

# CHAPTER XI.—THE FISHERIES

## CONSPECTUS

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### Section 1.—The Early Fisheries

Fishing may be considered the first industry to be carried on by Europeans in waters off the Canadian domain. Since the time of John Cabot's discovery of the mainland of North America in 1497, or very shortly thereafter, the exploitation of the fisheries of the country now known as Canada has gone on continuously. There is some evidence, indeed, that even before the days of Cabot fishermen from Europe had voyaged to the fishing grounds of this continent. According to the Census of 1941, of 3,676,563 males gainfully occupied in that year (including persons on Active Service), 36,297 reported fishing as their principal occupation.\*

More detailed reference to the history of the Atlantic fisheries will be found at p. 348 of the 1934-35 Year Book.

### Section 2.—The Canadian Fishing Grounds

The fishing grounds of the Dominion fall naturally into three main divisions—Atlantic, inland and Pacific. A detailed description of each, the fish obtained from it, and the methods of fishing, is given on pp. 222-225 of the 1932 Year Book. Suffice it to say, here, that the Canadian grounds are among the most extensive and prolific in the world.

### Section 3.—The Governments and the Fisheries

#### Subsection 1.—The Dominion Government†

At the time of Confederation, 1867, the administration of the Dominion's fisheries was assigned to the Department of Marine and Fisheries which, except for a comparatively short interval, continued to perform this duty continuously until 1930 when a separate Department of Fisheries, in charge of its own Minister, was established. The latter Department now administers all the tidal fisheries of the country (except in Quebec where, by agreement between the Province and the Federal authorities, all fisheries are under provincial administration), the non-tidal fisheries of Nova Scotia, and the fisheries of Yukon and the Northwest Territories. In New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia, the administration of the non-tidal fisheries is in the hands of the respective provinces but the Federal Department carries on certain protective

\* See footnote 2, Table 7, p. 290.

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