

Claim Prices Strangling Fish Market In Nfld.

By IAN MACDONALD
Canadian Press Staff Writer
ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CP) — The royal commission on food price spreads, winding up the first phase of its cross-country study, was told Saturday "outrageously high" prices are strangling the potentially good market for fish in Newfoundland.

Pat Antle, acting general secretary of the Newfoundland Federation of Fishermen, said "we are convinced that local consumption of our fish and fishery products could be increased by perhaps 200 per cent if the consumer could obtain fish at reasonable prices."

An example: "Halibut for which fishermen on the south side of St. John's received 15 cents a pound, was sold to consumers in St. John's for from 65 to 75 cents a pound in 1957."

"Salmon for which fishermen received 25 to 35 cents a pound locally for from 50 to 75 cents."

"Lobsters for which fishermen received 25 cents a pound sold locally for from 50 to 75 cents."

Last year the Newfoundland fishermen made far less than his Nova Scotia counterpart, the commission was told Newfoundland fishermen received two cents a pound for gutted codfish compared with 3½ cents in Nova Scotia.

LACK SERVICES
Mr. Antle called the commission's attention to services lacking in this province but available on the mainland. "Some are contributing factors to these discrepancies in prices in Newfoundland."

They included:
1. Lack of direct freight connections between Newfoundland and large West Indian markets.

2. Lack of public cold storage facilities strategically placed in Newfoundland to service perishable fresh fish products.

3. Lack of properly developed national harbors to facilitate low cost handling of incoming and outgoing freight.

4. Lack of an efficient Newfoundland merchant marine of the specialized type required to service Newfoundland imports and exports.

5. The total inadequacy of the Canadian National Railway transportation system to service the needs of the fish industry.

Freight rates were an especially big problem. "It cost more to ship a quintal (112 pounds) of fish to Toronto than the fishermen receives for the fish." The fishermen would get about \$12 and the freight would be \$14.50.

Deputy Mines Minister Murray told the commission Newfoundland consumers pay more for vegetables, dairy products and meat than people on the mainland because of a costly and inefficient transportation system.

SHORT MILK SUPPLY
He said St. John's is the only Newfoundland centre that has an adequate supply of fresh milk and this city's 65,000 residents drink only 8,000 quarts a day. Small outport communities do without.

Milk sells here for an average of 32 cents a quart. The only two large milk producers, both in St. John's, buy milk from farmers at \$9 per hundredweight and have "a very narrow margin of profit."

Commission member Dr. W.M. Drummond of Guelph, Ont., noted that the price of milk has not changed in the last three years. Canadian cheddar cheese sold here for 58.3 cents a pound and

butter sells for about 78 cents a pound. Neither is produced locally.

Dr. Drummond said he was "surprised" that food prices in St. John's appeared to be so much higher than those paid in mainland centres.

"They are the highest in Canada," Mr. Murray said.

He said vegetables were usually shipped from the Maritime provinces or central Canada by rail. The vegetables are unloaded at North Sydney, N. S., and placed on a ferry to Port aux Basques, Nfld., from where they are shipped by train to St. John's.

NARROW GAUGE PROBLEM
The loading and unloading is necessary because Newfoundland has narrow gauge railway.

Mr. Murray said on top of high freight rates there was a lot of spoilage due to poor refrigeration and handling. It all contributed to raise the products price.

Most commission members said they were amazed at the high prices charged for food in St. John's. Mrs. Dorothy Walton of Toronto who had been studying food prices in local papers said she was astonished.

The session here ended the first phase of the seven-member commission's inquiry. Hearings resume in central Canada in the fall.

Following his marriage to Minnie Bowen in 1914, they took up residence in Hermitage.

By careful attention to business and good farming methods, they built up a beautiful home famed for its hospitality. Here friend or stranger has always been sure of a cordial welcome, nor have the poor ever gone forth from it empty-handed.

A man of integrity and honesty, he possessed a cheerful disposition and those who were privileged to live near him, knew what a kind neighbor he was, as he was always ready and willing to lend a helping hand.

One of the highlights of their happy life together was a trip on their thirty fifth wedding anniversary to Western Canada where they visited their family and other relatives.

Deceased was a devout member of St. Joachim's Church and was active in the Choir and Holy Name Society.

Besides his sorrowing wife, there are left to mourn a kind and loving husband and father, two sons: Francis, Calgary and Alfred, Edmonton (both of whom came home for their father's funeral), three daughters: Mrs. Joseph Hayley (Marie), Edmonton; Mrs. John Reddin (Irene), Southport; and Mrs. Eric Tribble (Doris), Calgary.

He is also survived by one brother, Venanches, Village Green, five sisters, Mrs. J. A. Keoughan (Millie), Avondale, Mrs. Cal Murdoch (Belle), Calgary; Mrs. Pat Lynch (Mary), Connecticut; Mrs. N. B. MacDonald (Gertrude), Somerville, Mass., and Mrs. Joseph Connors, (Josephine), Somerville, Mass.

The latter three motored home to attend the funeral which was held at Vernon River on April 9th and was largely attended.

Solemn Requiem Mass was sung by Rev. Parnell Wood, nephew of the deceased, assisted by

Increased Trade With U. K. Might Mean Investment Hike

By FORBES RHUDE

Canadian Press Business Editor
TORONTO (CP) — James S. Duncan of Toronto, chairman of the Dollar Sterling Trade Council, said Monday night increased British trade with Canada probably would bring increased British investment in this country.

Mr. Duncan, deputy leader of last fall's Canadian trade mission to Britain, made his comment at a press conference in connection with release of the mission's report.

Speaking particularly of the British mission due in Canada this week, Mr. Duncan says he hopes its effect will be to give further impetus to what the Canadian mission has done.


He added:
"We think that after the mission returns to Britain more attention will be given to investment in Canada."
"We hope that as more and more British people visit here and understand the development taking place, there will be more tendency towards investing capital. Investment of capital would, in turn, bring further increase in trade."

NOT TAKE LITERALLY
Asked whether he wished to comment on the suggestion that 15 per cent of Canada's imports from the United States might be diverted to Britain, Mr. Duncan said he had always taken the suggestion as "indicating the direction in which it was desirable to go."

Mr. Duncan said that the Dollar Sterling Council had always advocated that purchases be made in Canada if possible. The itinerary of the British trade mission, headed by Sir William Rookes, was given as follows:
April 24, arrive in Montreal and proceed to Ottawa; spend April 24-25 in Ottawa and leave Ottawa April 26 for Cornwall; spend the day in the Cornwall vicinity and proceed to Montreal for April 27-29; leave April 29 by train for Halifax and spend April 30 and May 1 there; leave May 2 and spend the day in Fredericton; proceed to Quebec for May 3-4; leave May 5 and spend May 5-9 in Toronto; spend May 10-12 in Winnipeg; May 13 in Regina; May 15 in Edmonton; May 16-17 in Calgary; proceed to Vancouver by train; May 19 in Victoria; May 20 in Vancouver, where the mission will disperse May 21.

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JOHN J. CURLEY

The people of Vernon River and vicinity were shocked and saddened when they learned of the sudden death on Easter Sunday, April 6, of John J. Curley of Hermitage.

Mr. Curley who had gone to town on Saturday seemed in his usual good health, but when about to return home in the afternoon, was suddenly stricken with a heart seizure and immediately removed to the Charlotetown Hospital. His wife was quickly at his bedside.

After receiving medical treatment, he appeared to rally, but, in the early hours of Easter morn, fortified by the Last Rites of the Catholic Church of which he was a devoted member, his gentle spirit passed peacefully to its Eternal Reward.

Born in Village Green on June 3, 1883, he was the son of Thomas Curley and Jane MacDonald.

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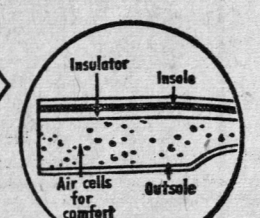
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