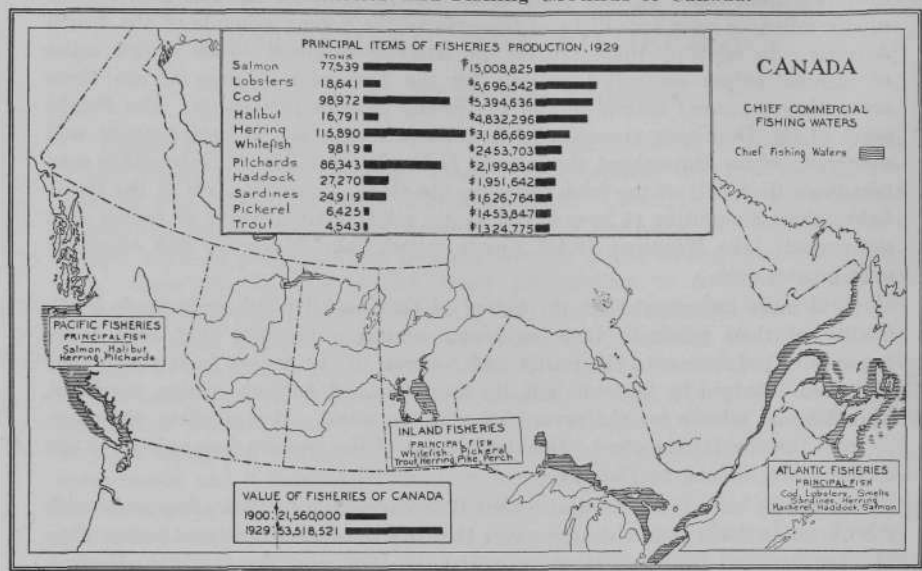


Fisheries Production and Fishing Grounds of Canada.



several years ago. There are now several steam trawlers operating from Nova Scotian ports. They operate practically the whole year and their catches are utilized entirely for the fresh fish trade.

Lobstering is another distinctive industry. In 1870, there were three lobster canneries on the Atlantic coast of Canada; to-day the canneries number almost 400 and give work to nearly 6,000 people; 30,000,000 lobsters is a normal catch. The difficulty of enforcing regulations as to the capture of undersized and spawning lobsters offers a constant problem in connection with the output, but the resulting decline is now thought to have been arrested. Oysters, once plentiful everywhere, are now found in somewhat diminished quantities. In New Brunswick the canning of sardines, locally young herring and not a distinct type of fish, is second only to lobstering.

The fishing population of the Maritime Provinces is a specialized and stable industrial class. The coast fisheries are operated from April to November, or to January in sheltered districts, and, though the larger vessels work all winter, several thousand men are available for a time each year for other employment. This they find about the small plots of land, which most of them own or occupy, in the lumber camps of New Brunswick or about the collieries of Nova Scotia. A few from Lunenburg and other centres engage in the West Indian trade. Apart from restrictions of weather and close seasons the prevailing method of paying the men on shares has a further tendency in years of low catches or prices to drive them into secondary occupations.

Inland Fisheries.—The Great Lakes and tributary waters of the St. Lawrence form a second great division of the Canadian fisheries. Whitefish, trout, perch, pickarel and lake herring are the most important commercial fishes of Ontario, though pike, sturgeon and coarse fish yield a fair return. The value of the inland fisheries of Quebec lies chiefly in the output of the eel and pickarel