

this purpose a house similar to those across the basin should be built by the State in some convenient location in the city, as for instance at the City Block, which he supposes could be done at a cost of from not more than 8 to \$10,000. Storage and wharfage to be charged by the State, would cover the expense besides operating as an advantageous revenue to the State, or to the city if it undertakes it, for the less fish are exposed to the weather the better for them. He observes that fish are not properly cured in the first place; and secondly, packed in bad casks or barrels. If they are well cured, and afterwards pickled and then packed, they can go to the East Indies and back again, remaining perfectly healthy. 60,000 barrels herrings were inspected for the last 2 years, 10,000 barrels mackerel were inspected in last year, and 10,000 barrels shad for the same period.

From the present deplorable state of this system, the trade suffers immensely. Fish inspection at Boston stands very high. The inspector there is made personally responsible. Barrels here are generally in a miserable condition, though the law prescribes as respects herrings especially, five-eighths well seasoned staves, which is now overlooked by the inspector.

Mr. JACOB AYRES, sworn. Is engaged in the fish business. The present character of the inspection of this article is very indifferent. No confidence felt in the inspector's brand among dealers. He has often been obliged to take fish out of the barrel though passed as No. 2, when they should have been condemned. There is no confidence felt by him in any one of the inspectors. Mr. Hanna's brand is so notorious that no one will purchase it. Mr. Ayres states that he often received back fish he had sold his customers, from courtesy, and with a view of preserving his interests, though the fish were passed as good by the inspector. The present inspectors in his opinion are incompetent judges. Mr. A. confirms the testimony of the preceding witnesses, that a similar system to the flour inspection would result beneficially to the trade. An inspection house would be very serviceable in some convenient situation in the city.

The committee find that it has been the practice of one or two of the inspectors to "buy the others out," so that the work of four inspectors has been done by two only, and at the present time, the whole of the inspection is performed by Mr. Green.

This practice should no longer be permitted. The committee are satisfied that three inspectors at least are necessary to perform the duties required of them by existing enactments.

The inspectors should be compelled to perform the duties enjoined upon them by law, and should be held responsible for the faithful performance of those duties.

The inspectors should also be made more independent. The door to favoritism should be closed; and to effect this object, the fees arising from the inspection ought to be divided equally among the inspectors.