

**Inland Fish Markets.**—Other government assistance to the fishing industry takes the form of encouraging the development of markets for fresh fish in the interior of the country by payment of one-third of the ordinary express charges on shipments of fresh fish from the Atlantic coast to points as far west as the eastern boundary of Manitoba and from the Pacific coast as far east as that boundary. Cold storage cars by fast freight are placed at the disposal of shippers from the Atlantic seaboard, and aid is rendered in the building of small cold storage establishments for the storing of bait. Fish-breeding is carried on by the Dominion Government upon an extensive scale, the expenditure for this service in 1916-17 amounting to \$275,167. The hatcheries in operation number altogether 59, including seven subsidiary hatcheries; there are also retaining ponds for Atlantic salmon. The hatcheries are situated in Prince Edward Island (3), Nova Scotia (13), New Brunswick (11), Quebec (7), Ontario (8), Manitoba (4), Saskatchewan (1), Alberta (1) and British Columbia (11). In addition, there is one hatchery in British Columbia which is operated by the British Columbia Packers' Association.

**Production and Value of Fisheries.**—In comparing the results of one season with another it must not be forgotten that the volume of production is affected by certain natural conditions which differ greatly from year to year. For instance, every fourth year there occurs on the Fraser river a big run of salmon. In the following years the run gradually diminishes till it reaches its poorest stage in the year preceding the next big run. The masses of herring and mackerel that visit Canadian shores vary in volume annually—the latter especially being extremely erratic in their movements. The hook-and-line fisheries for cod, haddock, hake, halibut, etc., are dependent on a supply of herring for bait, and a scarcity or abundance of this bait fish immensely affects the output of the line fishermen. Dogfish are more numerous in some seasons than in others, and destroy edible fish and gear to such an extent as to stop operations at times. Lastly the state of the weather, by limiting the number of fishing days or permitting operations on the greatest possible number of days in the course of the season, affects the production of all kinds of fish perhaps more than any other natural agent. The season of 1916 was adversely affected by several of these conditions. The poorest salmon year in the cycle of four on the Fraser river occurred; there was an abnormal amount of unfavourable foggy weather on the Atlantic coast; the spring herring fishery in the gulf of St. Lawrence was greatly curtailed as a result of ice remaining on the coast till a late date; and the summer and fall herring fishery all over the Atlantic coast was a very poor one.

Under these conditions the production of one or two of the chief kinds of fish during 1916-17 fell somewhat below that of the year before. For example, the salmon catch was 171,101 cwt. less. In the northern part of British Columbia, where there is no quadrennial fluctuation as in the southern part, the 1916-17 catch was greater, however, than that for 1915-16. The catch of cod was 126,525 cwt. less, while that of halibut fell short by 83,238 cwt. The quantity of herring landed was 143,460 cwt. less and of mackerel