



FISHERMEN SHOW PROWESS AT LOWER MONTAGUE REGATTA

# 1958 Was Busy Year For PEI Fisheries Federation

The Prince Edward Island Fisheries Federation was headed up for 1958 by President J. E. Burden, of Charlottetown. Remaining officers and Directors were as follows: Past President, E. H. Burhoe, of Charlottetown; Vice-President, Paul Gallant, of Souris; Secretary-Treasurer, A. Walthen Gaudet, of Charlottetown; and Directors J. H. Myrick, of Tignish; W. E. Jenkins, of Summerside; Emmett Gallant, of North Rustico; Wendell Graham, of Gasperaux; Harvey Hutt, of Alberton; L. L. Noonan of Charlottetown; and T. H. Fraser, of Murray Harbour.

The Directors met regularly during the year to deal with the many problems arising for their attention from day to day in this important Island industry. The semi-annual meeting was held at Summerside, in July and the 1958 Annual Meeting at Charlottetown, in November. At the latter, guest speaker was Canada's Fisheries minister, Hon. J. Angus MacLean, M.P. for Queen's, and the Federation honoured the Island's first Cabinet Minister by presenting him with an oil painting of an Island fishing scene, done by Barry Bugden.

inspection so that many of the present difficulties and criticisms could be overcome. Daily dating of all cartons of canned lobster as packed, as recommended earlier by the Federation and accepted by the Department, has helped some, but there are still many kinks to be ironed out. A meeting has now been arranged for early February, between the Federation and Departmental Inspection Officials, to review this whole topic.

### FIVE YR. EFFORT

Nearly five years of effort finally saw in 1958 the successful elimination of the troublesome Embossed "T" on canned Lobster Paste as sought after by the Prince Edward Island Fisheries Federation during that time.

Several of the members of the Federation went to Boston during February of 1958 to make representations before the United States Interstate Commerce Commission at its hearings on the question of Interstate Licensing of Canadian Transports hauling Canadian canned lobster into the United States. As a result of such hearings, applications for such licenses continue to be accepted, and Island canned lobster continues to roll through to this valuable American Market.

### SUCCESSFUL SHOW

Paul Gallant of Eastern Packing Co., at Souris, was A.P.E.C. representative during the year and succeeded in arranging for various members of the Federation to display their products at A.P.E.C.'s first and most successful Atlantic Provinces Food Show, held in Moncton, in April last.

Lobsters being the cornerstone of our Island Fisheries, naturally the Federation took all possible steps to defeat the infamous Payne Lobster Bill S-237 in the U.S. Senate in 1958. With Senator Payne's defeat in Maine, in the fall of 1958, it is hoped that we have heard the end of this attempt to curtail import of Canadian Lobster into the United States for a long time to come.

Inspection of Fisheries Products was another subject that gained the close study of the Federation during 1958. Accordingly, a strong resolution was passed at that Annual Meeting urging upon the Federal Department of Fisheries the early establishment of mobile laboratories for such in-

strangers to police our shores.

Other subjects dealt with in the year gone by included seeking permission for the packing of mackerel in half flat cans; seeking elimination of duty and tariff on combined wire and sisal rope; Recommending necessary amendments to existing Fishermen's Unemployment Insurance Regulations; Supporting our Island Transport carrier's brief to the Provincial Government re the closing of our main highways during certain periods of the

year; Endorsing the Borden-Tormentine proposed Causeway; Seeking elimination of the United States an their canned lobster; Attempting to have the regulations changed to permit a twelve oz. drained weight in the fourteen oz. net weight of Chicken Haddie rather than thirteen oz. drained weight as at present; Seeking changes in opening day lobster regulations; and efforts to secure markets for surplus stocks of Chicken Haddie on hand.

During the past year excellent cooperation has continued to exist between the Fisheries Federation

## Fisheries Stand

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

he should receive a higher price per lb. for his product. Second, he might cut expenses in the purchase of his gear and this reduce his unit cost, or Third he may increase productivity thereby achieving the same end.

We might say in passing that we think the first solution, while a very necessary one, is unlikely to occur at this time. Nor can we suppose that the fishermen may expect a reduction in the cost of his equipment. Rather we may look for this to become more aggravating than at present.

### PRODUCTIVITY

Of the three possibilities that we mentioned, then, perhaps the most hopeful is the third. If, through an increase in productivity, the fishermen may reduce his unit cost then he has achieved his desired end of increasing his net return. In outlining ways and means to explore this possibility, we suggest that we should seriously explore the benefits to be gained by specialization.

As experience infolds, it seems that the most successful fishermen are those who have tended to specialize on fisheries activity rather than to fit it into agricultural pursuits.

Carrying this thought even further, it might even be demonstrated that the fisherman who intends to further specialize in

and our Provincial Department of Fisheries and the two look forward to marching along together during 1959 dedicated to leaving no stone unturned in their combined effort to make the year ahead the most successful and prosperous yet for the Island Fishing Industry and all those engaged in it.

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## Experimentation

the fishing methods in study to benefit greatly therefrom.

In order for us to prove any theories in this regard, however, considerable experimentation should be devoted to studies in this field. It is along these lines that Federal and Provincial Governments are spending considerable energy and funds in recent years. This approach is a necessary one since research in any form tends to involve too great an expense to be easily born by individuals. In the case of the fishermen whose profit margin is as thin as above indicated, research is entirely out of the question.

Other reasons however, besides the fishermen's inability to pay for extensive research should encourage public monies to this end. Many nations of the world are devoting tremendous scientific and technical resources toward

the expansion of their ability to harvest food from the sea. The traditional fishing nations around the rim of the North Atlantic have expanded their fleets and their processing plants.

But a more startling development in the exploitation of North Atlantic Fishery resources has been initiated by a nation, not situated on the Atlantic but rather on the Arctic.

Russia, in oceanographic and fisheries research, has performed feats comparable to her feat of raising the Sputnik into space.

She has taken sea bottom samples from the deepest trench in the oceans of the world, the Philippine Trench, some thirty five thousand feet.

She is reputed to have well over one hundred research vessels, in addition to the active research

carried out by her submarines in the oceans of the world. She has well over a score of the most modern factory processing ships afloat, ships which can stay at sea for months, bringing home hundreds of tons of fillets and meal for her hungry markets.

When we take note of this type of advanced research in other fisheries, we cannot but feel the need for advanced thinking in research and investment here if we are to properly exploit our fishery resource.

The risk and the daring of the fishermen, investing heavily in gear and boats, must be matched by those behind him... on shore; and very prominent among the measures to give him the fullest support should be the provision of fisheries research facilities comparable to the best in the world.

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Today, as in past years, one of the primary industries in this province is the fishing industry. To those engaged in this enterprise, and to all connected with it in any way, we extend sincere best wishes for a successful and prosperous year. We have been privileged to serve many of those engaged in this industry . . . and to each and every one we extend our thanks and appreciation for their patronage.

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