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Thus in April 1962, the Karl Karlsen Company, in co-operation with the provincial government, began whaling operations on an experimental basis. By 1964 the experiment had proven itself profitable, and the Blandford plant expanded to include whaling on a permanent basis.

At the same time, that greatest of Canadian opportunists, Joey Smallwood, was fostering the re-emergence of whaling in Newfoundland waters. Envisioning an island-wide mink ranch industry, Smallwood encouraged the killing of potheads, small-toothed whales, for feed. By 1965, more than 50,000 of the species had been slaughtered.

The second stage of the Newfoundland operations opened with Smallwood offering generous subsidies to foreign whalers stationed in his province. Eager acceptance of the offer resulted in the re-opening of the Williamsport factory by the Japanese, and the enlargement of the Dildo plant by a combination of Japanese and Norwegian interests.

The number of whales taken by these three plants over the 1964-71 span is colossal. The Blandford plant can boast 1,458 Fins, 654 Seis, 64 Sperm and a number of Minkes and Humpbacks—while the two Newfoundland plants racked up a total of 2,114 Fins along with several hundred Seis, Sperm and Minkes.

The significance of these figures becomes apparent when they are compared with the numbers of Fins remaining in the world's oceans. Scientists say only 3,000 Fins are left in the North Atlantic, and of this number the 1972 quota of 360 must be subtracted. In terms of an ocean-wide population, the Fins are estimated to number less than 60,000.

When the whaling ban was announced, Mr. Karlsen was quoted in the Halifax daily newspapers as saying the government's announcement came as a shock.

He said he had agreed with a catch limit of 53 Fins whales and 70 Sei whales and also that there should be no quota on sperm whales.

"I advised the minister that these quotas would permit the company to continue an economic operation and that we were very anxious to have scientists carry out the necessary research in order to enable them to set annual quotas commensurate with the sustainable yield."

Although South Shore PC member of parliament Lloyd Crouse also criticized the total whaling ban on the grounds it was caused by "uninformed social pressure", scientists have in fact been studying the whale population in this area for several years.

Will Canada's ban be effective in its attempt to replenish the declining whale stocks? Unlike that of the US Food and Drug Administration which banned whaling in 1970, along the importation of whale products, the Canadian ban is not inclusive.

John Mullally said the subject of whale imports does not fall under the department of fisheries' jurisdiction, but under that of the department of trade and commerce. He did not know whether that department was considering such a ban for Canada.

Until Canada does ban the importation of whale products she will continue to support the slaughter, albeit indirectly.

Nor does the ban extend to whaling on Canada's West Coast. Although no whaling operations have been carried on in Canada's Pacific area since 1968 (because of a scarcity of whales), Mr. Mullally admitted if the whales were to make a comeback, operations would be resumed.

Hopefully the ban will be more effective than the International Whaling Commission, established in 1946, has been. This body, comprised of 17 whaling countries, was set up ostensibly to protect the threatened species and to regulate the hunt—but in fact it has been little more than a front for whalers.

The quotas set by the commission on whale species have been higher than the stocks could stand; the regulations forbidding the killing of Blue Whales, Humpbacks and all species of the Right Whales came too late—at a time when they were threatened with biological extinction. In other words, the whaling companies were guaranteed profits as long as there were sufficient whales to prove economically feasible.

Nor can the commission always enforce its regulations. Many so-called pirate ships, flying under flags of convenience, scour the oceans for whales, ignoring both the regulations which set quotas and those which protect certain species. It is estimated that more than 2,000 whales are taken annually in this manner.

Then there is the case heard by Nova Scotia's courts last month. The Karlsen Company was charged on six counts of taking undersized whales during the first five weeks of the 1972 season. By the Whaling Convention Act the company was liable to a fine of up to \$10,000.

But the courts, in passing judgement on the first two cases, ruled in favour of the company, finding that there was "no intent" involved in the undersized catches. (This is comparable to a court ruling that the driver who passed through a red light at 60 m.p.h. is not guilty because the action was not intended.)

Moreover, the Act stipulates that to measure the catch, a tape, attached to a pole stuck into the wharf at the whale's head, be stretched the length of the whale's body. The wharf at Blandford, however, is made of concrete, precluding the possibility of driving a pole into it. It did not matter that the whales were at

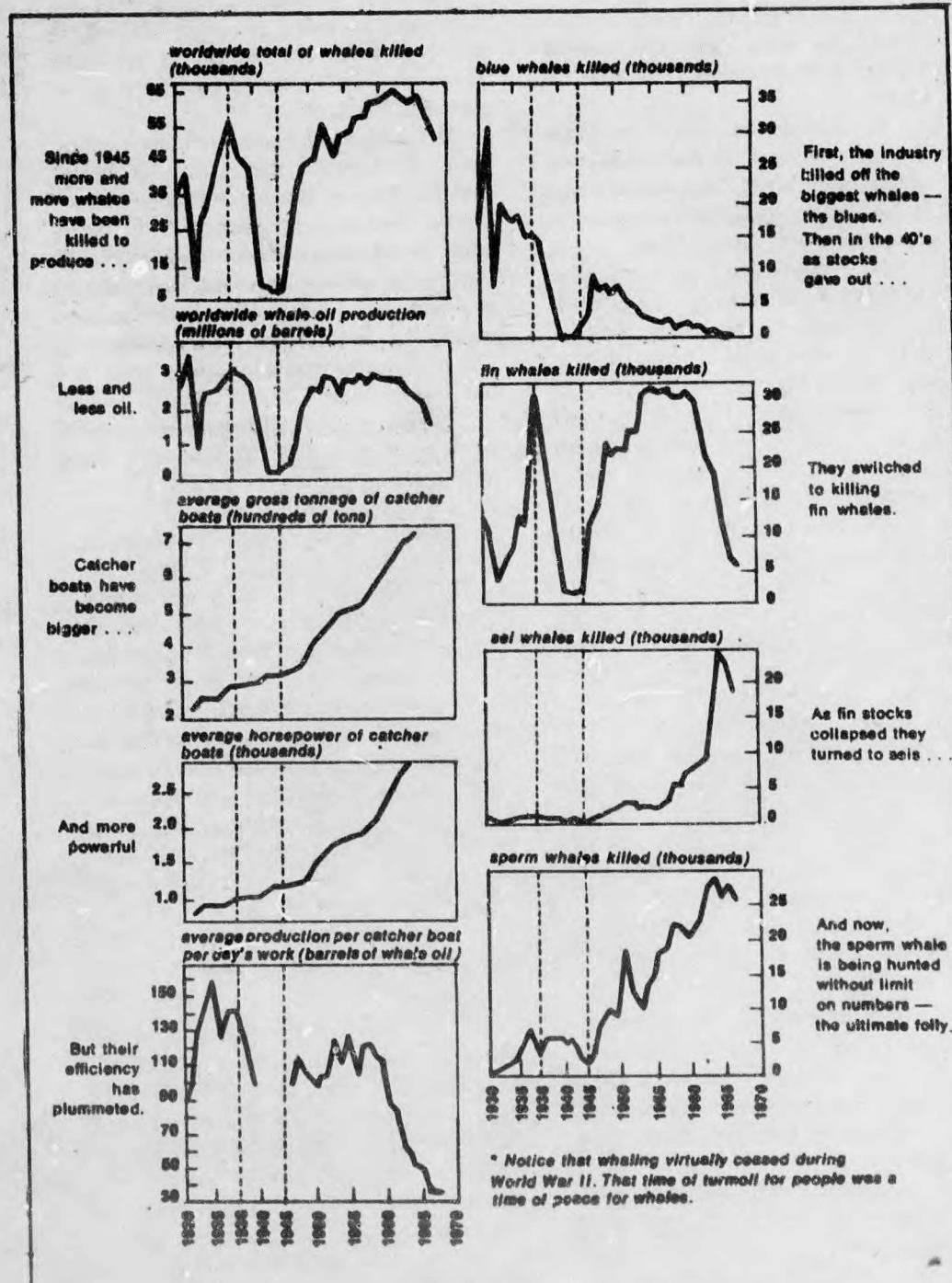
least five feet under the legal size. What mattered in the courts was the missing pole.

Unless man's nature undergoes a drastic change during the next four years, the remaining eight species of the great whales will be virtually extinct. But business is business and profit is profit—and as long as whaling continues to prove economically viable, the hunt will continue.

Pressure, must be put to bear on those nations which have not yet declared a moratorium on whaling operations. And it must be done NOW.

*They lived, these whales,
without offense to people,
in infantile simplicity,
reveling in their own fountains,
while the crimson ball of the sun
danced in a torrent of rays. . .*
—Yevtushenko

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As wild herds of whales have been destroyed, finding the survivors has become more difficult and has required more effort. As larger whales are killed off, smaller species are exploited to keep the industry alive. Since there have never been species limits, however, large whales are always taken wherever and whenever encountered. Thus small whales are used to subsidize the extermination of large ones.