

# CHAPTER XI.—THE FISHERIES

## CONSPECTUS

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### Section 1.—The Early Fisheries

Fishing is among the earliest and most historic industries of Canada. Leaving aside inconclusive evidence in favour of authentic record, one must ascribe to John 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.

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

### Section 2.—The Canadian Fishing Grounds

The fishing grounds of the Dominion are of exceptional national value inasmuch as two of the four great sea-fishing areas of the world border on Canada. 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\*

When the Dominion Government was set up 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 (except those of Quebec, which, by agreement, are under provincial administration), the non-tidal fisheries of Nova Scotia and the fisheries of Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The non-tidal fisheries of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia, and both the tidal and non-tidal fisheries of Quebec are administered by the respective provinces, although the Dominion Department does certain protective work in non-tidal waters of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia. The fisheries of the Magdalen Islands, Que., formerly administered by the Dominion, were transferred

\* Revised under the direction of Dr. D. B. Finn, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Ottawa.