

hest species for food and for sport, I do not claim that the actual money value per annum exceeds that of such countries as Britain, whose fisheries yield no less than \$45,000,000 yearly; or the United States fisheries, with a value of \$40,000,000 yearly; but even from a financial standpoint, our fisheries are a very great industry. For example, the Pacific salmon industry embraces no less than eighty canneries, valued at over \$3,000,000, while the lobster industry is carried on in 750 lobster canneries on the Atlantic shores, having a value of \$450,000, and the freezing, smoking, and other fish establishments in the Dominion, are valued at not less than \$180,000, or \$200,000.

Of the annual yield, the Atlantic fisheries contribute 64%; the British Columbia fisheries 26%; and the Great Lakes 8%. But the extensive waters of the two Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta have yet to be developed in a commercial fishery sense. These Western waters, it is true have been exploited, and, in some cases already over-fished; but the area is so vast, and there are so many lakes in a practically virgin state that the future will witness the growth of a great industry in these territories.

Fishery Statistics.

Imposing as are the figures I quote you, gentlemen,—and they are approximately true to the facts, for, as the late Professor Brown Goode declared in 1884, at the London Fisheries Congress, “the Department of Marine and Fisheries in Ottawa is one of the best administrative organizations in the world, and their methods of gathering and publishing statistics are admirable, there is nothing in the United States like it,”—yet, it must be admitted Canadian statistics are inadequate. I have given one reason already, namely the difficulty of ascertaining the amount of fish caught and consumed in remote areas by native tribes and by hunters and prospectors; but I cannot forbear pointing out that takes of fish secured off Canadian shores annually go to swell the fishery returns of some of the border States to the south of us. Such States as Maine and Massachusetts annually report catches of cod, of which a large proportion is really from the Labrador bar'ts and the grounds off the Gulf of St. Lawrence, while the premier fishing state on the Pacific Coast (Washington State) owes 95% of its vast catches of fish each year to Canada, to the salmon bred in the Fraser River, and to the halibut secured in incredible quantities in the Hecate Straits, and the northern part of British Columbia, which Straits are almost entirely enclosed by Canadian territory, namely, by Queen Charlotte Islands, Vancouver Island and the mainland of the Province. These Straits, it has been asserted, are really high seas, but no one looking at a map of the North American continent, could for one moment consider such a claim as reasonable.