

were no longer needed. However, steamers required coal in great quantity and few coalfields were as close to the sea as those of Cape Breton. Sydney became a coal port of international significance. At the same time, a considerable coal export trade developed in Nova Scotia, which provided steady jobs for those laid off from the shipyards. The mines also attracted hundreds of marginal farmers and homesteaders. Nova Scotia's change in emphasis from shipbuilding to mining was an industrial revolution that had profound consequences for the whole province. The north and east became industrialized while the south and west (apart from Halifax) remained largely rural and relied on fishing, agriculture and forest industries. That was the position until the 1950s when coal could no longer compete with oil as a cheap source of energy.

New initiatives in manufacturing, tourism, fishing, agriculture, and renewed interest in coal today have sparked an up-swing in Nova Scotia's economy.

Fishing

The fishing industry has always been an essential part of Nova Scotia's seafaring tradition and economic development. Today the fishery is the economic mainstay of more than 200 coastal communities. It employs more than 10,000 fishermen and close to 5,000 shore-based processing workers in the province and supports many

related industries such as shipbuilding. A fleet of some 6,200 fishing vessels and small craft supplies fish to 185 different processing plants. These vessels vary from small inshore boats, owned by the fishermen who operate them, to large ocean-going trawlers. One of the characteristics of the Nova Scotia fisheries is its diversity. The most important species are lobsters, scallops, cod, haddock and herring, though many others are caught and processed.

The industry promises to have a very bright future. Following a series of bilateral agreements, Canada in 1977 declared a 200-mile economic control zone which gave it control of fisheries and other resources on much of its continental shelf. This will allow depleted fish stocks to recover and will gradually rebuild Canada's sea fishery. It will also augment Nova Scotia's offshore deep sea fishery and its highly important inshore fishery which engages 70 per cent of the province's fishermen. The effects are already being felt. Last year Canada became the leading fish-exporting nation in the world, and Nova Scotia contributed close to a third of these exports.

Agriculture

Agriculture has flourished in Nova Scotia almost as long as fishing. The Acadians were the first to reclaim land by draining saltwater marshes and keeping out the sea using series of dykes and *aboiteau*. The fertile marshland is ideal for growing hay,