

# CHAPTER XIII.—THE FISHERIES

## CONSPECTUS

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### 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. The Old World fishermen had even ventured up the St. Lawrence, as Jacques Cartier found when he went inland in 1534. To-day the fishing industry—on the Pacific Coast and in the inland provinces, as well as in the Atlantic area—is an enterprise of great importance to Canada. According to the 1941 Census, 36,403 persons 14 years of age or over were gainfully occupied in the fishing industry on full time. Many others, of course, were engaged in the fishing industry on a part-time basis.

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 description of each, the fish obtained and methods of fishing, may be found on pp. 222-225 of the 1932 Year Book.

### Section 3.—Governments and the Fisheries

#### Subsection 1.—The Federal Government\*

The right of fisheries regulations for all parts of Canada rests with the Federal Government (Fisheries Act, 22-23 Geo. V, c. 42) but fisheries administration is carried out by either Federal or Provincial authorities, depending upon the area. In general, the Federal Government administers the tidal or sea fisheries and the Provincial Governments administer the fisheries in the non-tidal waters within their respective boundaries, but there are certain exceptions to this rule. In Quebec, by agreement between the Provincial and Federal Governments, all fisheries, both sea and freshwater, are under provincial administration. Again, the Federal Government administers the non-tidal fisheries of Nova Scotia as well as the fisheries of Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Some protective work in connection with non-tidal fisheries is carried on by the Federal Government in British Columbia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

\* Revised by the Department of Fisheries, Ottawa.