

CHAPTER XI.—THE FISHERIES.

Section 1.—The Early Fisheries.

Fishing is one of the earliest and most historic industries of Canada. Leaving aside inconclusive evidence in favour of authentic record, one must ascribe to Cabot the honour of having discovered, in 1497, the cod banks of Newfoundland, when he first sighted the mainland of North America. Fishing may well be regarded as the first industry to be systematically prosecuted by Europeans in what is to-day the Canadian domain. It has since yielded a perennial harvest to both Europe and America. According to the Census of 1931, of 3,927,591 persons in Canada gainfully occupied in that year, 34,340 were occupied in the fishing industry, that is, in primary fishing operations exclusive of the canning and curing of fish.

A more detailed account of the history of the Atlantic fisheries was given on p. 348 of the 1934-35 Year Book.

Section 2.—The Canadian Fishing Grounds.

The fishing grounds of the Dominion of Canada, are among the most extensive in the world and are indicated on the accompanying chart. They fall naturally into three divisions: Atlantic, inland, and Pacific fishing grounds. A detailed description of each division, of the fish caught, and of the methods of fishing, will be found at pp. 222-225 of the 1932 Year Book.

Section 3.—The Government and the Fisheries.*

Upon the organization of the Dominion Government at Confederation, the administration of the Canadian fisheries was placed under the Department of Marine and Fisheries. Early in 1930 a Department of Fisheries, in charge of its own Minister, was organized. This Department now administers all the tidal fisheries

* Revised under the direction of W. A. Found, Deputy Minister, Department of Fisheries, Ottawa.

