

of enforcing regulations as to the capture of undersized and spawning lobsters offers a constant problem in connection with the output, but with the co-operation of the fishermen there is hope that the fishery may be maintained and the annual harvest show no decline. In New Brunswick the canning of "sardines" (locally young herring and not a distinct type of fish) is second only to lobstering. Oysters, once plentiful everywhere, are now found in diminished quantities, but the Government is working towards the restoration of the industry through the development of oyster farming; favourable areas in Prince Edward Island waters have been seeded and the work in connection with oyster culture is being carried on under the direction of experts.

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 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 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 Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and the Magdalen islands. 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 1931-32, including Civil Government salaries, contingencies, etc., was \$2,045,891, and the revenue \$105,937.

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, in 1931, operated 23 main hatcheries, 9 subsidiary hatcheries and 7 salmon-retaining ponds at a cost of \$271,160, and distributed 133,654,169 eggs, fry or older fish, mostly salmon and trout. The young fish are distributed gratis if the waters in which they are to be placed are suitable and are open to public fishing.

Investigations and experiments directed toward the culture of the oyster have been carried on since 1929 at Malpeque bay, P.E.I., by the Dominion Department of Fisheries. Extension of oyster-farming, as it is called, to New Brunswick waters is in prospect as a result of an agreement entered into in 1932 between the Dominion and New Brunswick authorities, whereby control of the oyster areas in the Westmorland County portion of Shediac bay was vested in the Department of Fisheries. Investigational work is now under way there with a view to introducing a farming plan similar to that followed in Prince Edward Island. The knowledge gained in these fields will doubtless be applied in other parts of the country which are found suited to commercial oyster culture.