

CHAPTER XV.—THE FISHERIES

CONSPECTUS

	PAGE		PAGE
SECTION 1. THE EARLY FISHERIES.....	425	Subsection 2. The Provincial Govern-ments.....	429
SECTION 2. THE CANADIAN FISHING GROUNDS.....	425	SECTION 4. THE MODERN FISHING INDUSTRY.....	429
SECTION 3. GOVERNMENTS AND THE FISHERIES.....	425	Subsection 1. Primary Production...	429
Subsection 1. The Dominion Govern-ment.....	425	Subsection 2. The Fish-Processing Industry.....	436

Section 1.—The Early Fisheries

Historical records show that European fishing vessels frequented the waters of Canada's Atlantic Coast 400 years and more ago, and the prolific grounds have been fished continuously ever since that time. When John Cabot reached the North American mainland at the close of the fifteenth century he found Basque fishing vessels off the coast. When Jacques Cartier sailed up the St. Lawrence in the earlier part of the sixteenth century he too found that fishermen from the Old World had been there before him. As a matter of fact, there is some evidence that before the time of Cabot and Cartier the fishing grounds of the continent had been frequented by fishermen from Europe. The industry to-day is an enterprise of great importance throughout the country—on the Pacific Coast and in the inland provinces, as well as in the Atlantic area. The Census of 1941 showed that 36,297 persons reported fishing as their principal occupation. Many others, of course, worked in the fisheries, though not in full-time employment.

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

Section 2.—The Canadian Fishing Grounds

Canada's fishing grounds fall naturally into three main divisions, Atlantic, freshwater or inland, and Pacific, and are among the most extensive and prolific in the world. 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*

While the right of fisheries regulation for all parts of Canada rests with the Federal Government (Fisheries Act, 22-23 Geo. V, c. 42), fisheries administration is carried out by different authorities in different areas. The tidal or sea fisheries are all administered by the Federal Department of Fisheries, except in Quebec where, by agreement between the Provincial and Federal Governments, all fisheries, both sea fisheries and those in freshwater areas, are under provincial administration. The Federal Department also administers the non-tidal fisheries of Nova Scotia as well as the fisheries of Yukon and the Northwest Territories. On the other hand,

*Revised by the Department of Fisheries, Ottawa.