

## Canadians not big offenders

WASHINGTON (CP)—A little research has shown that Canadian diplomats didn't have 15 unpaid traffic tickets on their person.

Contrary to recent published reports here, it was only three, says an embassy spokesman who went and checked the police files personally.

Figures for unpaid diplomatic violations were published here recently in full, showing about 6,500 for all Washington diplomats for the previous 10

months. Russia led with nearly 3,000. Mistakes in police files led to the higher Canadian figure, the spokesman said. Canadians are under standing order to pay fines for traffic violations recorded against their diplomatic licences but exceptions can be made for autos tagged while on official duty.

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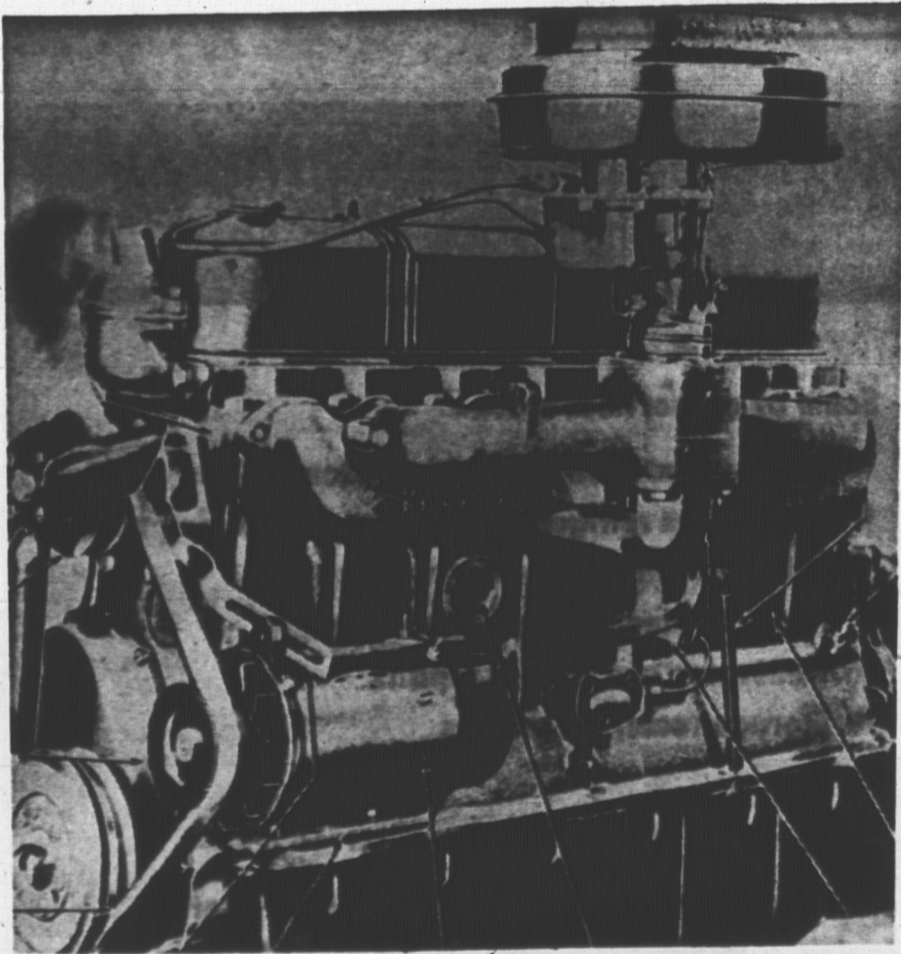
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DAY'S LOBSTER CATCH WEIGHED-IN

## PENALTIES PAYING OFF

# Fisheries officers see decline in poaching

Stiffer penalties in the way of heavy fines and even confiscation of boats and cars appears to have been the right approach to the problem of illegal lobster fishing if results achieved last year are a true criterion.

Fisheries officials have stated the serious problem of poaching, long a sore point in Prince County, though not solved entirely had been greatly alleviated and less trouble was expected this coming season than in past years.

However, it was noted the matter was beginning to assume some importance in an area hitherto relatively free from it as signs were evident of illegal fishing in Kings County.

One official stated "whenever the value of our natural resources rises then the problems of protection for them begin".

In trying to solve those problems fisheries officers last year laid 198 charges resulting in 190 convictions. Violations of lobster

fishery regulations easily led the way with 124 cases; of these 89 were for taking undersized lobsters; 19 for leaving early for the fishing grounds; and 16 for placing gear too early. There were 33 charges laid under oyster fisheries regulations.

In the conservation of fisheries—and this is the real purpose behind enforcement of regulations—many measures have to be employed. Included are setting minimum size limits to prevent fish being taken from the waters before they have grown to the age or size when they might reproduce. This factor is of particularly great importance to the lobster and industry.

### IMPORTANT FACTOR

In fact it is of importance to any branch of fisheries as may be seen from other limitations imposed, such as bag limits, seasonal catch limits or the time limit as set by 'open' or closed seasons. All are designed to ultimately benefit the fishermen of this and later generations.

If much of the emphasis on enforcement seems to centre on lobsters one of the big reasons is that this crustacean alone is worth three times as much as all others combined. Last year the lobster brought a staggering total of \$4,210,000 into the pockets of Islanders—and this is the price paid the lobsterman at the shore for his catch.

However, despite the great worth of this particular catch, there is still a living to be made through a variety of other types of fish. In these the gear necessary for successful fishing is more complicated than the simple lobster pot and as varied as the industry itself.

Not all fishermen agree on the value of any one type. For instance, there is wide disagreement regarding use of the gill net for catching cod. Last year some fishermen in West Prince did exceptionally well with the net while others landed their nets in the middle of the season and finished with trawl and hand lines. Along the middle North Shore area the success with them last year will lead to further use, but from there an east fishermen seem agreed they are of doubtful value after two seasons.

Stern trawlers were introduced last year with anguinary results. Whether the lack of success was due to inefficiency of men or equipment remains to be seen, but it is hoped familiarity with the method will result in improvement.

The catch of haddock was down last year, but hake was up noticeably for the third successive year. The herring catch

dropped but not for lack of fish as poor market conditions kept many fishermen from making

any effort to land them during heavy runs in waters off Southern Kings. Mackerel landings were up with some catches as high as 35,000 pounds reported for a 40-foot boat.

Knowledgeable men agree should raise the interest of fishermen since many of them along that shore got a good part of their income from it.

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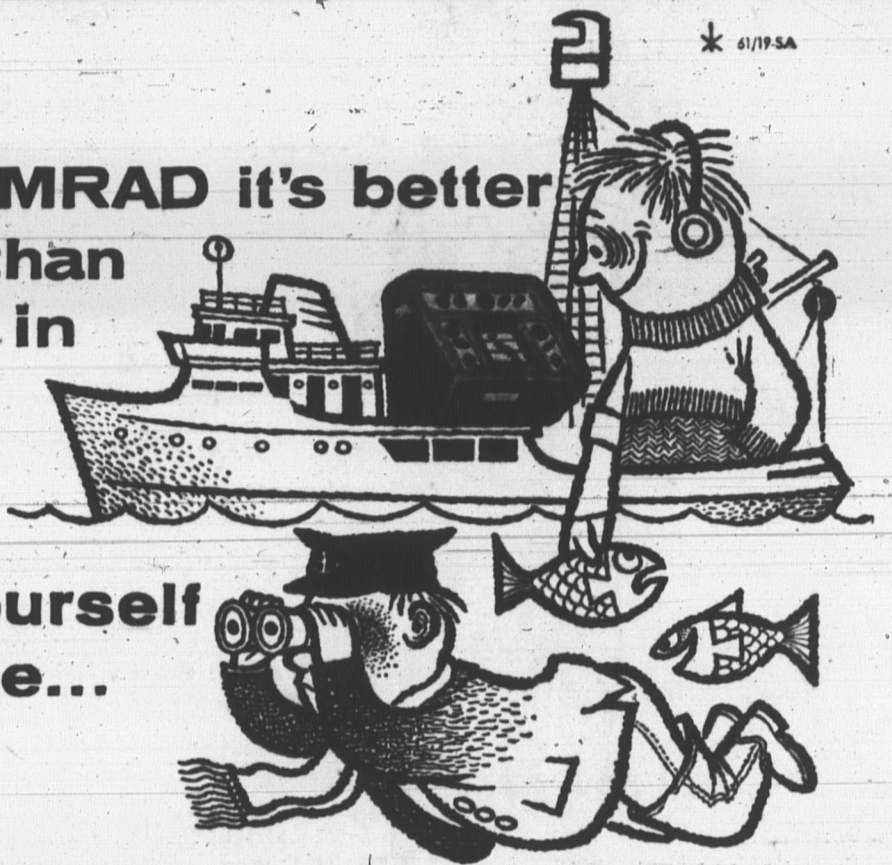
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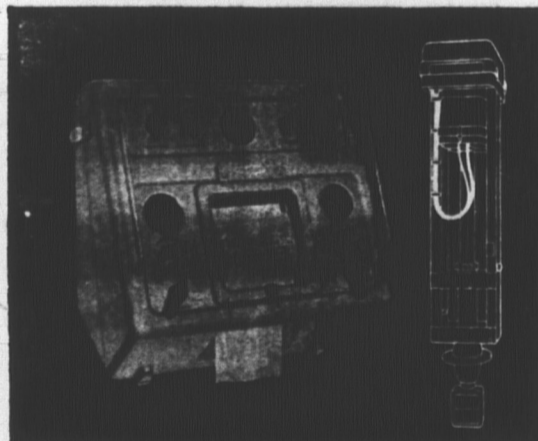
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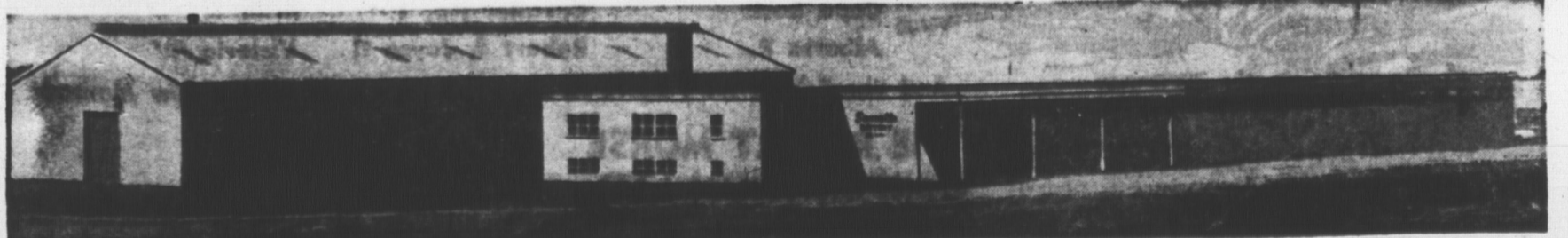
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