

Section 4.—Newfoundland Fisheries

The waters off Newfoundland yield an abundant harvest of fish that are in commercial demand. Cod is the most important and provides more than one-half the total value. Substantial contributions are made also by herring, haddock, lobster, rosefish, seals and whales.

The prosperity of the fishing industry of Newfoundland being entirely dependent on exports has long been very susceptible to the influence of world conditions; values rose in response to the demands for food diverted from their normal sources of supply by the two world wars, and fell drastically when demand was curtailed by the intervening depression. The Newfoundland Fisheries Board established, in 1936 under the Commission of Government, has done much to improve the economy of the industry, by regulation, research and instruction in both production and marketing; since Mar. 31, 1949, the Board has operated as a federal agency responsible to the Minister of Fisheries.

Export values are the most accurate indication that can be given of the relative importance of the various species in the Newfoundland fisheries, and of the developments that have taken place in production and marketing in recent years—particularly in the direction of greater diversification of species handled and products marketed. However since Newfoundland entered Confederation, on Mar. 31 1949, her external trade figures have been merged with those of Canada, and it is impossible to ascertain the total value of the exports of fishery products of the Province because a substantial part of them is shipped to the mainland and subsequently exported from other provinces. The value of fishery exports shipped to foreign markets from Newfoundland ports during the year 1949 is estimated at just over \$20,000,000, of which 35 p.c. went to the United States; salted and dried cod accounted for 56 p.c. of the total. Statistics on an historical basis giving the production and exports of Newfoundland fisheries are given at pp. 502-504 of the 1950 Year Book.