

CHAPTER XI.

Extensive Fisheries.—Fresh Water Fisheries.—Sea Fisheries.—Yield since Confederation.—Fishermen, Vessels and Gear.—Government Protection.—Protective Fleet.—Fish Hatcheries.—The Great Lakes.—British Columbia.—The Bounty.—Development by Provinces.—Value of Yield and Exports.—Value of Kinds of Fish.—Marine Scientific Stations.—The Fur Sealing Fleet.

767. The fisheries of Canada are the most extensive in the world, embracing a sea-coast line of immense extent in addition to inland seas, innumerable lakes and a great number of rivers. The coast line of British Columbia alone is 7,181 miles, or more than double the coast line of Great Britain and Ireland. The eastern sea-coast line, extending along the shores of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Quebec, from the Bay of Fundy to the Straits of Belle Isle, cover a distance of 5,600 miles.

768. While the salt water inshore area, not including minor indentations, covers more than 15,000 square miles, abounding with fish life, the fresh water area of that part of the great lakes belonging to Canada is computed at 36,350 square miles. Manitoba and the North-west Territories also contain large sheets of water well stocked with the most excellent fish.

769. The most important deep-sea fishery grounds on the Atlantic are off the coasts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Islands, around the Magdalen Islands, the Baie des Chaleurs, the Island of Anticosti, and the Labrador Coast.

770. Between the years 1869 and 1894 the principal commercial fisheries yielded as follows:—

Cod	99,175,313
Herring.....	48,876,782
Lobsters.....	44,549,002
Mackerel.....	36,125,437
Salmon.....	38,006,074
Haddock.....	12,245,819

771. The commercial value of the fisheries was nearly \$21,000,000 in 1894, an increase of \$32,912 on the yield of 1893. This does not include the value, probably amounting to two millions, of the large quantity of salmon and other fish consumed by the Indians of British Columbia, Manitoba and the North-west Territories.

772. Engaged in the fishing industry of Canada in 1894, there were 70,719 men, using vessels, boats, nets and other gear, valued at \$9,439,116.