

Collection of Statistics.—The fisheries statistics of Canada are issued under an arrangement for statistical co-operation between the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the Dominion Department of Fisheries and those branches of the different Provincial Governments having jurisdiction with regard to fisheries. Under this arrangement, 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 world-wide depression affected the markets for fish products so that the value dropped to \$25,957,109 in 1932. In 1933 conditions improved, and the value rose to \$34,022,323 in 1934. 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, has risen steadily to 83,436 in 1934, while the value of the capital investment of the industry, which was \$45,325,514 in 1931, fell to \$40,912,857 in 1933, but rose again to \$43,585,502 in 1934.†

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 sixth place, yielding fourth place to herring and fifth to whitefish. 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

* Revised by Miss F. A. Brown, Chief, Fisheries Statistics Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This Branch publishes an Annual Report on the Fisheries Statistics of Canada, together with advance summaries on fish caught, marketed and prepared, by provinces. These may be obtained from the Dominion Statistician.

† For detailed historical statistics of the fisheries, see pp. 54-58 of Fisheries Statistics of Canada, 1934, obtainable from the Dominion Statistician.