

Fisheries Statistics.—The fisheries statistics of Canada are issued under an arrangement for statistical co-operation between the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the Branches of the Dominion and provincial Governments, having jurisdiction with regard to fisheries, throughout Canada. These Branches comprise the Fisheries Branch of the Dominion Department of Marine and Fisheries, exercising jurisdiction over the fisheries of the Maritime Provinces, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia, and the Fisheries Branches of Ontario and Quebec, which have jurisdiction over the fisheries of their respective provinces, excepting that in the case of Quebec the fisheries of the Magdalen islands are under the jurisdiction of the Dominion authorities. The province of British Columbia has a Fisheries Branch, but it does not engage in independent statistical work. Under the arrangement above referred to, the statistics of the catch and of the products marketed in the fresh state or domestically prepared are collected by the local officers of the Fisheries Branches, checked in the Department of Marine and Fisheries and compiled in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In the case of manufactured fish products, schedules similar to those of other sections of the Census of Industry are sent by the Bureau to the operators of canneries, fish-curing establishments, etc., the fisheries officers assisting in securing expeditious and correct reports.

Section 4.—The Modern Fishing Industry.

The existing fishing industry of Canada is in the main the growth of the past half century. No comparable figures of production are available prior to the Confederation of the provinces, but about 1836 the production of fish in what are now the three Maritime Provinces had an estimated value of something like \$1,500,000, while the production of Lower Canada was probably worth \$1,000,000. In 1870 the total was \$6,500,000 and this was again more than doubled by 1878. In the 90's it passed \$20,000,000, and in 1912, \$34,000,000. The highest figure was reached in 1918, with over \$60,000,000, but this was a period of greatly inflated prices. (It will be understood that these figures represent the total values of fish marketed, whether in a fresh, dried, canned or otherwise prepared state.) Meanwhile the number of employees had mounted to over 70,000, and the total capital invested to over \$50,000,000 in certain years, though the industry as a whole did not progress proportionately with the marked industrial expansion which set in after 1896.¹

Among individual fish products, the cod and the salmon long disputed the primacy; if the record back to the beginning is taken, the cod is the most valuable fishery; in the past 20 years, however, the salmon has definitely taken the lead, and the heavy pack and high price of lobsters have more than once sent cod down to third place as in 1927, while halibut takes fourth place among the chief commercial fishes. These changes have, of course, affected the relative standing of the provinces, British Columbia now occupying the leading place that in earlier times belonged to Nova Scotia, and producing in recent years nearly half the total value. The yearly record of production since 1870, the total production by provinces for the past six years, and the record by principal fish products for the past five years in descending order of importance, are shown in Tables 2, 3 and 4. The aggregate value of production in 1928, \$55,050,973, shows an increase of 12·1 p.c. over the figure of \$49,123,609 in 1927. The catch was 17·7 p.c. larger, while average prices were 5·6 p.c. lower, the lower prices of salmon being the predominating factor. Preliminary estimates indicate a production of about \$57,000,000 in 1929.

¹For detailed historical statistics of the fisheries, see pp. 53-56 of *Fisheries Statistics of Canada*, 1928.