

conditions brought about a gradual reduction, accelerated more recently by the use of aircraft to transport live lobster to markets in Central Canada, the United States and Europe. Today, only about 50 canneries remain, but canned lobster, which includes heat-processed and fresh and frozen meat, is still the most valuable canned product produced in the Atlantic Provinces, although an important industry is centred in New Brunswick where young herring are canned and marketed as sardines.

The canning of salmon in British Columbia began about 1870, pioneered in part by individuals and firms with experience gained in lobster canning on the Atlantic Coast. These canneries, established at the mouths of rivers and inlets where salmon was caught, increased rapidly in number and output; by 1917 there were 94 in operation with an annual output exceeding 1,500,000 cases. However, salmon canning quickly developed into a streamlined operation featuring a high degree of mechanization and therefore a reduced labour force. This led to amalgamation of canning firms and the growth of large business organizations, so that today there are only about 20 canneries in production.

The development of filleting and quick-freezing techniques and improvement in transportation facilities gave strong impetus to the frozen fish industry in the inter-war period but scarcity of capital and restrictions on trawling operations hampered its growth. Some progress was made, notably in Nova Scotia, which succeeded in expanding sales of chilled groundfish fillets, live lobster and some other items. Processing and fishing bases were concentrated at the larger ports such as Halifax and Lunenburg. Concentration of operations in larger ports was also a distinguishing feature of the British Columbia industry in this period, but the process of mechanization and business integration out-paced the Atlantic Coast fisheries; a progressive approach and the amalgamation of plant and business organization provided the large-scale capital investment required. Unionization became another important factor in the British Columbia industry during the Second World War.

In the postwar period the Atlantic industry began extensive programs to expand productive capacity. Aided by the relaxation of government restrictions on the use of trawlers, fishery firms invested in the construction or purchase of larger vessels to replace the old-style dory or banking schooners used in offshore fishing. Freezing plants were built to process the increasing quantities of groundfish sold fresh by trawlers and inshore fishermen. Increased government subsidization, both federal and provincial, aided the construction of many new trawlers at Canadian shipyards. After Newfoundland became a province of Canada in 1949, the shift from salted codfish to fresh and frozen fish production in that province was speeded up by an inflow of public works improvements, financial aid to the industry and to fishermen, and expanded development and research projects. Other measures of assistance to the industry, involving cost-sharing on such projects between the federal and provincial governments, have been inaugurated under terms of the federal Fisheries Development Act passed in 1966 (see p. 608).

## Section 2.—Commercial Fishing and Marketing, 1965

Records for landed weight and value, exports and returns to fishermen were established in 1965. Canada's commercial fisheries, an industry that helped to shape the early development of civilization in North America, continue to be a valuable source of food and other products for the domestic and export markets, and provide a hardy but rewarding livelihood for many Canadians. The economic and sociological impact of the industry is, of course, most significant in the coastal and lake regions where some 80,000 fishermen participate in actual fishing, a number that has changed little in the past decade. The number of persons employed in fish processing plants has also shown little fluctuation, totalling about 15,000.

Founded upon cod, herring, salmon and lobsters—products in heavy demand in North American and European markets—the Canadian fishing industry in the mid-1960s is reaping the benefits of advancing technology and increased investment in catching and