

FISH TRADE WANTS PEACE:

The last catches of herring by no means dispelled the gloom suffered by this section of the fishing industry. They've had the most disastrous season on record. Hence, at a conference in London delegates of fourteen countries (Russia included) sat in an frame of atmosphere of approaching crisis. Object of the meeting was to frame a new Fisheries Conservation Convention. Tempers of Grimsby trawlermen were distinctly frayed when an Iceland vessel unloaded there; for Iceland's attempt to enforce a 12-mile limit, inside which British ships may not fish, is another factor which threatens ruin to our own men.

Pessimism was rife at Lowestoft, where F.E. Catchpole, Chairman of the English Herring Catchers Association, knows how much they're up against it in the North Sea. Nets made here comply with standards agreed by the 1946 Convention. Smaller mesh, shown at the top of this scene, used by foreign fishermen, trap small fish, too young to reach mature size. And in the markets, folks say there'll be no fish to be caught in two years time: The foreigners' greed will have over-reached itself. It's vitally important that the delegates assembled in London get down to a sensible agreement. Otherwise fish may cease to be on sale anywhere.