

Sparked By Young Lawyer Tignish Fishermen Pioneer The Co-operative Effort

Twenty-five years ago many eyes were turned toward Tignish and observations were being made about a young lawyer Chester P. McCarthy and his organization of fishermen. During the last twenty years our minds have been occupied with matters of greater interest but to most of the old fishermen the memory of the beginning of United Fishermen is still fresh. The good old days were not so good if you can believe some of the stories told by the older fishermen. He began fishing in the spring to pay back bills contracted during the winter months. It always took his entire earnings to square up and generally he remained in debt.

INITIATED MOVEMENT

The great movement to better conditions of the fishermen began in 1922. It germinated among the group in Tignish and has since spread to cover the Maritime Provinces and has had far reaching and lasting effects on many parts of the world.

Tignish was in the lime-light for a few years for it was the real testing ground of cooperation in this country. Had the idea been tested in any other section the story could have been much different.

In those days most of the fishermen spent the blowy days around the shore. Some would play cards, a ball game or tug-of-war was easily organized too, but there was always a period after meals when ideas were swapped.

Joseph A. Arsenault will tell you that it was men like Cletus Gavin, William D. McLeod, Hubie Gaudet and John M. Handrahan who came up with the proposition that if they worked together they could accomplish something that could not be done as individuals.

The idea of pooling their resources was born and meetings of all fishermen of the area were called. Several meetings brought nothing constructive and the fishermen decided they could do nothing by themselves. Edward Gavin and John M. Handrahan called on Chester McCarthy and asked him to come to their assistance.

Mr. McCarthy attended their meeting and listened with interest. He was the son of a fisherman and had been a fisherman himself. Having had worked his own college education out of fishing he had much understanding of and sympathy for their plight. He assumed the responsibility as their leader, and from that day in 1922 until his death in 1948 he worked continuously in the interest of the fishermen.

The first meeting recorded was that of Oct. 16th, 1922 and the group named themselves the Tignish Fishermen's Council. It existed as such until Mr. McCarthy drew up a constitution and his group was incorporated under the laws of the Province in 1924 as the Fishermen's Union of P.E.I.

Provisions were made for the organizing of other groups in the province and field-work was done by Mr. McCarthy. Soon stations of the Fishermen's Union existed in almost each fishing community of P.E.I.

The Tignish Fishermen went into business of processing lobsters and other fish in 1925 buying out plant owned by Dr. J.A. Johnston and the company was named Tignish Fisheries Ltd. incorporated in that year.

At that time no cooperative act was in existence in this country but Tignish Fisheries was essentially a Fishermen's Cooperative. There were thirty-one charter members. Fifteen of those pioneers have passed on to their eternal reward.

Hubert Gaudet who was first president of the company is still an active fisherman. Joseph A. Arsenault, Charles Gavin, Michael McPhee, Michael Gaudet, Ferdinand Gaudet, William Shea, Arthur P. Chaisson and Harold Cormier are still taking their living from the sea. James D. Fitzgerald who was first secretary is retired. John M. Handrahan, Howard Harper, Leo Shea, James Alyward, Merrill MacKie and Mac McRae have retired from fishing.

With the organization of Fishermen's Union on P.E.I. came the organization of unions in the other Maritime Provinces. United Maritime Fishermen came into existence to link up organized fishermen of the three provinces with Mr. Chester P. McCarthy as the first president.

The great cooperative movement of the Maritimes came as a follow up of United Maritime Fishermen. Tignish fishermen may have just pride in the knowledge that they played a very important part in the development of the Co-op structure of today.

The co-operative progress of the fishermen in Tignish was not completed with the formation of Tignish Fisheries Ltd., but those same fishermen sparked the Credit Union Ltd., showed the Maritime provinces the way also in credit unions. The consumer and Producers' Cooperative serves almost all the needs of the community.

Tignish fisheries continues to grow and expand in membership and business activities. The present membership consists of 86 fishermen shareholders. Products of the highest standards are produced in the new up to date cannery under the foremanship of L.J. McCarthy.

Two years ago a new fish saltery was added. Fisheries inspectors and fish buyers from

all over the country are more than pleased with the salt fish operation carried on under Peter Gallant.

A new salt fish drier was installed a year before. The first mechanical drier of its kind in the province. Boneless salt cod fish are packed about nine months of the year in all size packages. The work is done almost entirely by women folk. Dora Gavin grades all fish and any customer buying Star Of The Sea boneless codfish may be quite sure that quality is in each package.

At the death of Mr. McCarthy, Miss Noreen Johnston took on the management of the business. Miss Johnston had served as secretary to Mr. McCarthy for nine years and continued to carry on the business very capably until 1951.

The present manager, Wilson Shea began in 1951. He was a fisherman and fresh from the

sea with no previous business experience. In the past seven years he has had many and varied experiences. He finds plenty to do for twelve months of the year and during the spring season you may find him at Tignish Run where the saltery is located, at Jude's Point where about eighty employees are busy as bees, or at Alberton wharf where the live lobsters are held in floats.

You will not have to wait long for his return to the office in the village. At the office you will always find Thelma DesRoches. Thelma has been secretary and Accountant in the business for the past two years. She is an apt scholar and has most of the answers on her finger tips.

She will tell you that a fishing business can become very complicated by times. Just when you think everything is going smoothly something will happen to upset the apple cart.

Mr. Shea has big plans for fut-

He is ever ready to draw from the fount of knowledge which exists in his board of fishermen directors. The seven of them have been around longer than he. A picture of the group hangs in his private office and if you are calling on him for the first time he will always ask you to "meet my board of Directors" and then he begins to introduce each one just as if he were present. Mr. Joseph A. Arsenault, president; Joseph W. Doucette, Secretary; Harold Cormier, John Fennessey, Henry Doucette, Claude Gavin, Vice-president; and Albinus Gavin.

RUSS SLEEP MACHINE

LONDON (Reuters) — Moscow radio said Wednesday that Soviet scientists are developing an electric sleep machine which will reduce the amount of sleep a person needs to two hours daily. "That means we'll be living nearly three times as long as we

Island Oysters Placed In Prominent Position



Prince Edward Island waters have developed a resistance to this disease. It should be emphasized that the disease is definitely not injurious to humans.

In January of 1957 Mr. George R. Clark, Deputy Minister of the Federal Department of Fisheries, announced that a plan for the rehabilitation of the depleted oyster fishing grounds of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick with P.E. Island disease-resistant oysters had been put into effect.

YEARS OF RESEARCH

Years of research by Fisheries Biologists and experience gained during the 1915 to 1940 epidemic of the disease in P.E. Island waters had shown that if an area depleted by this disease was left to itself it would require at least 15 years to rehabilitate whereas if planting of disease-resistant oysters were made to such an area the rehabilitation period could be cut approximately in half.

Based on this devise the rehabilitation plan now being carried out by the Federal Department of Fisheries will transplant 10,000 barrels of disease-resistant oysters from Prince Edward Island to the depleted areas of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia over a period of three years.

The shape of the disease-resistant oysters to be transplanted is immaterial. They are required only as breeding stock and their progeny will acquire the usual market quality of the

area to which they are planted.

THE POORER TYPE

Thus only oysters of too poor a quality for market are being used for the transplant. There is an abundant supply of these poor quality oysters growing in P.E. Island waters. They grow in such crowded conditions on soft bottom that their market value has been destroyed.

The purchase of these oysters by tender by the Federal Department of Fisheries thus provides Island oyster fishermen with an additional source of income.

Furthermore, the active fishing and removal of oysters from these over crowded beds will tend to improve the quality of the oysters growing on these beds in future and provide additional marketable stock.

STARTED IN MAY
The first phase of the rehab-

itation plan was carried out in May and June of 1957. 1,500 barrels of oysters were fished from Summerside by Oystercrats Inc., Harrier Brothers and Fred L. Senault for sale by tender to the Federal Department of Fisheries. 1,000 barrels of these oysters were transplanted in the Shippegan area of New Brunswick and 500 barrels in the Malagash area of Nova Scotia.

The results of these transplants made in 1957 were encouraging that in 1958 the Department of Fisheries plans to transplant 4,500 barrels to supply these 4,500 oysters will be called for early in 1958. The major portion of 1958 transplant will go to Miramichi area in New Brunswick.

OYSTERS CAUGHT IN RAKE



A FLEET OF OYSTER FISHERMEN



FISHERMEN HANDLE OWN PROBLEMS

Members of the Board of Directors of the Tignish Fisheries Limited seen in their office are left to right Joseph A. Arsenault, Joseph W. Doucette, Harold Cormier, John Fennessey, Henry Doucette, Claude Gavin and Albinus Smith.

BY H.R. FOUND ELLERSLIE BIOLOGICAL STATION

The recent epidemic oyster disease which has wiped out oyster stocks in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick has placed the P.E.I. oyster fishery in a very prominent position. Never before in the history of the Is-

land's oyster industry has the market price for P.E.I. oysters been as high as in 1957.

The epidemic oyster disease now active in the waters of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is considered to be the same disease that devastated the Prince Edward Island oyster fishery from 1915 to 1940.

Oyster stocks now growing in

Echo Sounder Is Latest Out

Pye Canada Limited has announced a new addition to its wide line of Marine equipment. The Le. dsman Echo Sounder is engineered by Pye Marine at Lowestoft, England and is now available for delivery anywhere in Canada.

This echo sounder indicates the actual depth of water beneath the keel at all times in all weather conditions. The principle of operation is similar to that of submarine detection. An electronic impulse is generated in the transmitter, converted into an ultrasonic beam by the transducer, which is mounted near the keel

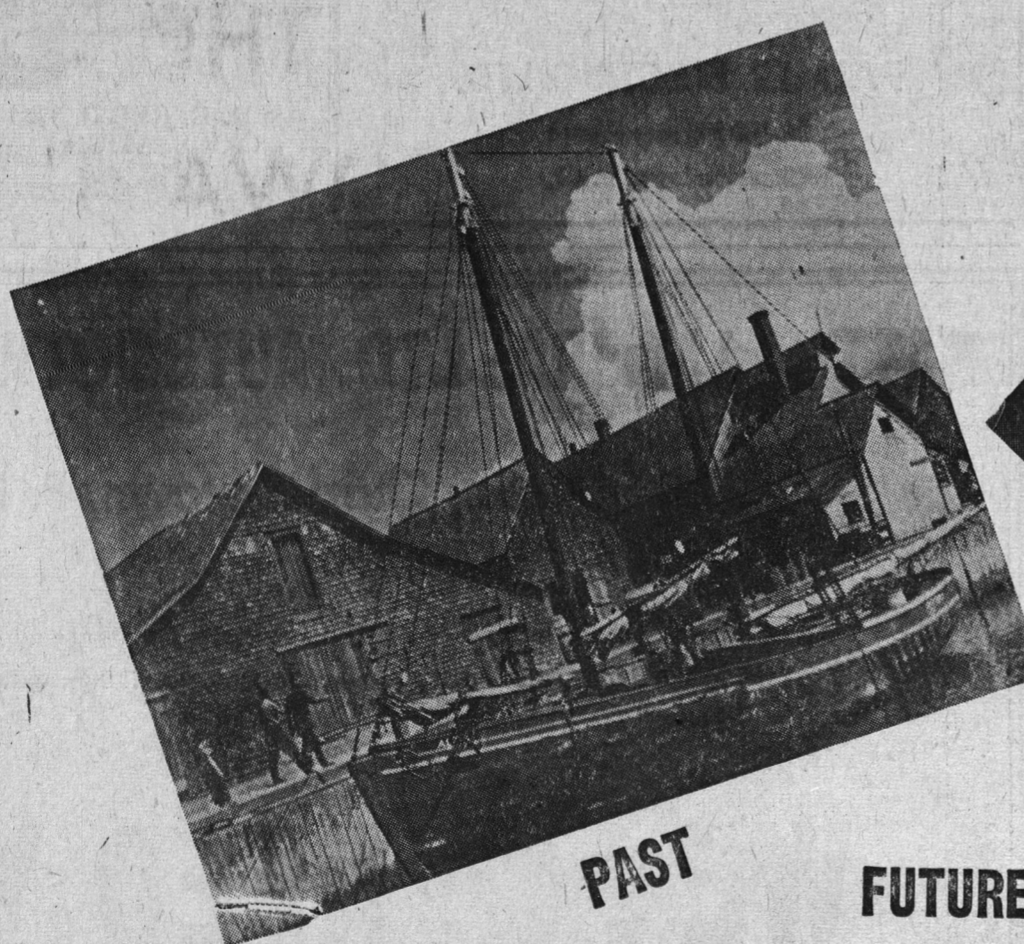
and projected down yards towards the bottom.

When this beam hits bottom or other reflecting surfaces such as wrecks or reefs, it is reflected to the transducer which sends it back to the receiver. The signals are amplified and applied to a neon-indicator on a synchronous rotating arm which flashes once when the pulse is transmitted (zero position) and again when received back (against the depth sounded on the scale) having measured the time taken for the whole cycle. The entire operation is automatic and is repeated hundreds of times a minute.

HISTORIC SPORT

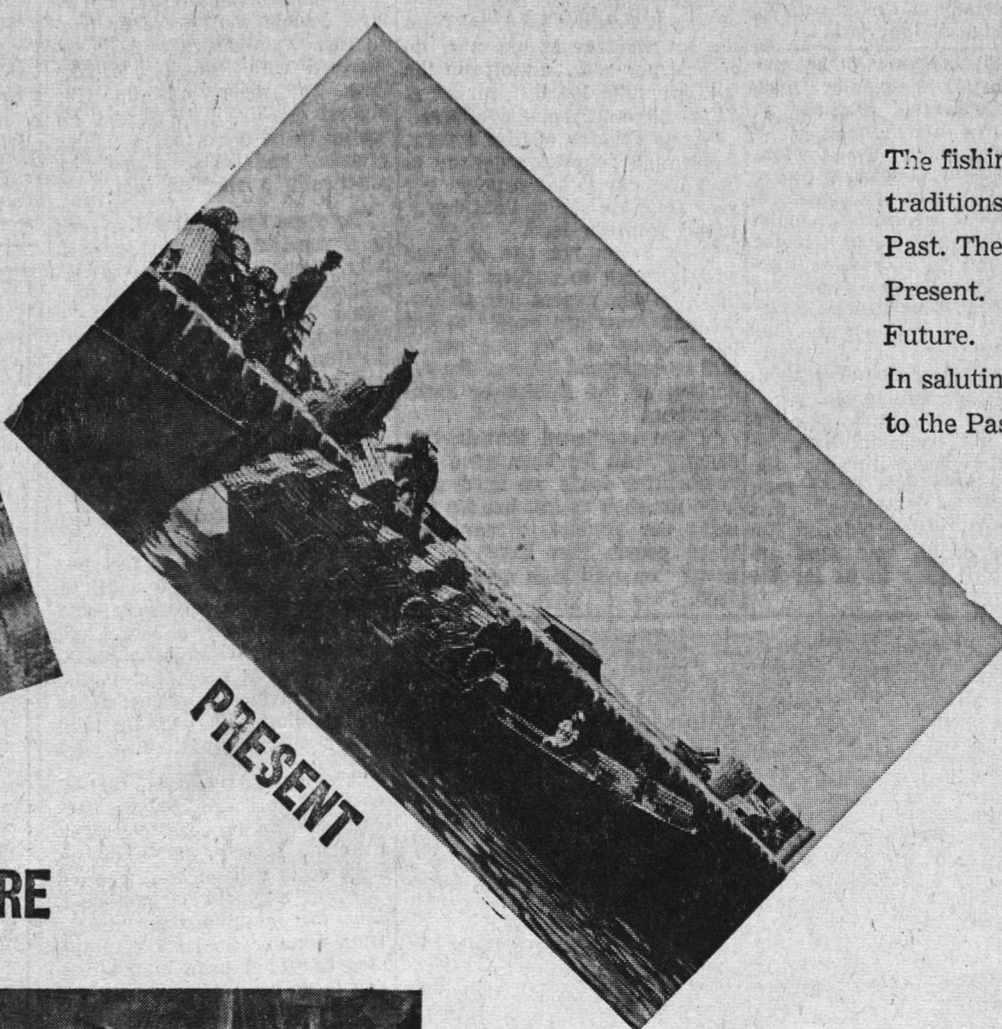
The sport of curling was introduced to Canada nearly 200 years ago by Scottish troops stationed at Quebec.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND DEPARTMENT of FISHERIES



PAST

FUTURE



PRESENT

The fishing industry is ever-changing. There are the traditions, the romance, the achievements, of the Past. There is the vigorous growth, the change, of the Present. There is the promise, the challenge, of the Future.

In saluting this great industry let us take off our hats to the Past,—and our coats to the Future.

A Special Message

from

DOUGALD MacKINNON

Minister

Department of Fisheries!

The citizens of this province . . . owe a debt of gratitude to our hardy fishermen who year after year, at the cost of great personal privation, and even risk of life, reap the harvest from the sea. May this fine example set by these brave fishermen of ours be one worthy of us all

