

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 by 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 1938, operated 13 main hatcheries, 1 subsidiary hatchery, 6 rearing stations, 8 salmon retaining ponds, and several egg-collecting stations at a cost of \$233,408, and distributed 33,685,000 trout and salmon eggs, fry, and older fish. Distributions were made in suitable selected waters. Investigations and experiments directed toward the establishment of commercial oyster farming have been successfully carried on since 1929 in Prince Edward Island by the Dominion Department of Fisheries and have more recently been extended to Nova Scotia. In each of these provinces control of the oyster areas was transferred to Dominion authority by the Provincial Government. In the two other oyster-producing provinces, New Brunswick and British Columbia, control of the areas is in provincial hands, except on a small strip of the New Brunswick Coast where areas have been transferred by the Provincial Government to the control of the Dominion Department of Fisheries in order that certain investigations might be carried on.

Direct Assistance.—On the Atlantic Coast, where conditions attending fishing operations make such a service desirable, a system has been established of broadcasting radio reports as to weather probabilities, bait and ice supplies, and ice conditions. Systems of instruction in improved methods of fish handling, fish curing, etc., have been carried on for some years by the Department of Fisheries.

Continuing the plan that had been followed for several years in connection with direct aid to needy fishermen, the sum of \$500,000 was made available in the appropriations of the Department of Fisheries for the fiscal year 1938-39. In co-operation with the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec, loans and grants were made during the year to 14,308 fishermen and 36 associations of fishermen. Joint aid funds were set up in each province by contributions from the Department and the Provincial Government, and from these funds assistance was given to fishermen in re-establishing themselves; total spendings from the departmental appropriation amounted to \$369,443.

Nation-wide advertising of fish foods was carried on by the Department of Fisheries during the year in order to assist the fishermen by expanding the demand for their product. Approximately \$150,000 was spent for this purpose during 1937-38. All of this amount was expended within Canada except \$15,000 which was transferred to the United Kingdom for use in supplementing the advertising of Canadian canned salmon and canned lobster in the "Canada Calling" campaign. In addition to the advertising in the Dominion, fish cookery lecturer-demonstrators were kept in the field by the Department as a further means of increasing the use of fish foods.

Scientific Research.—This subject is dealt with this year in the special article on Scientific and Industrial Research in Chapter XXV.

International Problems.—Fisheries problems of international importance have arisen from time to time on both coasts of the Dominion, as well as in the Great Lakes area where problems are complicated by the number of State governments concerned. A major international problem has been the question of United States