

Expansion Potential Seen By Minister Of Fisheries

"Although the economy of Prince Edward Island is mainly Agricultural, we regard Fisheries as one of the chief avenues of economic expansion. When one considers the volume in dollars of the turnover for the various activities that is particularly evident. In millions of dollars, the value of Agriculture, Manufactures, and Fisheries, 1954 were as follows: \$27,000,000, \$23,000,000, \$4,000,000.

"At first glance these figures might discourage one from the view that fisheries may be considerably and profitably expanded. The reverse is true, however, since the value of Prince Edward Island Fisheries cannot be properly assessed by an examination of past figures.

"We know that the Fishery of the Province has been built up mainly around a very important and valuable product, Lobster. The value of this one product constitutes about 3-4 of the value of our total fisheries volume.

PRESENTS A CHALLENGE

"Although the figures mentioned above should certainly not discourage us from the possibilities of fisheries development, they should certainly constitute and be taken as a challenge to attempt this activity. The whole fisheries activity must be brought to constitute more of our economic base. This can be done without neglecting our important shell fish fishery.

"Fisheries is perhaps the most logical way in which to expand our economy. Agriculture activity is intensely pursued and we are not likely to be the object of any great industrial expansion. With a coast line of 1,100 odd miles, however, all of which is entirely productive of some or another fisheries product, it is perfectly logical that fisheries can and must be developed.

"When one notes the changes brought about in recent years in production and marketing, one cannot help but be further encouraged in this view. In 1950 the development of an offshore deep sea fishery was commenced and with it the development of frozen and packaged fillets ashore.

EVOLUTION IN CATCHING

Prior to this, catching, processing, marketing, etc., involved mainly around the lobster. Catching operations were conducted in 2,000 odd small boats; processing was handled by about 50 canneries around the shore; and landings were made at many additional places to the number mentioned.

"The landings, brought ashore in small and scattered volumes, blended well with the earlier salt fish and canned production, but were not so easily co-ordinated in the production picture of today. The product in most demand today is the packaged fillet, frozen.

"The change in market preference took place gradually over a period of years. Eating preferences and habits were changing in one of our great markets, mainly the United States, Great numbers of people who brought from European Countries their preference for the concentrated protein diet of salt fish, have now changed their preference with the availability of many different foods.

FROZEN FISH

This was accelerated with the development of another method of food preservation, freezing. It was further accelerated by the combination of that development with the transportation.

"With this progression, salt fish became increasingly difficult to move. And now, as we move into the age of the deep freeze and hasty meals, it is more than ever necessary to develop another type of production, mainly the production of fresh and frozen fillets.

"Although our numerous small canneries were very useful in the expanded production of canned fish immediately following the war, this situation did not lend itself to the production of fillets or by-products where larger vol-



HON. DOUGALD MacKINNON

umes and landings were necessary.

ENCOURAGING RESULTS

"The progress of this development has been most encouraging, reaching the point where a season ago a dozen boats landed over 10,000,000 lbs. of fish and brought a total of nearly \$300,000 in new money to our Fishermen. During the past season the first boat launched to begin this program was completely paid for by its owners.

"Although offshore development has thus far concerned itself with the 60 ft. dragger, active study has been given and is being given to other lines as well. Effort is being devoted to the development of long-lining for those ports where dragging may not be possible.

"Under active study at the present time is the development of the danish seine with the same type craft as is presently used in ground - fish dragging. Experiments have also been conducted in the development of mid-water trawling for herring. Another activity to which considerable effort has been given is the catching of herring or mackerel with purse seines.

FISHERMAN'S LOANS

"Within the limits imposed by a small Department and staff, these objects are being pursued actively and with encouraging results. In addition to this the Fishermen's Loan Board of Prince Edward Island endeavours to render significant help to the Fishermen of the Province.

"Their main assistance consists in loaning the financial help necessary for Fishermen to obtain boats and engines who are otherwise unable to finance these projects. The Board and the Department endeavour to help the Fishermen to develop a thorough knowledge of the economics of their operations. This help has been given to the larger offshore boats for some time and is being extended to inshore operations as rapidly as possible.

"This study is conducted in conjunction with the Markets and Economics Service of the Federal Department of Fisheries and results in the Fishermen receiving a complete statement of his year's operation.

ADVANTAGES APPRAISED

"While it may be said that our Prince Edward Island Fishery, with its seasonal nature, and its distance from some markets, has certain disadvantages in Fisheries development, we think that this is more than offset by certain other advantages which we do have.

"First of all we have a plentiful and intelligent labor supply; a proximity to rich fishing grounds enables us to successfully compete with our smaller wooden boats manned by a few fishermen, usually owners, this proximity to fishing grounds means that average trips are usually reduced to a minimum, in the case of the draggers something over four days duration.

"It means also that an extremely high quality product can be produced with a minimum of ef-

fort and expense. It has often been said that we can have a pound of fish ashore, packaged, frozen, or canned, and on the truck before the boats of many other fisheries can bring it to dock.

"The fisheries developments now taking place added a very necessary complement to Island Fisheries exports. Long noted for excellence of its lobster, either alive or processed as canned or chilled meat, or its renowned Malpeque Oyster, or its cured fishery products, the Island Fisheries now offer as well the very highest quality in fresh or frozen fish.

IDEAL SITUATION

"Situating as it is on the brink of a teeming resource the Island Fisheries is able to match, both in quality and efficiency any development which may take place. Its proximity to fishing grounds enables the use of small wooden boats, in the case of dragger, manned with five men that same proximity insures the highest quality of products.

"With the addition of this offshore fishery to the Island great inshore fishery it is little wonder then that the fishing industry of Prince Edward Island looks to the future, confident that great advances will be experienced and secure in the conviction that it will play its part in providing the food resources necessary to meet great demands before us."

DEPUTY'S ASST.

The appointment of Dr. W.M. Sprules, Special Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Fisheries, G. R. Clark, as one of the Canadian members of the International Pacific Halibut Commission, has been announced by Hon. J. Angus MacLean, Minister of Fisheries of Canada. Dr. Sprules takes the place on the Commission held by S.V. Ozere, Assistant Deputy Minister, who has had to relinquish his duties as Commissioner because of the pressure of other departmental work. The appointment became effective November 1 of last year.

Bill of 1825

"The Fishery Bill, being as its title imports 'an Act to regulate the fisheries of this Island,' has passed the lower House of Assembly. Its provisions are borrowed from the various acts of Parliament in force in Newfoundland for the regulation of that great fishery.

"It gives the supplying merchant for the current year a lien on all fish, oil, etc., the produce of the fishing voyage, after paying the wages of the fishermen and other servants.

"It protects all those engaged in the fishery from being arrested for debt, and from militia and road duty during the fishing season, and it exempts decked vessels employed in the fishery from the usual custom-house fees.

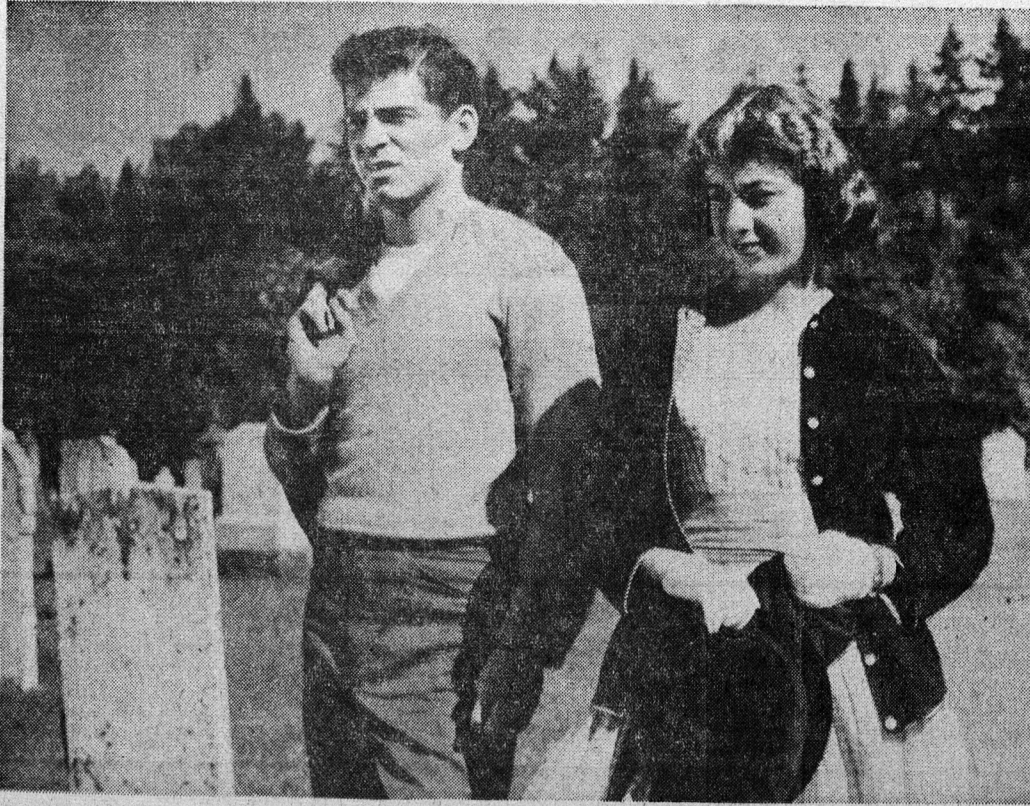
MUST GO FURTHER

"That is all very good as far as it goes, but if our legislators are really desirous of making this Island the station of an extensive fishery they must approximate much nearer the Newfoundland system than the adoption of this bill would carry them.

"Similar laws with respect to insolvent debtors must be introduced in order to induce men of capital and enterprise to settle amongst us.

"This would be a most important step, both as it relates to boat-keepers and others actually engaged in the fishery and to the merchants supplying them, for we would ask what merchant would embark in so hazardous an undertaking as supplying fishermen on an extensive scale, when in the event of two or three unfavorable seasons and the consequent disappointment of his hopes should his affairs become embarrassed, all the gloomy horrors of a goal meets his view, prolonged, it may be, to perpetuity.

"In order to gratify the revenge



LOVERS VISIT BELFAST CEMETERY

Romance came to the fisheries of Prince Edward Island when the National Film Board chose North Rustico as the site of one of its Perspective Series which

was later televised on a coast to coast hookup. The story of how a Winnipeg girl (Iris Krangle, Toronto) meets a Rustico fisherman (Daniel MacDonald, Pic-

ton) and the deep affection which developed between the young couple during the girl's short visit makes for a touching love scene.

Fisherman's Loan Board, Great Help To Industry

The Fisheries have always constituted a most important part of the Island's economy, ranking second to Agriculture in some years in order to further develop this branch of the Island economy, the Government reorganized a Fisherman's Loan Board in 1949.

In January 7th of that year, Loan Board Regulations were set up under an act to regulate assistance for the re-establishment of fishermen. The new board was charged with the administration of this work and immediately turned its attention to problem of increasing the efficiency of fishing and processing methods.

Studies were undertaken to develop a type of craft suitable to these waters and in 1950 a small dragger about 59' in length was constructed.

PROMISING FUTURE

The success of this craft was early indicated, but fisheries people were not entirely satisfied. After a year of operation with the first type of fishing dragger, another model was developed, slightly larger and estimated to be more economical in operation.

In 1951, three ships were built from this model and have had a very successful operation from the standpoint of developing this type of industry and from the standpoint of financial returns to the fishermen owners. This dragger has been widely accepted in the Atlantic Provinces and about twenty of these have been constructed in other Provinces.

Continuing the work on boat development, a third model of fishing dragger was developed for use in shallower harbours around the shores and which would also make use of seining operations in the catching of fish.

This model has performed satisfactorily but was somewhat before its time as far as shore development was concerned.

LARGER UNITS

Further units were added in the larger 60' class until the production of one was completed or caprice of an exasperated creditor, or of one who perhaps coolly calculates on the probability of his victim effecting his escape, and by that means making some unfortunate Sheriff responsible for the sum he owes? Misfortune will sometimes overtake the most prudent and upright persons, and it is worthy of a wise and enlightened Legislature to provide a remedy commensurate to the magnitude of the evil as it exists in this country."

Prince Edward Island Register, Feb. 5, 1825.

duction from these boats last season reached 6.3 million pounds from Island boats, and a total of over 7.5 million pounds at Souris from all boats.

As the production at sea was being developed, so also processing ashore merited the attention of our Fisheries authorities. With the construction of the first boat in 1950, plans were undertaken to construct a small Pilot Filletting Line at Souris.

As increased processing warranted, this line was expanded to the point where last year over two million pounds of fillets were processed.

Along with the processing of fillets, the manufacture of meal was developed. This effort resulted in the production of nearly five hundred tons of meal during the past season.

OWNER OPERATED

The Government of Prince Edward Island granted loan assistance toward the erection of these processing facilities and through the Fishermen's Loan Board mentioned in the beginning granted loan assistance to fishermen for the construction and purchase of draggers. At present, all draggers are owned by the fishermen who operate them.

This one industry is responsible for the employment of up to a hundred and twenty people and is responsible for a total primary and secondary business turnover amounting to \$300,000 per annum. Fisheries development was not over confined entirely to one area of the Province. In Prince County financial assistance was given for the construction of a Smokehouse for the production of blotters.

The first Smokehouse is now in its third year of production and a second Smokehouse has been constructed in the same area.

FISH MEAL PLANT

During the past years loan assistance was granted for the establishment of a modern By-product plant at Souris which will manufacture meal and oil from whole body fish or offal.

This plant using the most modern methods can handle all types of fish not needed for good production whether these types be oily or non-oily fish. The capacity of this plant is estimated to reach a hundred tons of raw fish per day.

Although much attention has been given to the development of the offshore industry, the inshore industry has not been neglected. The Fisherman's Loan Board has continued to make loans for the purchase and con-

struction of new boats and engines.

Considerable experimental work has been done in the field of improving the efficiency of small boat fishing methods. Small nets have been tried from these boats. A small trawl was developed which has met with considerable success in the Maritimes.

An effort has been made to develop the use of long lining methods using a power gurdy to pull the lines. In the lobster industry, considerable thought and research has been devoted to the search for a metal trap.

Inexpensive enough to be useful to the fishermen and durable enough to withstand sudden and devastating storms.

The future of the Prince Edward Island Fishing Industry is bright indeed. With the tremendous resource of raw material at hand and with the most modern catching and processing methods the industry can compete most favourably on the world's markets.

FISH STICK BURGERS

- 1 1/2 pounds precooked frozen fish or shell-fish sticks or portion fish
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise or salad dressing
- 1 tablespoon chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon chopped pickle
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley
- 1 tablespoon chopped olives
- 6 toasted buttered round buns

Place frozen fish sticks in a single layer in a well-greased baking pan. Bake in a hot oven 400 degrees F., for 15 to 20 minutes or until heated through and crisp. Combine mayonnaise, onion, pickle, parsley, and olives. Place 4 fish sticks on bottom half of each bun. Top with tartar sauce and top half of bun. Serves 6.

British Interests Sought Establishment Here, 1842

From a letter appearing in a Fishing Company. In April, 1842, signed Robert Mearns, Car advertisement appeared in the Public Ledger, stating that two can Shipbuilding and Fishing Company's office, Shoe - Lane Fleet Street.

"I found out the office by a large brass plate on the door. I had a little conversation, desired which I did accordingly. I said to the thing sufficiently respectable to induce me to deposit money in their hands."

Early Anglers Found Island To Be Fisherman's Paradise

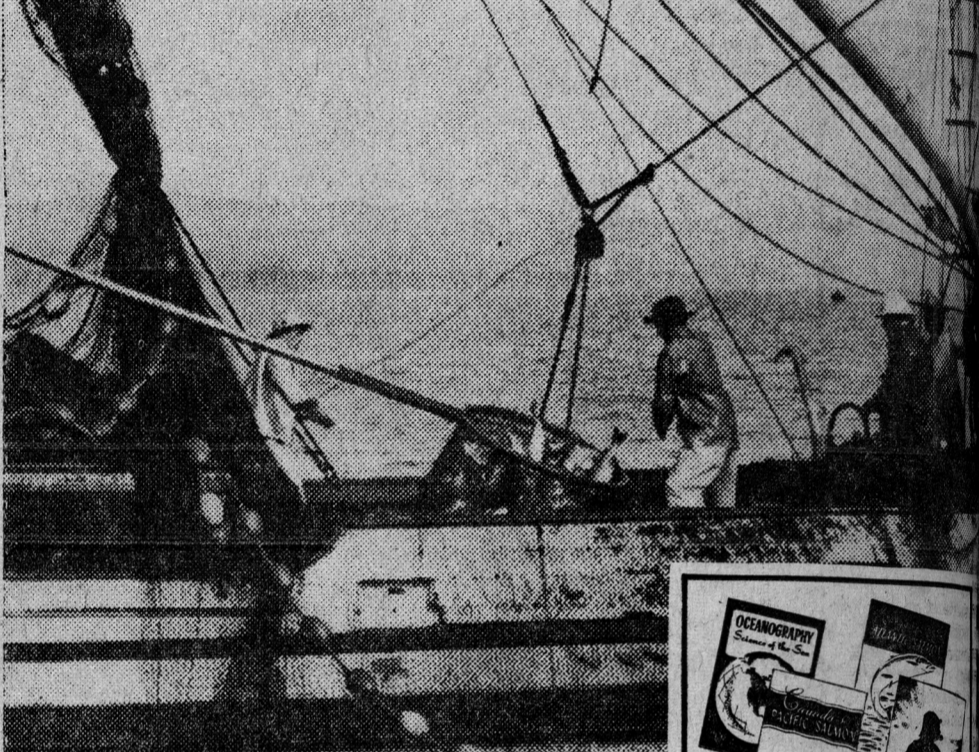
"The sea-trout fishing in the bays and harbors of Prince Edward Island, especially in June, when the fish first rush in from the Gulf, is really magnificent. They average 3 to 5 pounds each. I found the best fishing at St. Peter's Bay, on the north side of the island, about 23 miles from Charlottetown. I there killed in one morning 16 trout, which weighed 80 pounds.

"In the bays and along the coasts of the Island they are taken with the scarlet fly, from a boat under easy sail, with a 'mackerel breeze', and sometimes a heavy 'ground swell'. The fly skips from wave to wave at the end of 30 yards or more, and there should be at least 70 yards more on the reel. It is splendid sport, as a strong fish will make sometimes a long run, and give a good chase down the wind."

From Osgood's "The Maritime Provinces: A Handbook For Travellers," Boston, 1881.

HONOR CANBERRA PILOT

LONDON (Reuters)—The Royal Aero Club Friday announced the award of its 1957 Britannia Trophy for the most outstanding aeronautical achievement of the year to Canberra jet pilot Michael Radrup and Walter Shirley who set a world altitude record of 70,310 feet.



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES' publications are used by educational authorities across the country. Write to The Queen's Printer, Ottawa, for the booklets shown here. Available to the general public, 25¢ each.

Putting fascination into education

CREATING A GREATER public awareness of our country's fishery resources is one of the responsibilities of the Department of Fisheries of Canada. Its Information and Educational Service seeks to show present-day Canadians how this natural heritage is being maintained for future generations through proper conservation and management.

This work is carried out through the daily and weekly press; radio and television; magazines; educational publications; recipe pamphlets for households; exhibitions; permanent fishery displays; film and filmstrip showings; and illustrated educational talks to groups of fishermen.

Such is the standard of the Department's booklets that they have found a ready acceptance by school and other authorities. Most of this material is obtainable by students, teachers, private organizations and individuals.



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OTTAWA CANADA

HON. J. ANGUS MACLEAN, M.P., MINISTER
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