

"SILVELINUS ALPINUS"

A rare treat is in store for Canada's gourmets.

Frobisher Bay char, "The fish with the Arctic flavour", has scored a direct hit on menus in the "south".

So direct, in fact, that a sample 300-pound shipment, flown in straight from Eskimo nets on South Baffin Island by the Department of Northern Affairs, already has restaurants in Montreal, Toronto, Quebec City and Ottawa begging for more.

A second shipment of 1,200 pounds reached Montreal on July 23. Like the first, the freshly-caught char, packed in snow, was delivered to a local fish broker for distribution to wholesalers on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Arctic char (*Silvelinus Alpinus*), with a delicate red flesh and tantalising flavour, is a gourmet's item. A "speciality of the house" in the select class of other aristocrats of Canadian fish life.

It is unlikely ever to be in abundant supply. Growth rate of fish is slower in northern waters than in those where temperatures are higher. Until more research has been conducted by the Department of Fisheries, accurate estimates cannot be made of the amount likely to be available in the future. For some years at least only the more exclusive restaurants and clubs may be able to feature the Arctic delicacy.

What makes Arctic char distinctive? Mainly a flavour that can't be duplicated by fish bred in less frigid waters. As every fisherman and gourmet knows, the colder the water in which fish like these are taken, the firmer the flesh, the more delicate the flavour. Tastewise, char combines the delicious flavour of brook trout and salmon. Like lake trout and Dolly Vardon, it belongs to the char genus of the salmon family. Weight of the fish ranges between two and eight pounds.

Frobisher Bay char was caught by three Eskimo families in their first attempt at commercial fishing. Men caught the fish and women prepared it for shipment. As usually happens in Eskimo families, children found ways to help, too. To protect the Arctic's first commercial fishing enterprise a quota of 12,000 pounds has been set.

The Frobisher project is part of the Northern Affairs programme for Arctic development by introducing new ways of using local resources and training Eskimos to take over the management. In the Arctic, such projects can run into regional problems, as when high winds bring pack ice down from the bay and prevent the fish boats from working on schedule. To deal with such emergencies, it is hoped to build up a reserve of char in Montreal before this season's run ends in September. Northern Affairs expects that a community fish freezer will be set up later this summer at Frobisher

for shipping out quick-frozen char this time next year.

The young Frobisher industry reflects the basic change taking place in many aspects of the old life in the Arctic. The evolution of the Eskimo into a commercial fisherman is something his great-grandfather would not have understood. In the days of the great caribou herds and the great hunts, fishing was not a task preferred by men.

Since then the herds have declined, and in this new situation, Eskimo men are turning to new vocations suited to their outdoor way of life. As a result, the most fastidious gourmets in southern Canadian restaurants now have an opportunity to smack their lips over servings of poached or baked char served with sauce from an epicure's favourite recipe book.

ARMOURY SOLD

An offer of \$2,000,000 from the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto for the University Avenue Armoury property has been accepted by the Department of National Defence following approval by the Cabinet.

Possession of the property will not be taken by the municipality until alternative accommodation has been arranged for the units now housed in the armoury, or not later than Dec. 31, 1960.

It will be necessary to provide armoury accommodation for the units now using the University Avenue Armouries, and it is intended that new armouries will be located away from the centre of the city in areas more accessible to Militia personnel.

The offer to purchase the armoury was based on an urgent requirement by Metropolitan Toronto for a suitable site for a new court house for the Supreme Court of Ontario and the County Court of the County of York. Courtroom facilities for the Exchequer Court of Canada and the Board of Transport for their frequent hearings in Toronto also will be incorporated in the new building.

The present armoury is located on a 3.08-acre site acquired from the City of Toronto in 1891. Built in 1897, it contains more than 170,000 square-feet of space and provides accommodation for several major Militia units. At the present time these are:

The Governor-General's Horse Guards; the 42nd Medium Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery; the 29th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery; the 3rd Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada; the 48th Highlanders of Canada; 5 Column, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps and 4 Ordnance Battalion, Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps.

This armoury has played an important role in Canadian military history. From there some of Canada's most famous regiments have marched off to war. Volunteers for the Boer War and the First and Second World Wars were recruited