



Burma

NEW DEEP-SEA FISHING COMPANY: A company has been formed to utilize one of Burma's greatest natural assets, her very long coast line, which places her in an extremely advantageous position to explore the possibilities of deep-sea fishing, according to an article in the New Times of Burma of January 13, 1948, as reported by the American Embassy at Rangoon.

The company in question has already acquired two deep-sea refrigerated trawlers, each of 58 tons dead-weight and 30 tons capacity, equipped with wireless and the latest mechanized fishing equipment as well as a floating cold storage of 100 tons capacity. Its headquarters will be at Mergui and the trawlers will operate mainly off the Tenasserim Coast.

The company has been formed with the object of providing fish to the people of Burma at a greatly reduced figure and later to explore the possibilities of fish byproducts; viz., fish fertilizer and meal, extraction of oil and fish maws (sounds) both for local consumption and export to the United Kingdom, Australia, and America, from which countries enquiries have already been received.

The Burmese as a nation have always shown a distinct preference for fish in their daily diet, and it is a matter of common knowledge that fish ranks second only to rice in the national diet and that no meal in a Burmese house is complete without fish.



Canada

SEA FISHERIES--1947: According to a preliminary review of the sea fisheries for the calendar year 1947, by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, landings amounted to 1,093.7 million pounds, a decrease of about 10 percent from the 1946 total. These landings were valued at \$46,038,000, a decline of about 17 percent from the previous year's figure.

The decline in production in 1947 occurred in the fisheries of the Atlantic Coast, where landings were 20 percent by volume and 33 percent by value below those of 1946. The most serious decline took place in the cod fishery. Landings of that species fell off by more than 100,000,000 pounds from the 1946 total of 312.5 million pounds. About one-quarter of this loss was incurred during the

tie-up of the deep-sea fishing fleet at the beginning of 1947. The greater part of the loss, however, is attributable to a sag in the U. S. market for frozen fillets early in the year. This resulted in a drop in the price for raw cod which remained effective during the height of the fishing season and caused numbers of fishermen to withdraw from this fishery in certain districts, notably in the Gaspé area, and otherwise greatly reduced the fishing effort. The value of the 1947 landings of cod was less than half that of the 1946 catch.

Landings in the other great Atlantic fishery, that of lobsters, also showed a decline, but this is attributable to adverse fishing conditions.

The important Pacific Coast fisheries--salmon, herring, and halibut--all showed increases in both quantity landed and value during 1947. In volume, landings totaled 474.8 million pounds, and in value, \$23,199,000, representing increases of 8.5 percent and 6.3 percent, respectively. (Because of a smaller catch of sockeye salmon, a high priced item, over-all value increased less than total volume of landings.)

As to disposition of the catch, perhaps the most significant development on the Atlantic Coast was the drop in the production of cod fillets. A large part of the decrease in cod landings is accounted for by the reduced requirements of the filleting plants. The quantities of cod salted and canned showed slight increases. There was also a substantial increase in the production of canned sardines in 1947. On the Pacific Coast, the only significant change in disposition was an increase in the quantity of herring canned. The disposition of the salmon catch between the fresh markets and the canneries appears to have been fairly normal.



Iceland

FOREIGN TRADE IN 1946: Iceland, with an area of around 40,000 square miles, is approximately as large as Ireland and had a population, in 1947, of 132,750, of whom 51,011 lived in Reykjavik, the capital. The 1940 census gave the following occupational distribution:

Agriculture - 30.6%	Fisheries - 15.9%	Business - 7.2%	Civil Service - 5.8%
Industry - 21.3%	Communications - 8.7%	Personal Services - 5.3%	Nonworkers - 5.2%

Fishing and agriculture are the two major industries of Iceland. In 1946, the total fish catch amounted to 368,000 tons, a total below average because of the failure of the herring season, which amounted to only 131,700 tons. The herring yielded 19,470 tons of oil, 19,724 tons of meal, and 4,188 barrels of salted herring, while the other varieties of fish were processed as follows:

Iced - 44.7%	Frozen - 37.1%	Salted - 16.1%
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Small quantities were also dried or canned and a relatively small amount was consumed in Iceland.

The unit of currency is the Icelandic crown (krona) of 100 aurar. At the present official rate of exchange, 6.4727 Icelandic crowns equals \$1.00 United States currency.

Rigid measures of exchange control are in force, particularly in the use of dollars. All imports require an exchange permit for payment to the foreign supplier.

Iceland is served by three banks, one of which is the Fisheries Bank which specializes in fishing, industry, and commerce.

Iceland imports a great variety of manufactured goods, raw materials, and foodstuffs, and exports fish, fish products, furs, hides, skins, wool, and meat. Exports in 1946 amounted to \$45,000,000, and imports to \$68,000,000. Of the total exports, 36 percent went to Great Britain, 20 percent to the Soviet Union, 13 percent to the United States, and 14 percent to Denmark and Sweden combined. Of the total imports, 37 percent were supplied by Great Britain, 25 percent by the United States, and 20 percent by Sweden and Denmark combined. Machinery and electrical equipment, food, raw materials, and textile products were among the chief exports from the United States; coal, cement, salt, and petroleum fuels were the major import items from the United Kingdom. From Sweden and Denmark came chiefly machinery. Most of Iceland's imports of grain came from Canada.



Exports of Fishery Products from Iceland

Fish Exports	To all countries		To United States only	
	Metric Tons	Value in Crowns	Metric Tons	Value in Crowns
Fish on ice	72,699	62,010,530	-	-
Frozen fish	23,998	60,979,340	2,986	8,098,000
Cod liver oil	7,745	28,482,450	5,922	21,999,000
Salted herring	158,662 bbls.	27,979,660	9,638 bbls.	2,126,000
Herring oil	17,534	26,787,670	-	-
Saltfish, uncured	10,908	17,849,430	-	-
Herring meal	10,195	7,972,120	3,381	3,008,000
Fish meal	6,169	4,079,030	1,534	1,112,000
Canned fish	514	2,875,000	289	1,477,000
Salted roe	14,723 bbls.	2,693,390	269 bbls.	85,000
Saltfish, in barrels	625	1,039,110	-	-

An ad valorem export duty is levied on the f.o.b. prices of exports as follows:

Salt herring	3.75%
Other fish products	2.25%
All agricultural products100%

A reciprocal trade agreement between the United States and Iceland provides for reciprocal most-favored-nation treatment and certain tariff adjustments.

The capacity of Iceland as a purchaser of foreign goods is limited to its ability to find external markets for its produce. Consequently, in ratio to available currency, limitations are imposed on imports from different areas. Importers must obtain import licenses before placing orders, or their merchandise may not be allowed to enter the country. Consular invoices are not required.

Japan

ARMY LIFTS QUOTA ON TRADERS: The lifting of over-all and national quotas for private traders and announcement that applications for entry into Japan may be submitted by persons wishing to seek restitution of their property or to investigate the possibilities for private investment, was announced on February 3 by General MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo and the Department of the Army in Washington.

All entrants must be sponsored by their respective governments and approved by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers as having business interests which will contribute to the rehabilitation of the Japanese economy.

The existing 21-day limitation on visits of private traders in Japan has been expanded to an initial period of 60 days for all persons who wish to enter Japan. During this period, those who wish to remain longer, provided they meet certain requirements, may apply for a semi-permanent resident's permit.

It was emphasized that the new entrance criteria do not alter existing regulations governing procedures for transacting business, or types of business activity permitted in Japan. Foreign trade still must be transacted through Boeki Cho, the Japanese Government's official Board of Trade, and contracts must be validated by SCAP.

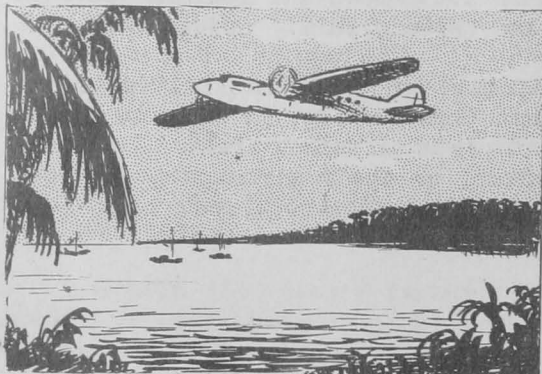


Norway

WHALING TREATY: A Norwegian Government proposal recommending ratification of the International Whaling Agreement for the control of pelagic whaling has been forwarded to Parliament. The Foreign Ministry noted that the agreement was regarded as satisfactory and that the limitation of whaling is a prime condition for the continuation of pelagic whaling in the Antarctic areas. The statement added that whaling nations should be fully aware that it may soon be necessary to impose a further limitation on the number of whales caught, in the interest of whale conservation, and that preparation should be made accordingly.



Venezuela



SHIPPING FISH BY AIR: The first commercial shipments of fish by air in Venezuela was started on January 22, according to a report from the American Embassy at Caracas. The first cargo of 10,900 pounds of iced fish were carried in a Catalina ship from "Los Roques" in the Venezuelan Islands to Caracas, a distance of about 100 miles.

As there has been a local fish famine in and around Caracas for several weeks,

the fish was all sold by noon of the day of arrival. Red snapper and Spanish mackerel sold 4 bolivares per kilogram (55 cents per pound); grouper, at 3.50 bolivares (84 cents); and grunts, at 2.75 bolivares (37-2/3 cents).

At present, flights are expected every 2 or 3 days, but if the market demand improves, a second plane will be added.



FUNCTIONS OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

There is in some quarters, I find, a misunderstanding of the Food and Agriculture Organization's functions and the job that it can do. I find that in the minds of some people there was the thought that this Organization, whose Constitution sets forth its aims in terms of the ideal, could immediately and henceforth become responsible for all the work of righting all the wrongs that occurred in food matters and world trade. Some people thought that it was another UNRRA and would have vast sums of money to spend in food relief, in farm machinery, and other equipment. Others thought that it would be a super national authority which could order the affairs of nations and override their sovereignty.

These, as we know, are mistaken conceptions. As a matter of fact, FAO's position may be likened to that of the engineer and the architect, but not that of the owner. The engineer gathers all available data concerning the problem and points to gaps in knowledge. He applies the existing scientific facts to a particular purpose. The architect uses the knowledge furnished by the engineer to design a structure to satisfy a human need. But it is the owner who is responsible for the actual construction based upon that design. FAO is the engineer, the architect, the consultant. Nations and countries themselves are the owners. It is on this concept that FAO works. It assembles available knowledge and converts it into a uniform terminology. It assists in applying this knowledge to a particular purpose or design and it will probably go further where necessary by helping countries with education and skilled advice during the work on the actual construction or utilization.

--Address delivered by Dr. D. B. Finn,
Director, Fisheries Division, FAO,
At the East Coast Fisheries Conference,
Chateau Frontenac, Quebec City, on
February 3, 1948.