOT.

Fredericton, July 11, 1826.

TO LET.

ON liberal terms till first May next, and possession given 1st November next, the dwelling part of the House, and Store either together or separately, now in the occupation of the Subscriber. For particulars require of

MARK NEEDHAM.

Fredericton, 10th October 1826.

NOTICE.

A MEETING of the Creditors of the late Firm of DEAN, HATFIELD and LOUGHERTY, of this City, Butchers, will be held at Mason Hall on WEDNESDAY the first day of November next, at twelve o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, when and where arrangements will be made to liquidate the demands against the said firm.

H. N. H. LUGRIN.

Attorney for Dean, Hatfield & Lougherty,
Sept. 23d. 1826.

☞NOTICE.

A General meeting of all the Creditors of M. G. Valentine, an absconding debtor, is requested at Mr. CLOPPER'S Office in Fredericton, on Monday the 4th day of December next at 10 o'clock A. M. when a final Settlement of the Estate of the said debtor will be made.

H. G. CLOPPER,
W. TAYLOR,
J. SIMPSON,
} Trustees.

Fredericton, 30th Sept. 1826.

STEWART & AITKEN.

CABINET MAKERS,

AND UPHOLSTERERS,

RESPECTFULLY inform the Gentry and other Inhabitants of Fredericton and its vicinity, that they have commenced business at that Shop next to the Store of Messrs. J. & G. E. Ketchum, where every article in their line, will be manufactured, in the neatest and most Fashionable manner, on the shortest notice, and most reasonable terms.

Fredericton, 9th May 1826.

☞ *NOTICE.*

THE Creditors of STAIR B. AGNEW, an absconding Debtor, are requested to attend at the Office of GEORGE MINCHIN, Esq. on Tuesday the 14th of November next.

Fredericton, October 31, 1826.