

by the fall in crayfish prices. Although subject to a number of year to year fluctuations, oyster and scallop production (mainly from N.S.W. and Tasmania respectively) appear to have increased in recent years.

"Production of Australian canned fish has been steadily growing, but a rise of 51.7% between 1957/58 and 1961/62 was mainly the result of a 45.4% rise during the last year. The strongest element in this trend has been the consistent increase in tuna canning, which, in 1961/62, was 179% greater in weight than it was in 1957/58.

"Statistics of persons engaged in fisheries in Australia record an 18.5% increase in numbers between 1959/60 and 1961/62.

#### Prospects for the Industry

"The major expansionary movement in the foreseeable future will probably be centred on crustaceans and molluscs, owing to the difficulty of expanding the fish catch in Australia very much further, with the possible exception of tuna. Production of crayfish is expected to continue its rising trend, and development plans recently announced for the Northern Territory may also considerably expand future prawn hauls, and thereby give a further boost to our export market.

"Valuable hauls in a recently discovered scallop field in Port Phillip Bay may well result in Victoria making an important contribution to scallop production in the near future. Most of the recent catch is being "snap-frozen" for export. However, the recent lifting of sales tax on imported canned fish is expected to have an adverse effect on the local canning of barracouta and salmon, and may cause a reduction in the catch of these varieties."

#### STRAW NECKED IBIS

Mr. A.J. Bateman reported that on November 10 he saw a large flight of Straw necked Ibis flying south, parallel with Brentwood Road, Wattle Grove. There were between 80 and 100 birds in a V formation, 200 - 300 feet up. He said that he had not seen such a large aggregation of this species previously.