

## FISHERIES OF CANADA

Dominion Has Most Extensive Fisheries in the World  
—Commercial Food Fishes in Great Variety

Canada possesses the most extensive fisheries in the world. The waters in and around the Dominion contain the principal commercial food fishes in greater abundance than the waters of any other part of the world. The fertility of Canadian waters is shown by the fact that apart from salmon, all the lobsters, herring, mackerel and sardines, nearly all the haddock, and many of the cod, hake, and pollock landed in Canada are taken from within our territorial waters. The coast line of the Atlantic provinces, from the Bay of Fundy to the Straits of Belle Isle, without taking into account the lesser bays and indentations, measures over 5,000 miles; and along this great stretch are to be found innumerable natural harbors and coves, in many of which valuable fish are taken in considerable quantities with little effort.

On the Pacific coast, the province of British Columbia, owing to its immense number of islands, bays and fiords, which form safe and easily accessible harbors, has a sea-washed shore of 7,000 miles. Along this shore and within the limits of the territorial waters, there are fish and mammals in greater abundance, probably, than anywhere else in the whole world.

## Lakes Stocked With Fish.

In addition to this salt-water fishing area, we have in our numerous lakes no less than 220,000 square miles of fresh water, abundantly stocked with many species of excellent food fishes. In this connection, it may be pointed out that the area of the distinctly Canadian waters of what are known as the Great Lakes—Superior, Huron, Erie and Ontario—forms only one-fifth part of the total area of the larger fresh-water lakes of Canada.

The fisheries of the Atlantic coast may be divided into two distinct classes: the deep-sea, and the inshore or coastal fisheries. The deep-sea fishery is pursued in vessels of from 40 to 100 tons, carrying crews of from 12 to 20 men. The fishing grounds worked on are the several banks, which lie from 20 to 90 miles of the Canadian coast. The style of fishing is that of "trawling" by hook and line. The bait used is chiefly herring, squid and capelin; and the fish taken are principally cod, haddock, hake, pollock and halibut.

## Men and Boats Employed.

The inshore or costal fishery is carried on in small boats with crews of from two to three men; also in a class of small vessels with crews of from four to seven men. The means of capture employed by boat fishermen are gill-nets, hooks and lines, both hand-line and trawl; and from the shore are operated trap-nets, haul-seines and weirs. The commercial food fishes taken inshore are the cod, hake, haddock, pollock, halibut, herring, mackerel, alewife, shad, smelt, flounder and sardine. The most extensive lobster fishery known is carried on along the whole of the eastern shore of Canada, whilst excellent oyster beds exist in many parts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence; notably on the north coast of Prince Edward Island, and in the Northumberland Straits.

The salmon fishery is the predominant one on the Pacific coast; but an extensive halibut fishery is carried on in the northern waters of British Columbia, in large, well-equipped steamers and vessels. The method of capture is by trawling, dories being used for setting and hauling the lines, as in the Atlantic deep-sea fishery.

Herring are in very great abundance on the Pacific coast, and provide a plentiful supply of bait for the halibut fishery.

In the inland lake fisheries, the various means of capture in use are gill-nets, pound-nets, seines, and hook-and-line to a great extent. The principal commercial fishes caught are whitefish, trout, pickerel, pike, sturgeon and fresh-water herring—the latter in the Great Lakes of Ontario only.

## Value of the Fisheries.

The total marketed value of all kinds of fish, fish products and marine animals taken by Canadian fishermen in both the sea and inland fisheries, during the year ended March 31st, 1912, amounted to \$34,667,872.

Never before has the total value of the fisheries of Canada passed, or even reached, the thirty million dollar mark. The value for 1911 reached \$29,965,433, which, up to that time, was the highest ever recorded; thus the total for the year under review surpasses that high mark with an extraordinary advance of \$4,702,439.

To the total sea fisheries contributed \$30,842,875, and the inland fisheries \$3,824,997.

These results were produced by 65,026 fishermen, who manned 1,648 vessels and tugs and 36,761 boats; together with 25,206 workers who were employed on shore in the various canneries, fish-houses, etc., preparing the fish for market. It will thus be seen that the number of people directly employed in this great industry is little short of 100,000.

Of the boats, no fewer than 5,580 used gasoline engines as a means of propulsion, there being 992 added to the motor boat fleet since the preceding year.

The following table shows the value produced from the fisheries of each province in its respective order of rank, with the increase or decrease as compared with the year 1910-11.

Provinces.	Value Produced.	Increase.	Decrease.
British Columbia .....	\$13,677,125	\$4,513,890	.....
Nova Scotia .....	9,367,550	.....	\$751,693
New Brunswick .....	4,886,157	752,013	.....
Ontario .....	2,205,436	179,315	.....
Quebec .....	1,868,136	175,661	.....
Prince Edward Island ..	1,196,396	42,688	.....
Manitoba .....	1,113,486	.....	189,293
Saskatchewan .....	139,436	.....	33,467
Yukon .....	111,825	.....	6,540
Alberta .....	102,325	19,865	.....
Totals .....	\$34,667,872	\$5,683,432	\$980,993
Net increase .....		\$4,702,439	.....

The chief credit for the large increase is due to British Columbia. Notwithstanding the fact that Nova Scotia's total shows a decline from that of the previous year, the total value of the fisheries of the province for the year under review is ahead of that for any of the other past years. The substantial increase contributed by New Brunswick is due to the successful sardine fishing season of 1911. The fisheries of Quebec and Prince Edward Island share in the general advance in value.

## BANK CLEARING HOUSE RETURNS

The following are the figures for the Canadian Bank Clearing Houses for the weeks of January 4th, 1912; December 26th, 1912, and January 2nd, 1913, with percentage change:—

	*Jan. 4, '12.	*Dec. 26, '12.	*Jan. 2, '13.	Ch'g %
Montreal ...	\$46,135,486	\$46,517,804	\$45,658,794	— 1.03
Toronto ....	41,082,961	35,140,243	42,818,209	+ 4.2
Winnipeg ..	29,505,546	32,697,600	34,066,650	+15.5
Vancouver .	10,744,168	10,949,857	10,561,052	— 1.7
Ottawa ....	4,447,376	3,847,332	3,328,357	—25.1
Calgary ...	4,544,021	4,845,401	5,191,378	+14.2
Quebec ....	2,780,472	2,797,264	3,089,396	+11.0
Victoria ...	2,381,625	4,876,459	4,095,429	+71.9
Hamilton ..	3,043,741	2,909,470	3,317,486	+ 8.9
Halifax ....	2,136,522	1,690,875	2,038,828	— 4.5
St. John ...	1,554,478	1,913,346	1,820,040	+17.1
Edmonton ..	2,842,481	4,059,538	.....	.....
London ...	1,826,332	1,575,115	1,700,606	— 6.8
Regina ....	1,617,047	2,260,800	2,394,122	+47.9
Brandon ...	787,249	705,077	888,699	+12.8
Lethbridge .	618,611	690,718	545,322	—11.8
Saskatoon ..	1,597,515	2,481,606	2,136,806	+33.7
Brantford ..	389,811	673,664	685,399	+76.0
Moose Jaw .	924,829	1,632,268	1,342,864	+45.2
Fort William	486,843	823,207	782,168	+60.7
Totals ..	\$159,507,114	\$163,087,644	\$.....	.....

\*Five days only in each case.

## DECEMBER BANK CLEARINGS

The following are the returns of the Canadian Bank Clearing Houses for December, 1912, compared with December, 1911:—

	Dec., 1911.	Nov., 1912.	Dec., 1912.	Ch'g %
Brandon ....	\$ 3,383,992	\$4,269,532	\$3,856,038	+13.9
Brantford ....	2,533,792	2,915,038	3,000,861	+18.4
Calgary ....	22,137,479	27,200,145	25,772,859	+16.4
Edmonton ....	14,138,712	24,276,711	21,649,209	+53.1
Fort William .	2,719,089	4,081,317	4,172,455	+53.4
Halifax .....	8,683,857	9,805,263	8,900,595	+ 2.4
Hamilton ....	12,852,254	16,741,431	16,567,587	+27.6
Lethbridge ...	2,891,922	3,497,466	2,996,445	+ 3.6
London .....	6,921,267	7,767,292	8,438,631	+21.9
Montreal ....	214,784,205	254,328,774	246,791,121	+14.9
Moose Jaw ...	4,956,429	7,814,744	7,714,608	+55.6
Ottawa .....	20,904,285	17,498,902	17,490,546	—16.3
Quebec .....	12,827,665	15,225,192	15,448,261	+20.4
Regina .....	8,497,763	13,994,192	11,811,821	+39.0
St. John .....	7,018,380	8,392,864	8,721,000	+24.2
Saskatoon ....	8,153,277	13,238,718	12,141,084	+48.8
Toronto .....	172,975,920	195,001,245	184,900,901	+ 6.3
Vancouver ...	49,775,662	60,815,185	55,434,815	+11.3
Victoria .....	11,753,343	18,110,381	17,030,315	+44.8
Winnipeg ....	135,384,718	195,963,013	167,426,414	+23.6
Total ....	\$723,294,861	\$900,947,005	\$840,263,566	+16.1