

Newfoundland was already old in history when the development of the Canadian nation was still in embryo, and deep are the scars of the struggle for settlement against the resistance of non-resident overlords. By sheer courage and dogged determination the forebears of Newfoundland's present population battled their way for a place in the sun, defied oppression and made their way to establish homes and gain the freedom to wrest their way of life from the sea. Today more than one-third of the total landed weight of fish produced in Canada annually is taken from the waters off the shores of Newfoundland by more than twenty thousand Newfoundland fishermen.

The production of fish is to the economy of Newfoundland what the production of grain is to the prairie provinces. This is true also of some areas of the coast of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Prince Edward Island where, as in Newfoundland, the economy is based upon fish, or nothing. In that day when the energies of Canada were concentrated on the vast agricultural development of the West, with its accrued benefits to industrial Ontario and Quebec, the claims made by the Maritime Provinces that thousands of citizens residing on the frontier coast-line of Canada's Atlantic seaboard were being by-passed in the concentration of effort on the great Canadian West were ineffective. Had it not been for the accident of history, which precluded Newfoundland from joining Confederation 80 years ago, the concentrated fisheries economy of Newfoundland, added to the claims of the Maritimes and Quebec, would have presented a much more formidable case before the parliaments of this country for equal treatment of the development of fisheries with the development of agriculture, mining and forests in the West. Development of the fisheries at that time would unquestionably have progressed at such a pace that today the fishing fleets plying in the waters of the Northwestern Atlantic would have been predominantly of Canadian registry. Instead it is the reverse. More than two hundred deep-sea fishing craft of Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, the United States and other countries dominate the Grand Banks, which geographically and economically are more natural to the economy of North America than to the economy of countries who exploit these vast natural resources at high costs from across the Atlantic. The combined Canadian deep-sea fishing fleet comprises only about ninety vessels.

It is fortunate, indeed, that on the eve of the greatest need for assured supplies of fish to meet the diminishing supplies of animal

protein from agricultural production on a world-wide scale, Canada has at the helm of the State a man whose statesmanship and candour engender confidence. From the beginning of his parliamentary career, the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent, Prime Minister, has evidenced keen understanding and knowledge of and concern for the development of fisheries. During the discussions which preceded the Terms of Union under which Newfoundland came into confederation, it was a source of delight to the Newfoundland delegation that in the Prime Minister they found a man with a breadth of knowledge and understanding of the fisheries, and particularly a full grasp of the social side of the problem to be faced in Newfoundland. As well as in parts of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, in gearing the fisheries economy to provide the opportunity for fishermen to earn a just wage and the industry to make a fair return on capital invested.

Flanking the Prime Minister in these negotiations leading up to the Terms of Union, the Minister of Fisheries, The Honourable R. W. Mayhew, played a leading part, and I would pause to pay tribute to the wisdom, judgment and fine business principles which have predominated that minister's dealings with fisheries problems in Newfoundland since it joined confederation. The problems entailed in integrating the fisheries administration in Newfoundland with Canada are not simple, nor does the future hold great hope that the deeply entrenched habits, customs, traditions, private prerogatives, and some bad habits, if you will, can be changed quickly to keep pace with the North American economy.

The entente cordiale which has been maintained between the Department of Fisheries and the Government of Newfoundland can in no small measure be attributed directly to the qualities of statesmanship of the Honourable R. W. Mayhew and Premier J. R. Smallwood. These two leaders co-operated closely in the establishing of the Fisheries Development Committee of Newfoundland under the chairmanship of Sir Albert Walsh, K.C., thereby providing a most encouraging example of very active federal-provincial relations. The committee has been charged with the task of recommending a program for fisheries development in Newfoundland, and also the share of responsibility to be borne by the two governments, by the industry and by fishermen in carrying it out.

It might well be that the creation of the Fisheries Development Committee of Newfoundland can be taken as evidence that the hiatus of 80 years during which Newfoundland has not participated in the economy of Canada is to be bridged, and that the full energies of the governments of Canada and