

**NEW SCALLOP WEALTH:** Thousands of dollars - money that otherwise would not have been realized - have been deposited in the pockets of commercial fishermen as a result of discoveries of new scallop grounds by federal fisheries scientists.

At the annual meeting of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada in Ottawa this week it was reported that the scallop bed on the northern part of St. Pierre Bank in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, discovered in 1953, yielded \$50,000 worth of this sea delicacy in the first six months of 1954. During May and June the boats were landing 1,500 pounds of scallop meats per fishing day.

Encouraged by this find, explorations for new scallop beds were continued in 1954 extending to the Magdalen Islands and Newfoundland. A promising area for a limited commercial fishery was found on the southeast part of Browns Bank. Good catches were made in experimental drags but the bivalves were small and meat yields were low.

Prior to these explorations, it was generally assumed by the fishermen that the only commercial fishery for scallops was in the Bay of Fundy around Digby.

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**LARGEST WHALE CATCH:** Canada has the only whaling station now in operation off the west coast of North America.

The station is situated at Coal Harbour near the north-western tip of Vancouver Island, B.C. In 1954, the station's six catcher-boats accounted for 630 whales during a six-month season which ran from March to September. These were the largest catch, the longest season and the largest whale catching fleet in the history of the station's seven successive years of operation.

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**FISHERIES RESEARCH:** Ten thousand codfish are swimming around the North Atlantic without knowing that they are working for the Fisheries Research Board of Canada. They were tagged between April and October of 1954 by members of the Board's staff on the research vessel "Marinus". The main reasons for tagging the fish are to find out where they go, what conditions they prefer and to determine their rate of growth.

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Volume of Canada's forest production in 1952 was slightly below the all-time peak set in 1951 but the value climbed to the highest point on record, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Final estimates show a cut of 3,565,609,000 cubic feet of merchantable timber valued at \$815,651,000 versus 3,602,957,000 cubic feet valued at \$782,525,000 in the preceding year.

**COMMON STOCKS RISE:** Prices of common stocks as measured by the investors' index of 101 stocks, continued to move to new highs during the first four weeks of December. For the week ending December 23 the total index reached 208.5 as compared with 202.9 for the week ending December 25. Strength was shared by each of the three major groups of industrials, utilities and banks, with utilities registering the firmest tone.

Of the eleven sub-groups, all but two were higher, with pulp and paper and building materials showing sharpest advances. Mining stocks also advanced over the period, the series of 27 stocks moving to 101.9 for the week ending December 23 from 98.6 for the week ending November 25. Base metals were somewhat stronger than golds, advancing to 178.7 from 172.9, while golds moved to 68.3 from 66.2.

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**EMPLOYMENT DOWN:** Industrial employment was at a lower level at the beginning of November, the Bureau's advance index dropping 0.8% from October and 2.9% from November last year. The payroll index, on the other hand, showed a minor rise from October 1 but was insignificantly lower than at November 1, 1953. Per capita weekly earnings rose to a new high.

The November 1 index of industrial employment stood at 112.5 as compared with 113.4 a month earlier and 115.9 a year ago, and that for payrolls at 157.3 as compared with 157.2 at the beginning of October and 157.4 last year. Per capita weekly earnings averaged \$59.82 as compared with \$59.26 a month earlier and \$58.14 a year ago.

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**PRICE INDEX DOWN:** The consumer price index declined from 116.8 to 116.6 between November 1 and December 1. The change was largely attributable to lower food prices which moved the food index from 113.4 to 112.6.

Other group indexes showed little or no change. The shelter index advanced from 127.9 to 128.2, following a further gain of 0.2% in the rent index and an advance of 0.3% in the home-ownership component.

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In the half-century since 1901 the proportion of Canada's male labour force in agricultural occupations dropped from almost 46% to less than 20%, while the proportion in manufacturing and mechanical occupations rose moderately from about 15% to slightly more than 19%.

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There were 3,521 new motion picture films released in Canada in 1953, of which 2,894 were English, 542 in French and 85 in other languages.