

CHAPTER XIV.—THE FISHERIES

CONSPECTUS

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

The immense fishery resources of Canada are derived from the prolific sea-fishing waters of the North Pacific and North Atlantic, and from numerous lakes and rivers of the inland provinces. Canada ranks high in fishery production and leads the world in monetary returns from the export of fishery products. (See Chapter XXI for fisheries exports.)

Fishing is Canada's oldest industry and although its relative importance in the nation's economy has diminished through the years, the industry has shown considerable expansion and is still of paramount consequence in the coastal provinces and in the inland areas adjacent to waters where commercial fishing is pursued. Of particular importance is the fishing industry of Newfoundland where, from the standpoint of number of people directly employed in the catching and processing of fish and those indirectly affected, it ranks first among the industries. In Prince Edward Island and in Nova Scotia, fish-curing and packing is the leading manufacturing industry and in New Brunswick and British Columbia it ranks third.

An account of the Canadian Fishing Grounds is given in the 1951 Year Book, pp. 472-475.

Section 1.—Governments and the Fisheries

Subsection 1.—The Federal Government*

The British North America Act gave the Federal Government full legislative responsibility for the regulation of the coastal and the inland fisheries of Canada. Under the Act, laws are made for the protection, conservation and development of the fisheries throughout the country. The provinces, however, have property rights in the non-tidal fisheries and have been delegated certain administrative responsibilities in varying degree. Consequently, while all the regulations governing fishing are made by the Federal Government, the work of administering the fisheries (enforcing the different laws and regulations, inspecting fish products, issuing licences, etc.) is done in some cases by federal officers and in others by provincial officers, according to arrangements made with the different provinces and without duplication of staff.

* Revised in the Department of Fisheries, Ottawa.