

Newfoundland will shortly be dedicated to the proposition of speedily providing the assistance necessary to enable the Newfoundland fishermen to prosecute the sea fishery with the same vigour, vitality, vision and achievement as obtained when, a century ago, the energies of Canada were placed behind the vast agricultural development of Western Canada. Even as one of the western agricultural provinces might suffer from economic circumstances or the vagaries of nature, or other causes beyond their control, reflecting adversely upon the economy of their neighbouring province, so too in Newfoundland, or Nova Scotia, or New Brunswick, or Prince Edward Island, or Quebec, adverse conditions in the fisheries in any one province would reflect similar difficulties upon other provinces and, in fact, upon the whole of the Atlantic fisheries.

With the development of modern plants for processing fresh and frozen fish fillets, with speedy refrigerated transportation and handling facilities enabling consumer packages of these commodities to be offered for sale in markets from the metropolitan centres down to the smallest hamlets throughout the United States and Canada, with the advent of modern devices for navigation and the detecting of fish populations, the discovery of new fishing grounds and new species of fish, the development of modern fishing vessels, gear and equipment, and modern techniques for processing for both food and non-food uses, the yet undeveloped fishery resources of the Northwest Atlantic offer Canada the greatest potential source of protein food since the Red River wagons blazed the trails which led to the opening up of the vast agricultural lands of Western Canada.

Settled in more than 1,300 communities along 6,000 miles of coastline, in Newfoundland and parts of Labrador 20,000 fishermen, representing a population of over 100,000 souls, prosecute the inshore fisheries by methods which are today little changed from those which prevailed when John Cabot discovered Newfoundland 400 years ago. These people represent the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth generations born in Newfoundland. Their homes are their castles. They are hardy resolute and independent. They represent the families from whence came the captains of the schooners and barquentines that plied the trade lanes of the world before Canada's trade was born, the men who rounded Cape Horn to play a leading part in the development of the fisheries on the Pacific coast. These are the families whence came the thousands of men who today hold positions of prominence in law, in education, in medicine, in science, in art, and who settled in the metropolitan centres and in the small

towns and villages of the United States and Canada. These are the people who decided that their native Newfoundland should join confederation, assuming thereby the responsibility of making their contribution to the affairs of Canada, and expecting in return that the Government of Canada would do justice by them. These are the tens of thousands of families who today face sharply up to the proposition of changing their methods of fishing to meet the modern demand for low-cost volume production in a world geared to mass production techniques. These are the people who live in widely scattered and decentralized communities, incapable themselves of bringing about the change which would enable them to maintain a standard of living equal to that prevailing in Canada generally, and to contribute to their community, to their church and to the state, and uphold the dignity of the individual person. They are not responsible for the dislocation of world trade which precludes the sale of their product on an historical basis, nor is it within their power, without guidance, leadership, direction, scientific research and engineering, and financial assistance, to bring about the continued production of a large proportion of the world's demand for salt fish which is essential to the welfare of consumers abroad.

Perhaps it is not too great a stretch of the imagination to believe that in 1952, in the program to be recommended by the Newfoundland Fisheries Development Committee, a formula will be prescribed through which the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland, co-operating with the industry and the fishermen, can bring about an integrated development, sustained where necessary by the financial resources of the governments and of risk capital, to the end that this bountiful resource and necessary source of human food will be maintained and developed on a basis in keeping with modern standards. It may require financial assistance to enable the development of new and improved types of boats, gear and equipment, to provide centralized handling and processing facilities in order to bring about concentration of effort in producing salt codfish of the highest quality at minimum cost. It may require building programs and the encouragement of ancillary industries on much the same lines, and on no less a scale than the development undertaken in the Tennessee Valley and in the Mississippi rehabilitation projects of the United States, or other similarly great efforts which stand today as a monument to the genuine unselfish effort of men dedicated to the proposition that if a free world is to obtain, and democracy survive, an equality of opportunity must be