

CHAPTER XIV.—THE FISHERIES

CONSPECTUS

	PAGE		PAGE
SECTION 1. THE CANADIAN FISHING GROUNDS.....	488	SECTION 3. FISHERY STATISTICS.....	496
SECTION 2. GOVERNMENTS AND THE FISHERIES.....	491	Subsection 1. Primary Production....	496
Subsection 1. The Federal Govern- ment.....	491	Subsection 2. The Fish-Processing In- dustry.....	500
Subsection 2. The Provincial Govern- ments.....	495	SECTION 4. STATISTICS OF NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES PRIOR TO UNION.....	502

NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

The waters off Canada's coasts comprise some of the most important fishing grounds of the globe. Those off the Atlantic coast have been continuously exploited by many nations for more than 400 years (see p. 348 of the 1934-35 Year Book). Though Canada's oldest industry is carried on in inland waters as well as on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, it does not loom very large in the economic life of the nation as a whole, for only about 1 p.c. of the gross national income comes from the marketed products of the fisheries. However, the industry is of the greatest importance to many of the communities along Canada's many thousands of miles of coastline. It provides 130,000 people with full or seasonal employment either in fishing (105,000) or in fish processing (25,000). The Canadian industry ranks among the first ten fishing industries of the world, and Canada with over two-thirds of its catch being sold in foreign markets is one of the world's largest fish exporters.

Section 1.—The Canadian Fishing Grounds*

Canada's fishing grounds fall naturally into three main divisions: Atlantic, Pacific and Inland, each with its own special characteristics.

Atlantic Fisheries.—The accession of Newfoundland has given back to the Atlantic fisheries of Canada their traditional pre-eminence which was in danger of being lost to the younger fishing industry of the Pacific. The fisheries of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Quebec together account for more than one-half the marketed value of all Canadian fish.

The most valuable Atlantic catch is that of cod, taken by the fishermen of all the five provinces, with Newfoundland and Nova Scotia predominating. Other "groundfish", so called because they feed at the sea bottom, are often taken with the cod. They include haddock, pollock, hake, cusk, rosefish and catfish. Other inhabitants of deep waters caught by Atlantic fishermen are the flat-fish: halibut, plaice, yellowtail, witch, flounder and skate. Lobsters, which come second in value among Atlantic fishery products are mainly caught in the three Maritime Provinces but are also found in the waters of Quebec and Newfoundland. Other types of shellfish are clams and quahaugs, of which New Brunswick and Nova Scotia both produce considerable quantities, oysters (chiefly from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island) and scallops from Nova Scotia. Mussels, winkles and

* Revised by the Department of Fisheries, Ottawa.