

in part through the scarcity of the animals and in part through the workings of the Pelagic Sealing Treaty of 1911.¹ This treaty was made in the interests of conservation of the seal herds and under its terms pelagic or open-sea fishing is prohibited. As compensation for the suspension of her sealing privileges Canada receives annually from the United States, Russia and Japan a share of the proceeds of the sealing on the Pribilof islands and other rookeries owned by the respective countries.

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, the trout of the Nipigon, and the salmon, the trout and the bass of British Columbia. 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.

Section 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. Early in 1930 a change in departmental organization was effected, whereby two departments, each in charge of a Cabinet Minister, were created to administer respectively the Marine and the Fisheries.

In 1882, 1898, 1913 and 1920, decisions in the courts considerably altered the status of jurisdiction as between the Dominion and the provinces. The Dominion now controls the tidal fisheries of the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia and the fisheries of the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The non-tidal fisheries of the Maritime Provinces, the Prairie Provinces and Ontario, and both the tidal and non-tidal fisheries of Quebec (except the fisheries of the Magdalen islands) are controlled by the respective provinces, but the right of fisheries legislation for all provinces rests with the Dominion Government. See the Fisheries Act (R.S.C. 1927, c. 73). The expenditure of the Dominion on the fisheries in the fiscal year 1930-31, including Civil Government salaries, contingencies, etc., was \$2,435,299, and the revenue \$136,935.

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 closed 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, in 1930, operated 29 main hatcheries, 10 subsidiary hatcheries and 7 salmon-retaining ponds at a cost of \$322,586, and distributed 479,412,046 eggs, fry or older fish, mostly B.C. salmon, pickerel and whitefish. The young fish are distributed gratis if the waters in which they are to be placed are suitable and are open to public fishing.

Direct Assistance.—Since 1927 fish collection services have been operated on several stretches of the Atlantic coast by the Fisheries Branch of the former Depart-

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