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The Guardian

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew"

VOL. LXXI 145 — Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa — CHARLOTTETOWN, CANADA, MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1959 — 14 PAGES — NOT MORE THAN FIVE CENTS

WEATHER

Clear with a few cloudy intervals, little warmer, light winds. Low-high at Charlottetown 48 and 65.

ISLAND LOSSES HEAVY

Storm Toll Feared 34 Dead As N.B. Hope Fades For 22

THIS PICTURE shows one result of the heavy seas which washed over into the protective basin formed by a wharf and breakwater at Point du Chene, N.B., completely swamping several fishing boats which were tied to the wharf. One of three crafts which were dealt a severe battering by the heavy seas, while riding out the storm in harbor, it is also similar to the fate of many other craft in dozens of other little fishing coves and ports on the New Brunswick shore.

Islander 'Dead' Loss $750,000

One Prince County fisherman is presumed drowned and another was seriously injured in the fierce northeaster that battered the Province Friday night and early Saturday leaving in its wake a tangled skein of broken fishing gear extending along the shoreline from North Cape to Wood Islands. Unofficial estimates of the loss run as high as $750,000.

Fraser Cooke, 61, a native of Howard Cove, a small fishing community situated on Highway 14 about a mile north of Cape Wolfe was drifting for salmon far out in the Strait as the storm broke.

His son, Edward, 28, who fished with him, a patient in a Chatham hospital where he was taken following his discovery early Saturday by a search party operating out of Escuminac, N.B., said last night that the elder Cooke was washed out of their water-filled boat about 10:00 a.m. Saturday.

19 HOURS ADRIFT

Suffering from shock and exposure, and still showing signs of his 19-hour battle with the elements, the young Island fisherman told relatives and friends who visited him yesterday that the salmon nets had broken clear of the boat shortly after the storm struck and left him and his father at the mercy of the tempest.

However, despite constant night-long buffeting by wind and wave the sturdy 38-foot craft was still seaworthy at 9:00 a.m. Saturday when they spotted two other fishermen drifting helplessly, the gunnels of their boat awash.

While endeavoring to come about and go to the aid of the foundering craft, the Cooke boat turned over twice and filled with water, Edward said.

His father appeared dazed as the waves carried him away about an hour later, he added.

The young fisherman saved his life by lashing himself to the stubby 10-foot mast affixed to the stern of the big lobster boat. In drift fishing this mast carries a small sail.

The heavily timbered boat "rolled over twice" in the eight hours it took her to drift within sight of the New Brunswick coast, the rescued man stated.

Relatives said last night that Edward was resting comfortably and was expected to arrive home today.

WATCHMAN INJURED

The only additional Island storm casualty reported at press

(Continued on page 3 Col. 2)

THE BOAT landing at Sea Cow Pond, three miles from the northern tip of P.E.I. is a scene of destruction following the violent storm Friday night. Only the broken ribs remain of a boat owned by Eddie Arsenault (foreground) the second boat is also damaged beyond repair with the motor torn loose and buried in the sand. The five foot bank was formed during the storm and prevented the fishermen from hauling their boats further up on the shore to safety.

12 Known Dead In Fierce Storm

By DON HOYT
Canadian Press Staff Writer

ESCUMINAC, N. B. (CP)—Twelve men are known dead and 22 missing in a weekend storm that lashed the Gulf of St. Lawrence into turmoil of 50 - foot waves.

Anxious relatives clung to a thin thread of hope that the missing fishermen would return alive. But as darkness fell Sunday night, so did their hopes.

F.B. Fowlie, Red Cross relief chairman, said four of the more than 50 salmon boats caught in the howling northeaster early Saturday were still missing. They were believed to carry at least eight men — brining the toll of dead and missing to 40.

RCMP at nearby Richibucto said Sunday night the bodies of two men were found washed up on the shore.

SPOT 22 DERELICTS

A spokesman for RCAF Search and Rescue headquarters in Halifax said planes earching the area Sunday had spotted 22 derelicts along a 30-mile stretch of coastline between Point Escuminac and Richibucto.

Some of the hulks had been washed ashore, others lay sunken in shallow inshore water, and some drifted upside down offshore. There was no sign of life. The weather was good Sunday, visibility unlimited and sea calm.

The fisheries department vessel Lamna, the RCMP cutter Wood and scores of small fishing boats aided in the search. Officials planned to begin dragging the waters of the search area today.

One of the RCAF planes was en route back to the Greenwood, N.S. base after Royal Tour escort duty in the Sept-Iles, Que. area when it was diverted to the scene. It was not known whether the planes would resume the search today.

New Brunswick Lieutenant-Governor J. Leonard O'Brien visited here and nearby Bay du Vin and Baie Ste. Anne Sunday.

"Men who go down to the sea are a hardy race," he said. "But not in recent history has such a serious blow to life been experienced.

GREAT DISASTER

"So great is the disaster in loss of life and equipment, one could not grasp its true significance except by coming in contact with survivors and bereaved families."

None of the little craft was equipped with radio or radar. The storm intensified rapidly with gales to 75-miles-an-hour. The boats were tossed and smashed about like toys.

The Red Cross who set up a relief centre here Saturday took down their tents Sunday night.

Doors on homes of victims at Baie Ste. Anne were draped in purple crepe Sunday night. The rosary was being said in every house.

FUNERAL RITES

One funeral service for the five known dead from the little village will be held at the Baie Ste. Anne Roman Catholic Church with requiem mass Tuesday.

In Bay du Vin funerals for the two men whose bodies were found will be held Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the Protestant church.

An excellent run of salmon and the absence of a clear warning of the storm combined to produce the terrible toll.

Fishermen here said Sunday night they were not prepared for the gale that swept down on the fleet Friday night and early Saturday.

Jack Doucet, one of five men who arrived here Sunday after

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Fishermen Tell Of Fight For Life

EDITORS NOTE — Salmon fishermen Bernie Jenkins, 52, and his nephew Cyril 21, sailed into harbor here Sunday after spending 40 hours at sea as the result of a violent storm in Northumberland Strait.

Written For The Canadian Press
By BERNIE JENKINS

ESCUMINAC, N.B. (CP) — We put out to sea earlier than usual Friday. The salmon were running good; better than they had all week and we wanted to take advantage of it.

We just took lunches with us and started out about four o'clock.

Things seemed to go all right until about 11 o'clock that night when it started to squall. It would have been a good thing if there had been rain because that quiets the sea.

It was the worst storm I've ever seen. Waves rose up like mountains all around us.

You have no idea in God's almighty world how terrifying it was.

REEFED SAIL

When it became too bad we reefed our sail and huddled in the cuddy (a cabin on the small boat). We were about 12 miles out.

We figured it was about 11 o'clock Saturday morning when we saw another boat overturned with three people hanging onto it.

They were Jack Doucet and his two boys. We took them off one at a time with a rope. The first time we threw them the line, one of the boys handed it to his brother. The next time the same youngster caught it and gave it to his father.

The seas were still high and we had to circle for awhile before we could toss the rope a third time.

I think he thought we were going to leave him then and was pretty scared. We managed to get in position again though and finally got him aboard.

We'd run out of fuel for the stove in the cuddy and ripped off the tires we use for guards on the side of the boat. We cut them

(Continued on page 3 col. 7)

N.B. Draggers To Aid Rescue

FREDERICTON (CP) — Premier Flemming said Sunday night the government has authorized all vessels in New Brunswick's dragger fleet to assist rescue work for fishermen still missing after Friday night's storm in Northumberland Strait and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

"We stand ready to reimburse those so assisting for financial outlay while engaged in the search," he said.

"The government of the province is closely following the situation in order to ascertain how best its officials and resources can be employed in relief and rescue work."

In a message of sympathy for the families of men known lost, the premier said their tragedy "is the tragedy of the entire province."

St. Nicholas Fisherman Was Caught In Straits

By George Wotton
Canadian Press Correspondent

SUMMERSIDE, P.E.I. — (CP) —Fisherman Fred Arsenault, 49, of St. Nicholas, P. E. I. was caught halfway between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick when a vicious wind and rain storm smashed into the Northumberland Strait fishing fleet early Saturday.

"We were drifting for mackerel with 32 nets secured to the boat when the storm hit," said Arsenault. "It was the worst one I've been in during more than 20 years at sea."

With Arsenault was Armand Richard of Biscayne Point, P.E.I., both were buffeted like corks in the tiny cabin of their fishing boat. Arsenault at one point was flung from his bunk against an opposite wall. A battery smashed down on his foot causing severe bruises.

Arsenault said a "new boat and good equipment" saved him and Richard but the craft was leaking in several spots when she limped into port here shortly before noon Saturday.

In the night-long ordeal, Arsenault was fortunate in saving all his nets.

"Nets," he explained, "may have been a reason why some of the other boats were lost."

Drifting salmon or mackerel boats usually have nets secured to a rope or cable attached to the bow.

Arsenault said a sudden storm may snap the rope, causing the boat to swing sideways into the seas and capsize. The same situation would develop if winds or seas tore out the riding sail on the boat's stern or smashed the mast.

Mackerel nets are worth about $25 each, while the bigger salmon nets cost as much as $1,500.

Fishermen here estimated Sunday that they and others fishing from nearby ports lost about 1,500 mackerel nets during Friday night's storm. Most cut them away soon after the storm hit and headed for home.

With them came Alfie Pareil of Shediac, N.B. Pareil said that during the night he saw something that looked like another boat closeby. He glanced out his cabin window through the driving rain. The object turned out to be a spruce tree on the New Brunswick shore "and pretty close."

Pareil cut away his nets and headed in the opposite direction. He arrived here six hours later.

A PILEUP of five lobster boats, at least three damaged beyond repair, near North Cape, seven miles from Tignish. John Morrissey, left, and Berni Morrissey, were able to haul their badly damaged boats further up on the beach Saturday afternoon to save them from a second battering from the heavy seas and high tides Saturday night.

Escuminac Is Centre Of Fishing Industry

By GEORGE McNEVIN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

ESCUMINAC, N.B. (CP) — A 2,000-foot breakwater makes this little town of 600 the centre of the fishing industry along a 40-mile stretch of the rugged northeastern New Brunswick coast.

The three-sided breakwater extends into Miramichi Bay to form an enclosure where up to 100 fishing boats shelter during the season. An 80-foot gap in the outer side provides an entrance and exit.

The salmon season opens June 1 and runs to July 3 when there is a two-week pause to allow the salmon time to go up the Miramichi River to spawn. The season then resumes until Aug. 15.

The fleet was trying to cash in on the best salmon run in 0 years when it was hit by the devastating northeast gale Friday night.

FAVORED SPOT

Most favored spot for salmon is around the entrance to Miramichi Bay. When the boats reach the ground they let out their $1,500 nets, paying them out until they are about a mile behind.

Setting the net is usually completed by nightfall and the crew sleeps while the boat and net drift with the tide. They sleep in the cuddy — a small cabin with which most boats are equipped.

At dawn the net is drawn in and the catch taken aboard. The boats head for the wharf to sell the catch and make ready for the next trip. The technique is called drift fishing.

Fishermen said it was odd that the greatest loss was among the bigger boats. They thought at first the bigger craft had ridden out the storm, not fully aware of its intensity. When smaller boats began coming in Saturday morning, they expected the larger ones to show up later. But as the hours wore on their hopes for further arrivals faded.

Railiner Tests Made Sunday

Engineers of the Canadian National Railways yesterday made tests with one of their railiners on the carferry at Borden to ascertain what changes would have to be made to the car in order to make it suitable for service on the Island.

Tests made with the self-propelled deisel unit were made over a year ago when it was found that certain portions of the car's lower structure would not clear the apron of the pier while loading and unloading.

It could not be learned what decisions were reached after yesterday's tests but the possibility of securing another type of deisel car was one of the alternatives suggested, should the unit's undercarriage prove unsuitable in this service.

If the railiner proves satisfactory for the Island service after structural alterations, the railway hopes to greatly reduce the time involved in moving passengers to and from Sackville, it was learned. Such units operating on other parts of the system have greatly accelerated passenger service, railway officials point out.

MONCTON IS CAPITAL

One Maritime Province Mooted; Suggested Name Is Nova Scotia

MONCTON, — Nova Scotian Will R. Bird, author and historian, says he favors amalgamation of the three Maritime Provinces into one, with Moncton as its capital. He suggested in an address here Saturday night that the unified area should be called Nova Scotia, as it was before 1783 when New Brunswick broke away and Prince Edward Island followed suit.

"If we spoke with one voice we would be listened to in Ottawa," Mr. Bird told the CNR Supervisors' Association. He thus lined up on the side of Moncton's Mayor M.M. Baig, who predicted several months ago that the eastern seaboard provinces would unite within 20 or 30 years. The mayor, who also envisioned Moncton as the capital, included Newfoundland in his prophecy.

Later, Mr. Bird told a questioner he thought Mr. Baig "had a wonderful idea. I agree with him 100 per cent." Moncton should be the capital city of the three province Nova Scotia because of its central location.

But the novelist and chronicler of Maritime history conceded there were many hurdles on the road to union. Mr. Baig's statements had provoked controversy and "whether it will ever come about is a big question."

BEGAN IN EAST

Canada began in the east and spread to the west, Mr. Bird said. It had been a long time growing and its people were of two worlds, too ready to copy the United States and yet always willing to aid mother England. He had journeyed across the country, from Newfoundland to British Columbia, in search of a "real Canadian." The hunt hadn't been appreciably successful.

BORN IN P.E.I.

Provincialism was everywhere. In the Atlantic provinces he was reminded that Confederation was born in P.E.I. Both Quebec and Ontario claimed to be "the real Canada." From Winnipeg west a chorus cried "this is Canada. . . the new Canada." "All these provinces and not a Canadian among them," Mr. Bird said. "Each province has so much to offer and yet each is so provincial.

If we in the Maritimes had one government, at least we would have one voice." When residents of the United States visited Canada they merely identified themselves as Americans, Mr. Bird said. They did not pinpoint themselves as being North Carolinians or Vermonters, Oregonians or Marylanders. But Canadians called themselves Newfoundlanders or Albertans, New Brunswickers or British Columbians. "We are Canadians," he added.

Dalai Lama Blasts Reds

MUSSOORIE, India (AP)—The Dalai Lama charged Saturday that Communist China plans to settle 5,000,000 Chinese in Tibet "to swamp the Tibetan race."

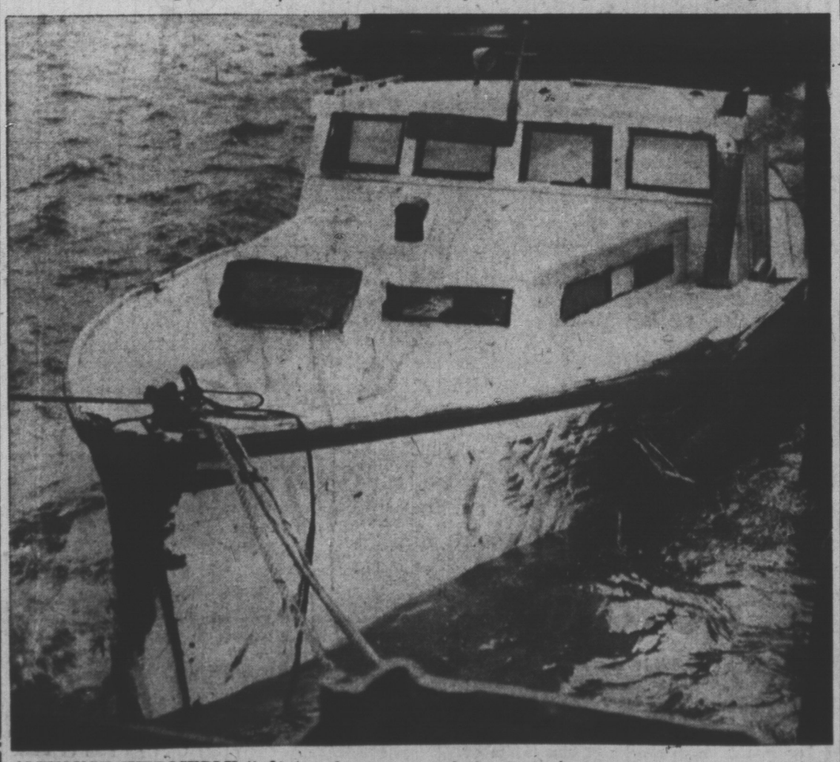
The self-exiled temporal and spiritual ruler of Tibet declared the present government in Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, "is nothing but a deceptive government with all powers in the hands of the Chinese. We people of Tibet will never recognize it."

Bubble Of Air Saves 2 Lives

SHIPPEGAN, N. B. (CP)—An air bubble in the cabin of their overturned boat kept two men alive, RCMP here reported Sunday after a fierce gale wrecked fishing vessels along New Brunswick's northeastern coast.

Capt. Charles Gauvin, 53, of Lameque, Shippegan Island, was washed overboard from the stern but his nephew, Hilaire Gauvin, 25, and Germain Chaisson, 55, both of Lameque, were trapped in the cabin when the boat turned turtle. Another wave righted the vessel. The crew of a dragger nearby saw the mishap but could offer no help because of turbulent seas. The disabled boat drifted to shore early Saturday.

Capt. Gauvin is survived by his wife and 13 children.



ALTHOUGH SUPPOSEDLY tied within the protective custody of a breakwater at Point du Chene wharf, near Shediac, N.B., the picture above shows the extensive damage one of the fishing craft received while tied to the wharf. The bow stem has been smashed and the craft holed near midships. All along the New Brunswick coast from Miramichi Bay south to Shediac Bay the story is the same, missing fishermen, smashed boats and equipment, and unusually high tides which followed the heavy gale.

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Late reports from Guardian news bureaus in Summerside, Montague, Alberton and Souris, and from special correspondents now appear on the Island News Page.