

held from February 13 to 23, had eight aims – the most important being to find a way to avoid overfishing the world's seas and oceans. Also on the agenda was the future of fish-farming as a source of protein.

The increasingly efficient methods of fishing and the dwindling stocks of fish constituted the main topic on the opening day of the conference. In 1955, only 28 million tons of fish were caught; by 1971, this figure had doubled to 69 million. The FAO now estimates that the take will be 74 million by 1975 and 107 million by 1985.

“That is about the absolute outside limit,” Mr. Davis warned.

“Our scientists tell me,” he added, “we will be lucky to hit the 100 million by 1980. We may be lucky and we may be unlucky, because that may be all that the living resources of the sea can sustain. Obviously, something has to be done. Someone has to move in and draw up some ground rules. They have to look at an entire stock of fish and work out a level of cropping which can be sustained, not only year after year, but decade after decade.”

The Canadian Government hopes that the facts and statistics presented at the conference will form the basis for discussion at the Law of the Sea Conference in Geneva in November.

**Conference of Irish studies at McGill**

McGill University will entertain the annual conference of the Canadian Association for Irish Studies, from March 21 to 25. It will be opened by the Irish Ambassador to Canada, Mr. Joseph Shields.

The program of events includes: panel discussions on topics such as “Ancient Myth and Poetry”, lectures like “Yeats: the Question of Symbolism”; poetry readings by Thomas Kinsella, who will read from his own works and others, an art exhibition at the Waddington Gallery displaying the paintings and drawings of Jack Yeats and Daniel O’Neil; and concerts.

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**Canadian labour force in January**

The labour force increased to 8.88 million in January 1973, from 8.58 million a year earlier and 8.34 million in January 1971. Employment increased to 8.19 million from 7.92 million and 7.67 million; unemployment to 688,000 from 665,000 and 668,000. The January unemployment rate was 7.7 per 100 in the labour force in both 1973 and 1972,

down from 8.0 in 1971.

Seasonally adjusted, unemployment was lower in January (566,000) than it had been since June (555,000). The adjusted unemployment rate was 6.2 in January, compared to 6.7 in December, 6.9 in September and 6.3 in June. (As is customary in the month of January, the seasonal adjustment factor has been revised – including all above figures – to incorporate last year’s seasonal pattern.)

