CHAPTER XIV.—FISHERIES AND FURS

CONSPECTUS

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

PART I.—FISHERIES

Section 1.—Commercial Fishing and Marketing, 1964*

Canadian fishermen reap large harvests from two mighty oceans—the Atlantic and the Pacific—and from the most extensive system of lakes and rivers in the world. The annual catch amounts to some 2,000,000,000 lb. of fish and shellfish, which has a total marketed value of about $250,000,000. Only about one third of this output is used domestically and the remainder is shipped abroad in fresh, frozen, canned, salted, dried or otherwise preserved forms. Thus, Canada is one of the major suppliers of fish and fish products to world markets, being surpassed only by Japan and Norway in value of fish exports. There are more than 80,000 commercial fishermen in Canada and more than 13,000 persons employed in the fish processing industry.

Unquestionably the most important development in Canadian fisheries in 1964 was expansion in the Atlantic freezing industry, gathering speed after two years of careful planning at the capital investment level. In 1960, the Atlantic area was supplying about 60 p.c., by value, of the total Canadian fish output. Since then, the proportion has been creeping up, mainly owing to this growth in sales of frozen products.

The most significant factor on the Pacific Coast was the developing potential of the market for canned salmon. Because a small salmon run was predicted for the summer of 1964, canned salmon moved readily to market through the spring and most of it had been sold when the new fishing season started. It became apparent through the summer that the Japanese, the largest world suppliers, were getting a disappointing catch and that the cannery production schedules were lagging. The Alaska pack, also small, ensured that the United States would be a heavy buyer. However, Canadian runs proved to be of normal proportions; a good average pack of 1,200,000 cases went into British Columbia warehouses and prices climbed as buying became more and more competitive.

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