

until recently. There is also the whale fishery which has been organized in recent years with three stations, one on Vancouver island and two on the Queen Charlotte islands. The yearly catch of about 400 (269 in 1926) includes whales of many kinds—sulphur bottom, finback and humpback, with an occasional sperm whale. Whale hunting is carried on in fast boats with Svend Foyn harpoon guns—a method which was introduced from Norway. Every scrap of the whale is used—oil, whale-bone and guano are its more important products. Black cod, oulachon, smelts, pilchards, sturgeon, shad and bass are also abundant in British Columbia waters.

A word might be added with regard to the fur-seal fisheries of the Pacific, whose historic headquarters was the city of Victoria. The industry has disappeared, in part through the scarcity of the animals and in part through the workings of the Pelagic Sealing Treaty of 1911¹. The hair-seal fleets of the North Atlantic make St. John's, Newfoundland, their headquarters; a few Canadian vessels, however, clearing from Halifax, N.S., take fur-seals off the Falkland islands.

Game Fish.—The above is a purely industrial and commercial survey. Fishing for sport, however, has its economic side in a country of such famous game fish as the salmon of the Restigouche, the black bass of the Quebec and Ontario highlands and the trout of the Nipigon. A considerable public revenue is derived from the leasing of waters in sparsely settled districts to clubs and individuals for sporting purposes. Several hundred guides find employment here during the summer months.

3.—The Government and the Fisheries.

Upon the organization of the Government at Confederation, the administration of the Canadian fisheries and marine was placed in the charge of a Department of the Dominion Government, which then exercised complete jurisdiction over the fisheries under the supervision of a Cabinet Minister, with a large staff of inspectors, overseers and guardians to enforce the fishery laws. The expenditure of the Dominion on the fisheries in the fiscal year 1926-27, including Civil Government salaries, contingencies, etc., was \$1,552,345, and the revenue \$225,379. In 1882, 1898, 1913 and 1920, decisions in the courts considerably altered the status of jurisdiction as between the Dominion and the provinces. To-day the Dominion controls the tidal fisheries of the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia and the fisheries of the three Prairie Provinces. The non-tidal fisheries of the Maritime Provinces and Ontario and both the tidal and non-tidal fisheries of Quebec are controlled by the respective provinces, but the right of fisheries legislation for all provinces rests with the Dominion Government.

Conservation.—River and lake fisheries certainly, and sea fisheries probably, if left to themselves, conform to the economic law of diminishing returns. The Canadian Government, accordingly, has had for a main object the prevention of depletion, the enforcement of close seasons, the forbidding of obstructions and pollutions and the regulation of nets, gear and fishing operations generally. In addition, an extensive system of fish culture has been organized, the Dominion operating 32 hatcheries,² 6 subsidiary hatcheries and 4 salmon-retaining ponds in 1926, at a cost of \$258,000, and distributing 722,000,000 eggs, fry or older fish, mostly B.C. salmon and whitefish. The young fish are distributed gratis if the waters in which they are to be placed are suitable.

¹For the text of this treaty, see pp. lxxvii-cciii of the Statutes of Canada, 1912.

²Eight of these hatcheries were transferred to the province of Ontario as from July 1, 1926.