

MR. CHASE, of the firm of Kirkland & Chase, sworn. Deals extensively in fish. Lately the character of fish inspection has been in a very bad condition, so that dealers can do just as well without it. Mr. C. trading in this article to the West Indies, found the greater part of fish shipped for that market very soon spoiled, and obliged to be thrown away though passed as No. 1. He thinks Mr. Green is a good inspector. Has never seen inspectors weigh shad as they do in the northern cities, especially Boston, where they are first taken out of the barrel and properly assorted. Dealers must pay ten cents per barrel on shad, the same on mackerel, which is entirely too much in his opinion, and three cents per barrel on herring. Three inspectors he thinks quite sufficient to transact the business of inspections. The character of flour inspection is very good. The inspector general of flour, has the power of suspending his assistant inspectors. This system should be applied to fish inspection, for as at present conducted, the trade is more injured than benefited. Mr. C. has no reason to believe that a combination exists between the inspector and fisherman, but that the bad character of the inspection rather results from the ignorance of the inspectors employed, and the system generally.

MR. THOMAS IRWIN, affirms: That he packs up fish and sends them to the city. Is of opinion that the fault of inspection is to be found more in the incompetency and want of judgment in the inspectors than in corruption. Has himself observed fish that actually smelled, passed as No. 1. Mr. I. has a fishery on the Potomac, and is an extensive curer of fish. Thinks that mackerel and all eastern fish are packed with too much salt, though shad requires much salt in packing. Is of opinion that to make the inspector responsible for his inspection would be too heavy a requirement of him, and that he would probably find it very difficult to procure the required security. Mr. I. does not pay much respect to the inspector's mark in trade. If air holes are left in the barrells the fly which is so peculiarly injurious to fish, is likely to enter. Thinks that four inspectors are too many, and that three could effectually attend to the whole business. He concluded by relating several instances of the bad effect of the present system.

JAMES C. SELLMAN, sworn. The present system of fish inspection could not be in a worse condition than at present, and requires an entire revision. This results from the incompetency of the inspectors as he believes, excepting Mr. Green, whom he holds competent. A less number of inspectors could attend to the business. In one season of the year he thinks *one* would be sufficient, as *three* certainly would be for the whole year. Is of opinion that there ought to be one general inspector in the manner of flour inspection, with two deputies giving bonds, and thinks that persons to give the required security could be procured. Fish should *stand under shed* a day or two before inspection. For