

waters of the Northern Hemisphere. The consistency of yield is very high, measured by the total annual catch on all parts of the coast over a long period of years. Full advantage has not yet been taken of these rich resources and there is little doubt that with intensive modern development the fisheries will become an increasing source of wealth to the Province and to Canada as a whole.

Prior to government by Commission in 1934, the governing authority of the Newfoundland fisheries was vested, subject to the Legislature, in the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who with his Department was charged with the duty of supervising the conduct of the various fisheries and of issuing the necessary regulations.

The First World War created a temporary wave of prosperity in the fisheries of Newfoundland, but soon after the War a downward trend in value took place, so that by 1932 the industry was in an impoverished condition. In April, 1936, the Newfoundland Fisheries Board was brought into being, as a body corporate, by Act assented to by the then Governor of Newfoundland. The Board was given wide powers over the marketing of Newfoundland's fish and fishery products and, under the Commissioner for Natural Resources, was charged with the performance of most of the usual functions of a government department of fisheries. Its two prime objectives were to bring order into the chaotic conditions which confronted those engaged in the marketing of Newfoundland fish and fishery products and to study and encourage greater development of the Island's fishery resources. These objectives have been gradually attained, with consequent improvement of both the lot of the producer and the general economic position of the Island.

In accordance with the "Terms of Union of Newfoundland with Canada" in 1949 the federal fisheries services have been extended to the new Province. The Newfoundland services existing prior to Union in such fields as the protection and encouragement of the fisheries and the operation of bait services have been taken over by the federal authorities in accordance with these terms. General fisheries administration in the Province is now the responsibility of the Federal Department of Fisheries but the laws relating to export marketing of salted fish continue to be administered by the Newfoundland Fisheries Board, now operating as a Federal agency responsible to the Minister of Fisheries. Alteration or repeal of any of these laws will be conditional during the five years following Union, upon the consent of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Newfoundland. Employees of the Board became employees of the Federal Department of Fisheries at Mar. 31, 1949.

A Newfoundland Fisheries Branch has been created in the Federal Department of Fisheries at Ottawa. Its Director also acts as liaison officer between the Newfoundland Fisheries Board and the Department.

Section 3.—Fishery Statistics*

Subsection 1.—Primary Production

A century ago, the commercial fishing industry of Canada was in its infancy; the estimated value of the catch in 1844 was \$125,000, but for 1947 it reached nearly a thousand times that figure, \$123,900,000, the highest ever recorded. Growth was fairly steady until the second decade of the present century, when the First World War caused a sharp rise in prices, and the value of the products of the

* Revised in the Fisheries Section, Industry and Merchandising Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.