

sites to be tax-free.

Rate of tax on first \$1,000 of taxable income reduced to 11 per cent from 13 per cent rate on second \$1,000 reduced to 14 from 15 per cent; both effective January 1, 1958.

Corporation income tax of 20 per cent to apply on first \$25,000 income instead of first \$20,000, effective January 1, 1958.

Special excise tax on automobiles reduced to 7½ per cent from 10 per cent, effective December 7, 1957.

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SMALL HOMES PROGRAMME

Loans totalling \$139,423,521, for 14,738 dwelling units were approved under the Government of Canada loans for small homes programme to the end of the thirteenth week of operation, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation reports. Loans for 737 units and an amount of \$6,829,083 were approved in the week ending December 6.

By regional areas, loan approvals during the first thirteen weeks of the programme to encourage low-cost housing for lower-income borrowers under the National Housing Act were as follows:

Region	Number of Loans	Number of Units	Amount
Atlantic	207	258	\$ 2,238,074
Québec	2,092	2,593	24,000,507
Ontario	5,944	8,220	79,306,439
Prairie	2,317	2,508	23,239,405
British Columbia	898	1,159	10,639,096

The Corporation noted that applications in various stages of processing at the end of the thirteenth week could result in additional loans amounting to more than \$23,260,000.

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COMMISSION MEMBER

Fisheries Minister J. Angus MacLean has announced the appointment of Mr. George R. Clark, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, as Canadian member of the North Pacific Fur Seal Commission. The Commission is made up of one representative from each of the four countries signatory to the Convention for the Conservation of North Pacific Fur Seals, which are Canada, the United States, the U.S.S.R. and Japan.

The convention was signed in Washington last February 9 after 14 months of negotiations, and was approved and confirmed by the Canadian Government on April 12. From 1942 until this year Canada and the United States had been the only countries sharing in the annual catch of fur seals taken each summer on the rookeries of the Pribilof Islands, which are in the Bering Sea, north of the Aleutians and about 300 miles west of Alaska.

The new convention prohibits pelagic sealing and also provides for scientific investigation of the migratory movements of the seal herds, their wintering areas and feeding habits and what, if any, effect the latter may have on commercial fish catches.

The commission will formulate and co-ordinate the research programmes of the four countries, and will control the catches made each breeding season on the Pribilofs, which are in United States territory and harbour the main herds, estimated at two million seals, and on the Commander and Robben Islands on the Asiatic side of the North Pacific Ocean, each of which has an estimated seal population of 100,000.

Prior to 1911 pelagic sealing, or the killing of seals at sea, had caused serious depletion of the herds. In 1911 the four countries concerned agreed to a selective and controlled catch of the fur seals of the Pribilof Islands to which the animals return every year to breed. Russian participation in the convention ended in 1924 and Japan abrogated the treaty in 1940. The 1911 convention was replaced in 1942 by a provisional agreement between Canada and the United States, which remained in effect until this year.

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NEW BRUNSWICK FISHERIES

Value of fishery products in New Brunswick reached a record \$22,831,000 in 1956, a rise of 12 per cent from 1955's total of \$20,420,000, according to an advance release of final figures by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Catch of fish increased 16 per cent to 194,283,000 pounds from 167,438,000 and the landed value 21 per cent to \$8,146,000 from \$6,753,000. The increase was due mainly to heavier landings of groundfish and herring.

Groundfish catch was up 26 per cent to 77,398,000 pounds from 61,358,000 a year earlier and the landed value 14 per cent to \$1,807,000 from \$1,582,000, largely accounted for by a heavy run of cod that occurred in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Landings of herring increased 29 per cent to 71,443,000 pounds from 55,443,000 and the value to fishermen 60 per cent to \$1,037,000 from \$647,000, caused in part by a large catch of small herring or "sardines".

Output of frozen packaged fillets climbed to 8,860,000 pounds valued at \$1,554,000 from 4,873,000 pounds worth \$1,171,000. Pack of canned fish products increased to 909,471 cases from 533,070 and the value to \$7,366,000 from \$4,036,000, pack of canned sardines at 832,278 cases valued at \$5,411,000 was nearly twice the previous year's total.

Capital equipment employed in the primary operations of the province's fisheries was valued at \$9,304,000 compared to the preceding year's \$9,643,000 and the number of fishermen at 9,785 versus 10,066.