

CHAPTER XIII.—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.

Canada has the enviable position of being the country closest to some of the world's most prolific fishing grounds and as a result is one of the world's principal fish producers and fish exporters. Rich harvests are drawn from both the Atlantic and Pacific as well as from many freshwater lakes and rivers.

An article on "Canadian Commercial Fisheries Resources" giving a detailed account of the Atlantic, the Pacific, the freshwater and the northern fisheries will be found in the 1955 Year Book, pp. 578-590.

Section 1.—Trends and Developments in the Fisheries Industries *

Nineteen fifty-four was a year of generally satisfactory progress in both the economic and the technological sense for the Canadian fishing industry. Total landings of fish and fish products amounted to slightly over 2,000,000,000 lb. with a gross landed value of \$98,000,000. Average returns, with few exceptions, compared favourably with those of 1953. Marketed value of 1954's production was recorded as \$164,000,000 with a record total value of exports of \$132,600,000. Substantial numbers of new vessels were added to the fleets on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and fish processing capacity—especially that of fresh fish in the Atlantic area—was expanded.

Production on the Pacific coast in 1954 was highlighted by a record halibut catch and the heaviest catch of sockeye salmon since 1913. The herring fishermen in this area reported their first full calendar year's production since 1951. A total of 600,000,000 lb. of fish was landed with a gross landed value of \$34,500,000 and marketed value was \$69,000,000. New vessel construction in 1954 totalled 77 vessels.

The Pacific coast industry has developed into a well organized, modernly equipped industry—without special encouragement. The continued restoration of the Fraser River sockeye salmon run is perhaps the most important event which has occurred in the Pacific area and marks the climax of years of rehabilitation. The increasing demand however for the use of Pacific coast river systems for power and other purposes has caused foreboding about the future of some of the salmon stocks.

In the Atlantic area landings of cod and haddock increased significantly in 1954 especially on the northeast Newfoundland coast. Newfoundland fishermen landed 607,400,000 lb. of fish with a landed value of \$14,700,000 and a marketed value of \$28,000,000. Total landings of all species for the Maritime Provinces and Quebec amounted

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