

The British, the Norwegians and the Dutch stopped whaling a few years ago. The United States stopped in 1971. Last Christmas Canada followed an earlier ban on whaling off the Pacific coast by announcing that it was closing down its last three Atlantic stations.

In announcing the ban, Jack Davis, Minister of Fisheries, said, "The number of whales [in the northwest Atlantic] are in the few thousands in each category and they should be two or three times as high to maintain a maximum sustainable yield." In recent years the Canadian whalers have taken about 250 whales on an annual average. The take would have had to have been cut sharply to preserve the herds, and if such a cut had been made the industry would no longer have been profitable.

For the men who hunted them in modern fast ships with explosive-tipped harpoons and for those who cut them up with flensing knives in the plants ashore, the ban meant the loss of hard,

dirty work which paid well — land workers made \$2.50 an hour; a deckhand on a successful six-months' voyage made \$8000 or more; and a ship's captain, who might be the harpoon-gunner as well, could, in the old tradition, still retire a wealthy man.

It also meant the end of a work tradition. This spring was the first in 175 years when the whalers did not put out of Blandford, in Nova Scotia, and Dildo and Williamsport in Newfoundland. The passing was not without resentment but the feelings of even those directly affected were sometimes mixed.

Cecil Mosher, a worker at the Blandford plant, told a reporter, "As far as I'm concerned, if we can work without killing the whale, let him swim. He's been out there longer . . . he's been out there forever."

Captain Arnold Borgen, of the ship Westwhale VII, told Gary Blonston of the Detroit Free Press, that the whale was never just an object to him.

