

Alberta 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 fishery officers, checked in the Department of 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 for years 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 \$6,600,000 and this was 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 in a period of greatly inflated prices. Between that year and 1921 the total value of the products of the fisheries decreased and in the latter year was back to \$34,000,000. From 1921 to 1926 a steady increase to \$56,000,000 took place and in the following three years the value fluctuated around the \$50,000,000 mark. The prevailing world-wide depression has affected the markets for fish products; the value dropped to \$30,517,306 in 1931 and to \$25,957,109 in 1932. In 1933 conditions were improved, and the value rose to \$27,558,053. These figures represent the total values of fish marketed, whether in a fresh, dried, canned, or otherwise prepared state.

The number of employees, which was 74,882 in 1931, rose to 78,208 in 1932 and to 79,548 in 1933, while the value of the capital investment of the industry, which was \$45,325,514 in 1931, fell to \$41,789,278 in 1932 and to \$40,912,857 in 1933.*

Among individual fish products the cod and the salmon long disputed the primacy; if the record is taken back to early times, the cod is the most valuable fish; in the past 30 years, however, the salmon has definitely taken the lead, and the heavy pack and relatively high price of lobsters have, in recent years, sent cod down to third place. Halibut, for a number of years prior to 1931, occupied fourth place but has now dropped to fifth place, yielding fourth place to herring. 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 fish products to 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 values of 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 1933, \$27,558,053, shows an increase of 6 p.c. over the figure of \$25,957,109 in 1932.

* For detailed historical statistics of the fisheries, see pp. 52-56 of Fisheries Statistics of Canada, 1933, obtainable from the Dominion Statistician.