

To arrange for the shipment of eggs, poultry and other food items such as fruit and vegetables for which provision had not already been made, a Special Products Board was set up in Canada on April 15, 1941. This board has authority to regulate the export of such products, to require their delivery at seaboard and to store them when necessary.

Fisheries

During the war the fishing industry in Canada suffered a 10% reduction in its labour force, chiefly to the armed forces and the merchant marine. Some of the most efficient types of vessels used in Canada's fishing industry were turned over to direct war use with the navy, further complicating the fishermen's task to keep production levels high. Despite these handicaps Canadian fishermen slightly increased their volume of production. Large quantities of certain types of fish were almost entirely earmarked for export. Canada supplied under contract with the British Ministry of Food, from 1941 to March 31, 1945, 588,822,000 pounds of fish food products, valued at \$103,632,000. Nearly 305,000,000 pounds consisted of canned salmon and nearly 226,250,000 pounds consisted of canned herring. Other products were, in order of volume, frozen fish, salted fish and canned sardines.

From 1941 onward virtually all production of canned fresh herring, a large part of which comes from Canada's Pacific coast, was made available to the British Ministry of Food. In British Columbia the annual canned herring production was increased by more than 2,500% to meet the British Ministry of Food needs. The pre-war output in British Columbia was small - in 1936, the year of greatest herring pack in the immediate pre-war period, it was slightly less than 52,000 cases - the wartime high in the province was nearly 1,538,000 cases.

After 1941, the year in which formal agreements were made between Canada and the United Kingdom, the larger part of Canada's Pacific canned salmon was made available to the British Ministry of Food. In 1942 all of the output was sent except a relatively small quantity set aside for the armed services and Red Cross purposes, and in each of the following years the bulk of the pack.

Under agreements operative in 1943-5, Canada supplied large quantities of frozen fillets and halibut to the British Ministry of Food. Shipments in 1945 were 21,000,000 pounds, in round figures, and in the three years about 54,250,000 pounds.

Under a Combined Food Board program for meeting an acute shortage which had developed in salted fish, a staple protein food in Caribbean and Mediterranean areas, Canada shipped in the 1943-45 period 80,100,000 pounds (dried weight) valued at approximately \$12,000,000. Included in these shipments, which under the program were allocated to specified markets, were 1,100,000 pounds for Greek relief and 2,300,000 pounds for UNRRA.

Under plans approved by Canada's Food Requirements Committee, pickled fish amounting to 91,500,000 pounds was shipped to various designated areas during 1943-45. In the same period 15,300,000 pounds of smoked herring bloaters were shipped under another allocation arrangement approved by the committee.

After a decision by the Combined Food Board (1944) to allocate the total canned fish production of Canada and the United States, and the exportable surpluses of certain other countries, an aggregate quantity of 146,700,000 pounds was distributed by Canada from the fish cannery output for the production year 1944-5 (July, 1944, to the end of June, 1945). Allocations from the Canadian output for the production year 1945-46 totalled 174,500,000 pounds. More than half of these allocations, representing shipments of 92,300,000 pounds, have already been met.

Total canned fish distribution to December 31, 1945, from the combined output of the two production years was 239,000,000 pounds. Of this quantity 49,400,000 pounds went into Canadian civilian use, 5,200,000 pounds to the Canadian armed forces and Red Cross, and 152,500,000 pounds were supplied to British food authorities. UNRRA received 20,400,000 pounds. Exports to the United States and elsewhere accounted for 11,500,000 pounds.