

CHAPTER XI.—THE FISHERIES

CONSPECTUS

	PAGE		PAGE
SECTION 1. THE EARLY FISHERIES.....	288	Subsection 2. The Provincial Govern- ments.....	294
SECTION 2. THE CANADIAN FISHING GROUNDS.....	288	SECTION 4. THE MODERN FISHING IN- DUSTRY.....	294
SECTION 3. GOVERNMENTS AND THE FISHERIES.....	288	Subsection 1. Primary Production.....	294
Subsection 1. The Dominion Govern- ment.....	288	Subsection 2. The Fish-Processing In- dustry.....	299

Section 1.—The Early Fisheries

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 are among the most extensive and prolific in the world and 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.

Section 3.—Governments and the Fisheries

Subsection 1.—The Dominion Government†

Although the right of fisheries regulations for all parts of Canada rests with the Dominion Government (see Fisheries Act, 22-23 Geo. V, c. 42), the administration of the fisheries is carried on by different authorities in different areas. Except in the case of Quebec (where, by agreement between the Province and the Dominion, all fisheries are under provincial administration), the tidal or sea fisheries of Canada are administered by the Dominion Department of Fisheries. The non-tidal fisheries of Nova Scotia and the fisheries of Yukon and the Northwest Territories are also administered by the Dominion Department. On the other hand, the non-tidal fisheries of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and those of Quebec, Ontario, the three Prairie Provinces and British Columbia are administered by the respective provinces, although the Dominion Department carries on some protective work in non-tidal waters of British Columbia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

* See footnote 2, Table 7, p. 299.

† Revised by the Department of Fisheries, Ottawa.