

LOBSTER CATCH WAS DOWN IN 1962, BUT DOLLAR VALUE ROSE



ISLANDERS HAVE \$4 MILLION INVESTED IN INDUSTRY

Fish outlook is bright; returns high in 1962

Prince Edward Island's harvest from the sea continued to be impressive in 1962.

The value of sea products landed by Island fishermen last year was \$4,649,420, an increase of 3.65 per cent over 1961.

There were soft spots in landed volumes of some branches of the industry such as oyster, lobster and Irish moss, but for the most part the drop in catch was offset by higher prices.

Figures tend to be misleading. Eugene Cormier, deputy minister of fisheries, pointed this out in the Irish moss take. In 1960 a total of 12.4 million lbs. was recorded. The figure rose to 23.6 million lbs. in 1961. Last year it was placed at 17.8 million lbs. This then would constitute a better than average year.

OUTLOOK BRIGHT

Fisheries minister Leo Rossiter and his department see a still brighter outlook for 1963. The reason is not only an expanding population, but a growing awareness of sea products as a health food. This has brought home by the fact that the per capita consumption in the United States rose by one-half pound in 1961.

Total weight of sea products landed was 54,973,974 pounds, a decrease from 1961 of 8.4 per cent. The 1962 total includes 17,314,262 pounds of Irish moss.

Lobster poundage was down by 3.4 per cent last year with a catch of 8,711,812 pounds. High prices to fishermen in 1962 brought the value of the lobster catch to \$3,219,205, an increase in value over 1961 of 5.35 per cent.

LARGE GAINS

Large gains were recorded in 1962 in cod fishing. Last year the cod catch was 20 per cent higher than in 1961 with a value of \$1,113,119 compared to \$234,153 the previous year.

The oyster catch was down from last year by 25.6 per cent with 2,405,548 pounds bringing in \$300,794. Also slipping by 8.1 per cent in 1962 was Irish moss which had a value of \$238,106.

During the year the department, under Hon. Leo Rossiter, conducted a number of courses designed to enable the fishermen to reap a profitable return from the sea. These courses emphasized navigation, net handling and plant operation.

Close to four millions of dollars is invested in boats and fishing equipment by Island fishermen. In their numbers total over 3,000 the majority of these makes their homes in Kings County and throughout the island.

It is a constituent of the fishery industry that 42 per cent of the fishermen population. Prince county accounts for 37 per cent and Queens the remainder.

STEEL TRAILERS

During the year the department took an active and keen interest in the evaluation of the steel trailer. In this regard it was recently announced by the Minister that the P.E.I. Fisheries and Loan Board has under consideration two applications for construction of 85-foot steel trawlers. They are similar to the ones built in New Brunswick last year—the "Polar Seal" and the "Reine de Gofte."

This new type vessel has several advantages over the draggers used here now. The upkeep costs less, and the life expectancy is about 10 years longer. The load capacity is about two and one-half times present draggers.

The steel ships cost \$240,000 each of which the federal government pays half.

It is interesting to report that one of these trawlers with a crew of seven landed 300,000 lbs. of fish in a five-day period.

The development of this trawler was a co-operative effort by an interprovincial fisheries committee from the four Atlantic Provinces and the Province of Quebec. Deputies of the various fisheries departments worked in close harmony and had the advice and assistance of federal government officials.

BUILD IN N.B.

The two present trawlers were built in Bathurst, N.B. and have fished the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Bay of Fundy waters. For experimental purposes they are under control of the New Brunswick government. An added advantage of this type trawler is that it can be constructed for ice navigation. One of them, the "Polar Seal," has already proven itself in winter operation and is scheduled to take part in the annual seal hunt this spring in the Gulf.

Chairman of the loan board is Walthen Gaudet and executive officer and secretary is John P. O'Connor. Other members include, P. P. Gallant, Souris; Allistair Stewart, Georgetown; John MacNeill, Beach Point; J.E. Barden, Charlottetown; Uelie Poirier, Mt. Carmel and Harvey Hutl, Alberton.

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Winter works flourishing

Since its inception in 1958, the P.E.I. municipal winter works program has experienced year-by-year expansion.

In the last completed year for this program, 1961-62, total expenditure of provincial and federal governments on 54 winter works projects in this province was \$150,000.

This represents a great increase over the first year the program was in operation, when only one project, of which government share was \$610, was undertaken.

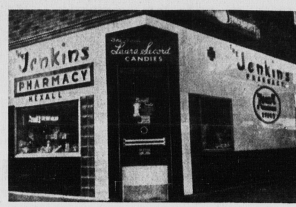
Government expenditure rose to \$1,530 for three projects, the following year, and in the 1960-61 season, it soared to \$10,000, its share in payroll costs of 13 projects.

While figures for the 1962-63 season will not be completed until spring, the department of highways and labor estimates that expenditures may reach, or surpass those of previous years by the end of the season. Thirty-six projects costing an estimated \$530,188 have been approved by the government as qualifying under the program, and government share is calculated at around \$100,000.

Operating in nine areas of the province, the projects provide work for an estimated 340 men—a total of 12,865 man-days provided to date.

Under the winter works program the federal government pays 50 per cent of the payroll cost and the provincial government and community involved each pay 25 per cent.

Work under the program this season includes installation of sewage systems; construction of sidewalks; asphaltting streets;



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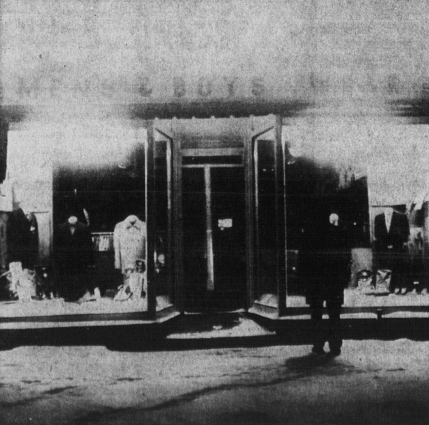
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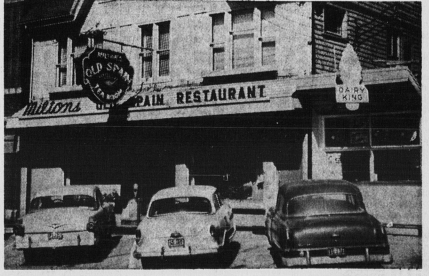
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