

CHAPTER XIII.—FISHERIES AND FURS

CONSPECTUS

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

PART I.—FISHERIES

Section 1.—Commercial Fishing and Marketing*

Canadian fishermen reap the harvests of two mighty oceans—the Atlantic and the Pacific—and the most extensive system of inland rivers and lakes in the world. The annual catch of some 2,000,000,000 lb. of fish and shellfish has a marketed value of more than \$200,000,000. Canada is surpassed only by Norway and Japan as an exporter of fish products, retaining about one third of its catch and shipping the remainder abroad in fresh, frozen, canned, salted, dried or otherwise preserved form. There are over 79,000 commercial fishermen in Canada and many more thousands of people are employed in the fish processing industry.

Canadian fisheries were more prosperous in 1962 than at any previous time in their history. Records were achieved in every major sector; the effects of the expansion reached as far as the construction and boat-building industries, adding impetus to their activities. The Maritime Provinces reported the most productive period ever experienced. Fishermen there earned a record gross income of over \$43,000,000; the value of each of the two major catches, lobster and cod, increased by about \$1,000,000; scallops, until recently a minor fishery, moved up to third place; and a marginal enterprise, the harvesting of Irish moss from the sea, showed signs of sudden expansion to importance. Newfoundland established new levels in both the landed value of its catch (\$17,000,000) and the output of its rapidly growing frozen fish industry, and the volume of its traditional product, light-salted cod, showed an upturn for the first time since 1959. In Quebec both quantity and value of the seafood catch ran from 20 p.c. to 25 p.c. ahead of 1961 in almost every month of the year. British Columbia set a new mark for the number of salmon taken in one season; produced the largest pack of pink salmon ever canned in one year; received a higher value for its halibut catch than ever before; and made its first serious venture into the world-wide tuna fishery. The freshwater operations, which now contribute about 10 p.c. of the annual marketed value of all Canadian fish products, made more than proportionate advances.

* Prepared by the Information and Consumer Service, Department of Fisheries, Ottawa.