

Exports.—Though the bison is nearly gone and the beaver and the marten are slowly following, the fur trade of Canada is in no immediate danger of extinction. A century ago, the value of the export trade in furs exceeded that of any other product. This has been greatly changed, yet the total output is not declining, and Canada may still be described as the last great fur preserve of the world. In 1667, exports of furs to France and the West Indies were valued at 550,000 francs. In 1850, the first year for which trade tables of the Customs Department are available, the value of raw furs exported was £19,395; in 1920, the value was \$20,617,291, and in 1921, \$11,711,981. Furs, dressed and undressed, to the value of \$14,836,350, were exported in the fiscal year 1922, the British market absorbing \$4,266,688 worth and the United States most of the rest. Canadian manufactures of furs and the home consumption are annually increasing with the growth of wealth and population. The area which will continue to furnish the historic peltries when settlement has planted its furthest outpost will still have to be reckoned by the hundreds of thousands of square miles.

V.—FISHERIES.

1.—The Early Fisheries.

Fishing is one of the earliest and most historic industries of Canada. From a date which precedes authentic record, the Normans, the Bretons and the Basques were on the cod-banks of Newfoundland. Cabot, in 1498, when he first sighted the mainland of North America, gave it the name of "Bacalaos," the Basque word for codfish, which he found already in use among those hardy seamen. Cape Breton, one of the oldest place-names in America, is another memorial of the early French fishermen,—and the Spaniards and the Portuguese were but little behind. Fernandez de Navarrete mentions all three as frequenters of the "Grand Bank" before 1502. The fishing was by hand lines over barrels made fast to the bulwarks to prevent fouling, the vessels remaining during fine weather, then returning to France with from 30,000 to 50,000 cod. Voyages along the coast soon showed the cod as plentiful inshore as on the outer banks, and it became common for a crew to anchor in a bay, erect a hut on shore, and make daily excursions to the fishing grounds—the product being salted and dried on land and at the end of the season shipped to France. Jacques Cartier, when he went up the St. Lawrence in 1534, found traces everywhere of these early "Captains Courageous" and of their rivalries in arms no less than in the capture of the teeming product which had tempted them so far from home. An establishment of the kind just mentioned was founded at Tadoussac by Chauvin in 1599. Soon the fishermen began to stay all winter and thus to erect permanent fishing settlements. Fishing, therefore, may well be regarded as the first industry to be systematically prosecuted by Europeans in what is today the Canadian domain. It has never since ceased to yield a perennial harvest both to Europe and America.

By the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, Britain became the owner of Newfoundland and excluded France from fishing and drying fish on certain sections of the coast, but France retained the fisheries of Cape Breton and the gulf. The Seven Years war (1756-1763) put a stop to continuous fishing. At its close, the Robin family of Jersey came to Canada, and gradually acquired the former French fishing stations. Until the arrival of the Loyalists, all other fishing but cod was neglected. Inshore fisheries alone (including those of the Labrador coast) were developed during this phase; no deep-sea fishing vessel put out from Lunenburg, now the chief centre of the deep-sea fishery, until 1873.