

# Here new processing plant scheduled for Georgetown

Two dates in the year 1963 will stand out in the long history of the historic Town of Georgetown. The first, August 30, was the date that the provincial government announced that it would cooperate with a Canadian - Norwegian development organization in the establishment of a multimillion dollar, fully integrated fish and processing plant, since named Gulf Garden Foods Ltd., to be located at Georgetown and that construction of the processing plant would begin in the spring and it was expected to be in operation in 1965.

Again on Nov. 4, Premier Walter R. Shaw, confirmed that a New Brunswick Shipbuilding Firm, Bathurst Marine Limited, would locate its facilities at Georgetown and that the government had signed an agreement with the firm under which the province will assist the company by means of a \$300,000 loan on 12 year plan.

### VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

As the premier issued his statement, work on the construction of the sizeable plant was getting underway. It was announced at the time that to further assist the project, the government would begin a vocational training and apprenticeship program, to assist island people to become qualified welders, electricians, steel workers and marine fitters.

In regards to the Gulf Garden Foods Limited it will process a wide range of fish varieties as well as a number of other products. Markets will be found chiefly in overseas countries and to some extent on this continent. Between 700 and 800 people

will ultimately be employed and the latest techniques will be applied in the production of high-quality products. The operation of the new plant will in no way interfere with existing plants. The government will provide \$750,000 towards construction of the first \$1,000,000 phase. The complete complex will cost between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000. Equipment for the plant and fishing boats required will all be built in Canada.

### ICE-FREE HARBOR

The location of Gulf Garden Foods Limited will be on the west end of Water Street in an area at the head of the large and modern Railway Wharf. To provide sufficient space for its erection the present Canadian National Railways Station will be either torn down or removed from its present site and its replacement will be located on property further uptown from the waterfront.

Georgetown and this province were chosen for this development because of the combined fishing and agricultural potential and Georgetown in particular because of its exceptionally fine harbor, its substantially ice-free conditions and the existence of an exceptionally fine wharf and warehouse built by the department of public works.

At the time of the announcement regarding the location of Bathurst Marine Limited in Georgetown, Jens Moe, president of Bathurst Marine Limited was quoted as having advised the government that within a relatively short time the shipyard would employ upwards of 200 people.

The company will build ships for the Atlantic fishing fleet, and also for Gulf Garden Foods Limited. It is expected that at least seven ships will be built for the Georgetown plant. At the time it was pointed out by a member of the provincial government that the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Loan Board is planning to enlarge the Souris dragger fleet, and that the Georgetown shipbuilding company may build these dragnets.

### TOWN CONTRIBUTES

Construction was immediately started on a large steel framed building, approximately 200 feet by 80 feet, an office building and a third building to be used as a mould loft and carpenter shop. Ship construction will be carried on during the winter months, thus assuring a costless 12-month employment project.

The town of Georgetown has contributed a large tract of land in the vicinity of the govern-

ment marine railway slip, on which the buildings are being constructed. Strongly rumoured

is the possibility of the provincial government replacing its tonnage capacity.

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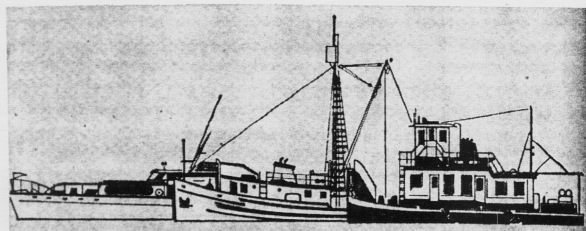
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## BUILDINGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5A support the steel cross beams and roof.

Steel for the frame and the wall and roof connection has already arrived in Georgetown by rail and has been moved to the plant site. It is expected that experienced steel workers will arrive in the near future to construct the building and they will be assisted by local labor. Now employed on the site are about 30 workmen.

Well advanced is the construction of a large building to house the various offices of Bathurst Marine Limited. This building is located on the north side of the site and runs east and west. It measures 136 feet by 34 feet and is of wood frame construction. It has a cement foundation and is reinforced by three-quarter inch steel rods placed one foot apart.

The foundation is six feet high and eight inches in width and a three-foot wide cement footing runs the length of the building from east to west, to support the center wall and two wall footings run north and south across the building.

A boiler room measuring 27 feet by 17 feet is provided for and is one foot deeper than the rest of the building.

The building will contain a president's room, conference room and clerical and secretarial staff rooms. Workmen are now engaged in shingling the roof of this building and partitioning off the interior.

The third building now under construction is located to the west of the large steel framed building. This structure, in which operations were just recently commenced will be two stories in height and of wood frame construction. It measures 72 feet by 30 feet and will be used as a mould loft and carpentry shop. Crossed pines, 25 foot long are being driven around the building perimeter at a distance of four feet apart to support the structure.

The site is alive with activity and very few days work have been lost due to weather. Bathurst Marine Limited last fall opened temporary offices on the second floor of the Georgetown post office building. Martin Yeatman is manager of the Georgetown operations. On the construction site, Ernest Poole is construction superintendent, and Albert Skinner is the carpenter foreman.