

To achieve its objects, the Board has authority to buy quality fishery products under prescribed conditions and to dispose of them by sale or otherwise, or to pay to producers the difference between a price prescribed by the Board and the average price the product actually commands. The Board, however, has no power to control prices nor has it any jurisdiction over operations in the fishing industry or fish trade.

Money necessary for dealings in fishery products is available to the Board from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to a maximum aggregate amount of \$25,000,000 but only on the recommendation of the Treasury Board and the authorization of the Governor in Council. Administrative expenses are met from a parliamentary appropriation voted for this purpose.

The Board exercised its power to buy fish in 1948 and 1949. On the first occasion it assisted in the orderly reduction of the greatly expanded wartime canning activities on the East Coast by the purchase of a proportion of the pack at a cost of about \$1,250,000. Most of the fish purchased was donated for charitable and relief purposes. In the spring of 1949, the Board took over surplus stocks of frozen lake fish, valued at approximately \$285,000, from the fishermen in the Prairie Provinces. In no case does the Board sell the fish to dealers for disposal in Canada or for export at less than the total cost incurred by the Board. About two-thirds of this fish was sold for reduction to fish meal and most of the remainder as fox and mink feed.

**International Agreements.**—Many of the grounds fished by Canadians are also frequented by fishermen from other nations, particularly from the United States. This problem and others, e.g., that of the migration of fish between Canadian waters and those outside the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada, are the subject of international agreements.

Since 1933, under the *modus vivendi* which grew out of an unratified treaty of 1888, United States fishing vessels have been issued annual licences permitting entry to Canadian Atlantic ports for the purchase of bait and other supplies. (An outline of the history of this development will be found on pp. 351-353 of the 1934-35 Year Book.) Port privileges on an annual basis have also been extended on the Pacific Coast to United States halibut vessels for some years past and, more recently, to United States vessels fishing for black cod. Canadian fishing vessels have been granted similar privileges in United States ports in Alaska. The privileges granted by Canada include permission to tranship catches, buy bait, ship crews, etc.

Two international Commissions, the membership and cost of which are shared equally between Canada and the United States, have been set up on the Pacific Coast to deal with the halibut and the Fraser River sockeye salmon fisheries, respectively. Investigations carried out under the Commissions' auspices, subsequent regulation and limitation of catches and, in the case of salmon, the construction of fishways, appear to have been successful in arresting and reversing an earlier trend towards depletion of these fisheries. Another case of restoring a depleted marine resource by international agreement and action is that of the Pacific fur seals. The provisions of a quadripartite Agreement of 1911 between Canada, the United States, Russia and Japan continue to apply by virtue of a provisional Canadian-United States Agreement of 1942, although the original treaty has lapsed after being abrogated by Japan in 1941.