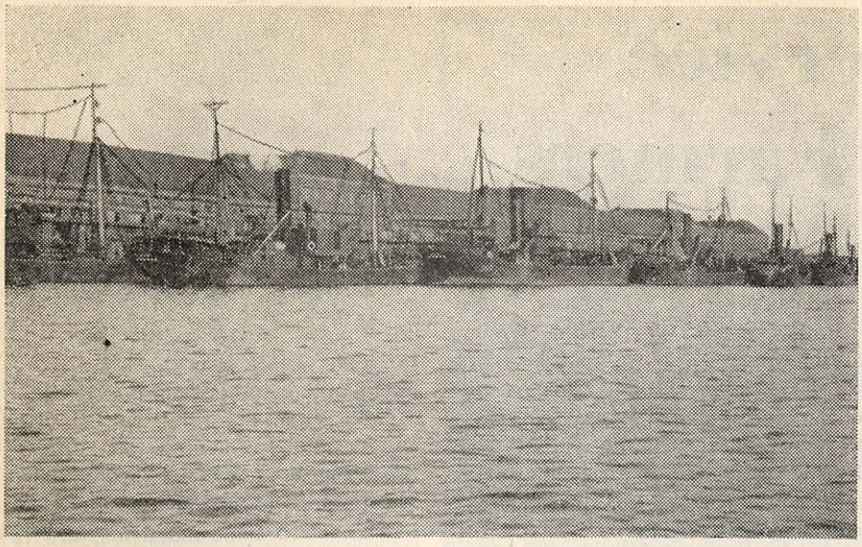
Breme Fishing



Trawlers filled with fish dock in front of auction halls at Bremerhaven

German workers sort the fish and place it into baskets before taking it ashore

Baskets filled with herring are ready for transportation to the auction halls

BREMERHAVEN, one of the largest pre war fishing ports on the European continent, is returning to its former importance.

Anyone comparing the Bremerhaven fishing harbor in late 1945 with its appearance today will be impressed by an immense increase in activity and volume of business.

In the evening hundreds of workmen gather in the great auction halls alongside the quays of the Seefischmarkt GmbH (Sea Fish Market Company) to unload the fish brought in from the North Sea by trawlers and cutters.

The port employs more than 8,300 persons almost 40 percent more than in 1945. Twenty-two hundred are crew members while approximately 5,000 are working in the fish industry and works connected with it.

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While the herring season was in progress from July through November it was not unusual to see a dozen sh moored along the quays at one time.

During the last three years, 58 la trawlers which had served in the Gerr Navy were rebuilt in local shipyards added to the fleet of 24 small trawlers in the port when the war ended in May 1

One newly constructed trawler has jo the other fishing boats. In all, they r up a fleet of 83 trawlers and 113 cutters no landing their catches at this fishing port.

A large part of the entire present Germa fishing fleet sails from Bremerhaven. Thirty seven luggers operate from Vegesack on th Weser River between Bremen and Breme haven. This figure includes the 10 trawle and six cutters which were rebuilt durin 1947 and 1948 and allocated to Bremerhave During the war all of these boats had bee utilized by the German navy.

An additional two trawlers and 24 cutte are expected for the Bremerhaven fleet aft reconversion work has been completed.

Immense difficulties in the procurement supplies for the fleet and the industry ha been overcome in attaining today's volum of production. In the first months of postw

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operation, coal, nets and fishermen's clothing were often unobtainable, resulting in many days lost from fishing. Today the coal supply is regular and dependable and nets and clothing are at least adequate if not plentiful.

Ice-making facilities have been increased, though the margin over requirements is still only minimal. There are still many shortages of scarce materials but gradually the industry is being restored.

The organization entrusted with the operation of the fishing port is the Seefischmarkt GmbH, which handles the administration of the port and its facilities, unloads the ships and aids in the allocation of the fish.

In order to carry out its duties smoothly, the Seefischmarkt has a post office of its own, a telephone switchboard with more than 500 numbers, its own machine-shop, locksmith-workshop a joiner's workshop and a guard unit of 44 men o protect the extensive property.

Another important organization involved is the Produktionsstelle der Hauptgeschaeftsstelle Fisch (Production Branch of the Principal Fishery Agency), in charge of the economic supervision of the fish production and regulation of the distribution of fish and other sea products. This office operates according to instructions issued by the Hauptgeschaeftsstelle Fischwirtschaft in Hamburg which is controlled by the Bizonal Office for Food, Agriculture and Forestry in Frankfurt.

About half the establishments of the Seefischmarkt company—property of the former Prussian state, now under trusteeship of Property Control Branch OMG Bremen in compliance with Control Council Directive No. 46—were destroyed during the war.

Nevertheless, approximately 75 percent of the actual port grounds, comprising about three square miles, are again in operation, including the extended auction halls, packing houses and sheds. The company is again able ton unload more than 2,000 tons of fresh

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the US. Army.

Among the many types of fish caught in the North Sea are mackerel

Veterinary officials make final inspection before fish are distributed

Mr. J. Nichols (center) confers with German fishery officials

(Continued from page 13)

Forests of the Bizone

the better grades is cut into veneers. During and since the war, large quantities of beech have been used as generator wood; that is, wood used in wood-burning automobiles.

It is also the main fuelwood for south Germany. Ordinarily only the branches and logging waste are used for fuelwood. Because of the scarcity of coal since the war, however, great quantities of beech as well as oak, spruce and pine which otherwise would have been used by industry, had to be cut into fuelwood for space heating in the cities.

AS IN THE United States, oak is used for flooring, finishing, veneers, paneling and many other purposes for which high grade hardwood is necessary. One of its important uses in Germany is for staves for wine barrels. Both oak and beech are also largely used for railroad ties.

For many years, Germany has had a well developed woodworking industry. This uses large quantities of all the species mentioned as well as apple, pear and linden wood, often cut from orchards or from roadside trees. In addition, this industry as well as the furniture industry before the war, imported many valuable woods for its use. Most important among them were mahogany, circassion walnut, ebony and other tropical woods. These imports, which were cut off during the war, are again commencing in a small way.

The comprehensive forest inventory of 1946 showed that the commercial forests of the Bizone cover an area of 10,223,000 acres. They contain a total volume, including trees of all sizes, 115,000,000,000 board feet of timber which in 1946 showed an annual growth of 3,900,000,000 board feet. These volumes are for all timber up to 2.75 inches in diameter and therefore consist only in part of saw timber.

In the US Zone the total volume was shown to be 29 percent in saw timber, 42 percent in mine props and pulpwood and 29 percent in fuelwood and generator wood. The British Zone shows similar percentages. These timber figures seem large, but when one considers that the cut each year ought not to be more than the growth, if the forests are to continue to supply timber, one finds that the resources will hardly go around.

IN THE FIRST two years of the occupation, as already mentioned, cutting was according to needs regardless of growth. This was necessary since there was not time to balance cut with growth because the necessary information to do so was not readily available. It was early decided, too, that Great Britain should have some timber from the British Zone, in view of the fact her own forests had been largely depleted because of the war. That meant an export program in addition to the local and military requirements.

The cut in 1945-46 was nearly 9,000,000,000 board feet; in 1946-47, 9,375,000,000 board feet, and in 1947-48, 7,500,000,000 board feet. It was found that these amounts were 230 percent, 240 percent and 192 percent of the 1946 growth which meant that the resource was being further depleted.

It had been the general Allied opinion that Germany had large timber reserves. It was said that timber was purposely allowed to become very old and large to be held for future needs. Some even thought that there was a tremendous volume of large timber which constituted a serious war potential.

IN VIEW OF these opinions an inventory should be shown for the Bizone:

The stands were classified according to size. In the two zones, the inventory showed 56 percent of the area and 24 percent of the volume in small trees up to six inches in diameter, 20 percent of the area and 35 percent of the volume in trees six to 10 inches in diameter, 14 percent of the area and 31 percent of the volume in trees 10 to 14 inches in diameter and only four percent of the area and 10 percent of the volume over 14 inches in diameter. The additional six percent of the area was in clear cut condition.

In the coniferous stands the large sized trees were still scarcer. Here only two percent of the area and seven percent of the volume was in trees over 14 inches in diameter. In total usable volume the spruce and pine trees over 14 inches in diameter amounted to 4,750,000,000 board feet which is not much more than the softwood timber cut last year. At the rate of cutting of the first three occupation years, it is estimated that sawlog-size trees will be gone in eight years. Thereafter lumber would have to come from small trees really not yet ready for cutting.

Both the British and US Military Governments have recognized that cutting cannot continue at these rates. Their policy provides for a progressive decrease in the cut in order to bring it back to normal within a few years. They are also decreasing exports of German timber which will probably cease within two years. It is then contemplated that some imports will be allowed since, in the long run, the timber requirements of the two zones cannot entirely be met by the local forests.

COUPLED WITH THIS, the Germans are being urged and encouraged to replant the eight percent of the forests which is at present in clear-cut condition and therefore out of production. In addition they are taking steps for the more economical use of forest products such as revising building specifications, substituting other materials where feasible and using more preservatives.

The policy is a compromise between sustained yield forestry and economic necessity. With the increased need for timber to rebuild the war damage, it would not be possible to decrease the cut to normal at once without importing great quantities of timber. That, of course, is out of the question because of the general shortage of timber in Europe and the inability of Germany to finance large imports.

Under the established policy the two zones should recover at a reasonable rate without entirely depleting their forests. They will, however, have to practice strict economy in the use of forest products to make them go as far as possible. Even then, forests will have suffered severely and their productive capacity will have been reduced by probably 20 to 25 percent for many years to come. +END