

Until the beginning of World War II Great Britain and continental Europe imported the major portion of the Canadian canned lobster pack. During the period of wartime restrictions exports were diverted to the United States and domestic markets, both of which have greatly increased their consumption. In the post war period the United Kingdom resumed imports under a very restricted quota arrangement, and has readily absorbed their small allocation. The European continent has renewed imports of Canadian canned lobster, but, due to currency limitations, the quantities involved are very limited. The opportunity for both the United Kingdom and the continent of Europe to purchase freely canned lobsters and lobster paste would have a stimulating effect on the entire industry in Canada.

In the light of this situation the United States market for canned lobster and lobster paste has become an important outlet for our industry.

Clams, etc.

Canadian Atlantic coast canned fish and shellfish that are sold in the United States market in limited quantities include canned clams, canned chicken haddie and canned kippered snacks. In the case of chicken haddie and kippered snacks, sales could be increased by a lowering of the American import duty. Canned clams, too, are subject to duty when imported into the United States although clams in the shell and clam meat are free of duty.

By-Products

While the United States is the principal export market for Eastern Canada's fish meal production, sales could be made to some NATO countries in Europe were it not for currency restrictions.

INLAND FISHERIES

The inland freshwater fisheries of Canada account for about one-tenth of the marketed value of our fishery products and the United States is the export market. The value of these exports is substantial, running at about \$18 million annually in late years. With these products, where costs of placing the fish on the market are higher than in the case of the deep-sea fishery, market price is a vital factor and, when foods generally decline in value, this fishery is one of the first sections of our industry to feel the effects.

Mr. Chairman, that is a brief review. We are at your pleasure if there is further information desired.

We have a chart which might prove beneficial to honourable senators.

The CHAIRMAN: It will be included in the proceedings as an appendix (See appendix at the end of today's proceedings).

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions honourable senators would like to ask?

Hon. Mr. MACLENNAN: You refer several times in your brief to the desirability of retaining the United States fish market. What would you suggest should be done to retain this market? What means would you take to retain the United States market if the United States government sees fit to impose restrictions or quotas or increases in duties?

Hon. Mr. HORNER: Or apply total prohibition as they did in the case of many dairy products.

Hon. Mr. MACLENNAN: Exactly. It seems to me there is nothing you can do unless you take some retaliatory steps.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman and honourable senators, if such a thing happened it would be a disastrous blow to the Canadian fishing industry.

Hon. Mr. MACLENNAN: I know.