

FISHERIES.

Capital Invested.—The estimated total capital invested in the fisheries amounted in 1916-17 to \$28,728,962, as compared with \$25,855,575 in 1915-16. Of the total for 1916-17 the sum of \$25,971,664 was invested in connection with the sea fisheries and \$2,757,298 in connection with the inland fisheries. The value of the vessels and boats is represented by \$10,097,517 in 1916-17, as against \$8,940,458 in 1915-16, and the value of the fishing gear, canneries, fish-houses and other fixtures by \$18,631,445 in 1916-17, as against \$16,915,117 in 1915-16. Table 52 shows the distribution of capital amongst the various descriptions of vessels, boats, nets, traps, etc., used in both sea and inland fisheries for the fiscal year 1916-17.¹

Number of Fishermen.—There were 95,304 persons employed in the fishing industry during the year 1916-17, as compared with 102,182 in 1915-16, the sea fisheries engaging 85,367 persons and the inland fisheries 9,937. Of the total in 1916-17, 9,192 were employed on vessels, tugs and smacks, 59,697 on boats, 735 without boats, and 25,680 on shore in canneries, freezers, smoke-houses, etc.¹

Fishing Bounties.—Under an Act of 1882 (45 Vict., c. 18), passed for development of the sea fisheries and encouragement of the building of fishing vessels, provision was made for the distribution in bounties of \$150,000 annually among the owners of fishing vessels and fishermen engaged in fishing from boats in the deep sea fisheries of Canada. An Act of 1891 (54-55 Vict., c. 42) increased the amount to \$160,000. By Order-in-Council of January 19, 1916, made under the provisions of the Revised Statutes of 1906, c. 46, the distribution of the appropriation of \$160,000 for the year 1916-17 was made on the following basis: \$1 per registered ton to owners of vessels, \$6.45 to each vessel fisherman, \$4.10 to each boat fisherman and \$1 per boat to owners of fishing boats. The number of vessels which received bounties in 1916-17 was 849 with an aggregate tonnage of 21,120, a decrease of 92 vessels and 2,518 tons, as compared with 1915-16. The number of boats on which bounties were paid was 12,744, and the number of boat fishermen who received bounties was 22,682, a decrease of 1,182 boats and of 1,972 men, as compared with 1915-16. The total number of fishermen in vessels and boats to whom bounties were paid in 1916-17 was 28,155, a decrease of 2,622, as compared with the previous year. The number of claims filed in 1916-17 was 13,604, a decrease of 1,273 over 1915-16, and the number paid was 13,593, or 1,264 less than in the previous year. The total fishing bounties paid since 1882 amount to \$5,537,186.

Table 53 shows by provinces the number of fishermen who received bounties and the amount of the bounties paid to them during each of the fiscal years 1913-1916.

¹For similar statistics of previous years, see Canada Year Book of 1911, p. 390. Also for a description of the extent of Canadian fisheries and the methods of capture, see edition of 1914, page 230.