

Council  
e gath-  
sulting  
to in-  
Calais  
the  
e law  
lmer  
f of  
ston,  
P  
ated  
the  
sist  
ars  
or-  
be  
lish-  
Au-  
hor-  
in  
the  
blic  
be  
ewal  
hall  
the  
hich  
The  
is 5  
ents  
id 5

Hank Murphy of the kiddies at a pre-Christmas merc 1/4/1961 ca on in Calais.

# First Fish Of Extended Season Hit Robbinston

B 171

The first fish of the present extended sardine canning season came into the Robbinston Canning Company last week, it was reported to the Advertiser by Ray Johnson, Company manager, on Wednesday.

The fish amounting to 40 hogsheads of britt or young herring, kept packers busy last Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Seven additional hogsheads came in yesterday.

The latest batch of fish were taken from the fishing grounds off Grand Manan, where boatmen report that signs for the future are good. The Grand Manan fish are good - sized sardines as opposed to the britt last week taken from the Beaver Harbor and Seeley's Cove area which averaged between 30 and 50 fish to the can.

"It looks as though things might pick up," said Johnson, who went on to predict that the industry would reach the million mark in cases packed before the winter is over.

The sardine industry this year has reached a crisis point due to the shortest pack since 1938.

Though the pack this year was slightly larger than that of 1938, its relative size in terms of population is, of course, much smaller. In addition, increased competition for supermarket shelf space, has made the threatened loss of that space to the industry a very serious matter.

The Special Session of the 100th Legislature late in November authorized extension of the canning season until early in 1963, not because it felt that the yearly average of 2,000,000 cases could be reached by a winter packing season but because any fish packed at all in addition to the regular season catch would make retention of markets for the industry that much less uncertain.

News such as that received from Robbinston this week is cheering to all those concerned with the fate of Maine's sardine industry.

## 333 Prisoners Sent To County And State Institutions In 1961