

GUARANTEE CODFISH PRICE: The Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Mayhew, announced on October 26 that the federal Government would guarantee Newfoundland fishermen an initial payment of \$7.00 per quintal for genuine Labrador codfish of the 1950 catch.

The decision was made by Cabinet when it became clear that without help large stocks of fish would remain in the hands of fishermen.

The plan, which removes the threat of serious hardships this winter for fishermen and their families, has the support of members of the Newfoundland Salt Codfish Association. The Association has agreed to handle the fish, estimated at 150,000 quintals, without profit to themselves and to turn back to the fishermen any additional returns that might accrue on sales to be made.

It is expected that the final sale of all fish will be sufficient to provide for a later additional payment to the fishermen.

LARGE CARRYOVER FROM 1949

The Minister said the Newfoundland fisheries entered the present season with a large carryover of 1949 fish which naturally affected prospects for this season's sales. The plan for the Labrador fish will assure the fishermen of immediate initial payments for this season's catch and will also move the fish from fishermen to merchants' warehouses for further processing. Merchants must get the fish immediately so that the Newfoundland Associated Fish Exporters Limited -- the exporting agency -- can make sales contracts.

The Government moved to relieve the Newfoundland situation following an impasse in negotiations between representatives of the fishermen and the Newfoundland Salt Codfish Association. The two groups, as is customary each year, met to make price agreements. Two such meetings in October failed to bring about an agreement.

The export marketing of the fish covered by this plan will be a matter of arrangement between the federal Government and NAFEL, taking into account the needs of relief agencies as well as the normal markets and also the interests of other Canadian exporters of salted fish not covered by this plan.

The problem of Labrador fish in future years will have to be met by the Newfoundland industry itself, the Minister said.

* * * *

STRIKE LOSSES DOWN: Time loss due to work stoppages arising from industrial disputes during September, 1950, was only a fraction of the time lost during the previous month, when time loss was abnormally large due to the nationwide rail strike, according to a monthly summary of strikes and lockouts issued by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Gregg.

Preliminary figures for September, 1950, show 20 strikes and lockouts in existence involving 15,902 workers with a time loss of 38,376 man-working days as compared with 19

work stoppages in August, 1950, with 129,787 workers involved and a time loss of 1,053,000 days. In September, 1949, there were 25 strikes and lockouts involving 8,588 workers with a time loss of 67,933 days.

* * * *

NEW PRAYER BOOK FOR TROOPS: A new, 200-page book for use at divine services in the Armed Forces is being printed and will be ready in time to accompany Canada's Special Force soldiers overseas and when they sail. Lt.-Col. C.F.G. Stone, MBE, Director of Army Chaplain Service (Protestant) said on October 28.

A far cry from the prayer book and hymnal used during the Second World War, the new edition contains the order of service for church and drumhead services, a lengthy section of prayers, two communion services, order of service for military funerals, some 250 hymns of the type popular with soldiers and 50 song selections for use in worship. The volume also contains a foreword by the Very Rev. J.W. Woodside, DD, of Ottawa, President of the Canadian Council of Churches.

Issued under the auspices of the Canadian Council of Churches, the book was compiled by chaplains of the Navy, Army and Air Force who worked overtime that the new edition might be ready in time to accompany the Special Force. Original plans called for completion and publication of the book in 1951.

* * * *

THE NETHERLANDS' THANKS: Thanks to the people of Canada for shipment to the Netherlands of armament equipment for an infantry division, were expressed on October 27 in a letter from A.H.J. Lovink, Netherlands Ambassador to Canada, to the Minister of National Defence and Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Claxton.

The text of Mr. Lovink's letter:
"Royal Netherlands Embassy October 26, 1950.

"Dear Mr. Minister,

"I have the honour and privilege to inform you that I am instructed by my Government to transmit to your country and people the grateful feelings of The Netherlands at the news that the Canadian Cabinet has approved the immediate shipment to Holland of the armament equipment for an infantry division, which was so generously made available by Canada to its European partners in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and which has now been assigned to my country.

"Indeed, Mr. Minister, it is felt by my Government that this very happy event will once again underline the significance of the close and intimate ties between both our countries and peoples, not only as partners in the organization of the Atlantic Pact but also as partners in the spiritual bond of friendship and goodwill which was so unshakably cemented when Canadian arms liberated Holland.