

In addition there are on the Atlantic seaboard 15,000 square miles of inshore waters controlled entirely by the Dominion. Large as are these areas, they represent only a part of the fishing grounds of Canada. The Pacific coast of the Dominion measures 7,180 miles in length and is exceptionally well sheltered. Throughout the interior is a series of lakes which together contain more than half of the fresh water on the globe—Canada's share of the Great Lakes alone amounts to over 34,000 square miles, a total which, of course, does not include lake Winnipeg (9,457 square miles), lake Manitoba and others of even greater area.

Still more important than the extent of the Canadian fishing grounds is the quality of their product. It is an axiom among authorities that food fishes improve in proportion to the purity and coldness of the waters from which they are taken. Judged by this standard, the Canadian cod, halibut, herring, mackerel, whitefish and salmon are the peers of any in the world. It is possible, therefore, to state that by far the most valuable fisheries of the western hemisphere, if not of the globe, belong to Canada.

It will be seen from the above that it is impossible to deal adequately with the Canadian fisheries in the aggregate; they are those of a continent rather than of a country, and are of corresponding diversity. Omitting the enormous Hudson Bay and peri-Arctic region, which extends from Ungava to Alaska and the fish resources of which are not known, the Canadian fisheries may be divided into Atlantic, inland and Pacific fisheries.

A detailed description of these respective fishing grounds of Canada, of the fish caught on these grounds, and of the methods of fishing, will be found at pp. 222-225 of the 1932 Year Book.

Lobstering is another distinctive industry. In 1870, there were three lobster canneries on the Atlantic coast of Canada; in 1933 the canneries numbered 329 and gave work to 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 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