

Greater care is being taken in the handling and transshipment of small lots so that fish products are now more readily available in the smaller inland urban communities. The retail trade appears to have a greater awareness of the potential market for fishery products and of the problems connected with handling them. Packaged fish in many forms from all the important fisheries of Canada are attractively displayed in modern retail stores. The effects of these improvements have been felt to some extent in the freshwater fishing industry and some development has taken place in the processing industry in the inland areas as well. Landings in the freshwater fisheries totalled 116,200,000 lb. in 1954 with a gross landed value of approximately \$12,700,000. Marketed value of the year's production was approximately \$19,600,000.

The progress in the Canadian fisheries outlined above has occurred in a favourable economic climate of general growth, a substantial rate of population increase and general expansion of trade. Intensified efforts on the part of industry and government have created opportunities for the Canadian fishing industry in domestic and foreign markets and in addition import restrictions were either removed or relaxed in a number of traditional markets during 1954.

Problems arising from the heavy stock of canned salmon in the early part of 1953, the oversupply of fresh and frozen groundfish fillets in the latter part of 1953 and early 1954 and the difficulties in moving the 1953 production of salt fish were however causes of concern to the industry and there have also been short-run problems for a limited number of other species and products.

The Canadian fisheries industry exports about two-thirds by value of its annual production; since World War II, sales to the United States have increased to approximately 70 p.c. of total exports. This excessive dependence upon one export market affects all of the major fisheries of Canada and remains one of the unresolved problems facing the industry.

To meet commitments under international agreements (*see* p. 588), the Canadian Government has stepped up the pace of its research in the fields of marine biology and technology and in government fisheries administration. Administrative and organizational changes in the Fisheries Research Board of Canada of the Federal Department of Fisheries have brought this organization into closer relation with other branches of the Federal Service and with the fishing industry. Government bodies at all levels have become more conscious of the importance of the fisheries to the general economic welfare of many areas of Canada and have accordingly improved their administrative services to the industry.

In the socio-economic realm there is a deeper concern for the welfare of the primary producer, i.e., the fisherman. In 1954 a Federal Indemnity Fund was instituted to provide low cost vessel insurance to small boat fishermen on both coasts and insurance for loss of and damage to fishing gear is being provided on an experimental basis. This Fund provides a partial solution to the problem of loss compensation in circumstances and under conditions in which private insurance companies have found it impossible to operate except at very high cost. A Federal Act facilitates provision through the chartered banks of intermediate term credit loans to fishermen, to complement in part the long term loan services provided by several provincial governments for the purchase of vessels.

Much has been accomplished in the development of the industry but many problems remain. On the Atlantic coast in particular, greater concentration of fishing activities in ports with modern fish handling facilities is urgently needed, as well as considerable improvement in methods of processing and marketing fish products and in systems of grading and determining prices. Greater diversification of products is also necessary. Steps are being taken to bring the results of research to fishermen and to fish processors and handlers in the expectation that this knowledge will help in solving some of the problems outlined.