

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

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COULD the history of fishing among all races of men in all times and in all climes be written, it would be a recital replete with thrilling adventure and romantic interest. It would be a story that would take us back to the very earliest beginnings of civilization, for the origins of fishing as a vocation are shrouded in the mists of antiquity. The gill-net and the drag-seine are among the oldest of the implements fashioned by the hand of man.

IT would be a story embracing within its proper scope much of the commercial and political development of the nations of the earth, for it is safe to say that no single, peaceful occupation pursued by man has had more potent influence on the moulding of his destiny than has fishing.

IN all ages of the world, the fishery has been the parent of navigation, the cradle of naval power and the mother of seaborne commerce and world-wide colonization. Forced by bare necessity to fathom the secrets of the farthest seas and to battle bare-handed with the remorseless might of the unchained oceans, fishermen have ever been a race outstanding among their fellows for bodily hardihood, daring courage and ingenious resource. It is a lasting tribute to fishing and fishermen that Our Saviour drew from among the fishermen of Galilee the most illustrious of the Founders of the Christian Church.

IN fishermen, too, have been nurtured to a marked degree the pioneering instinct and the genius for discovery. In pursuit of their daily tasks they have discovered new worlds and laid the foundations of new civilizations. It was the cod fishery pursued first at Iceland, and later, on the eastern coasts of North America that made English maritime power. Historians trace the present might of the British Navy to the exploiting by English fishermen of the inexhaustibly rich fishing banks of Newfoundland. Thus it is that the fishing industry of the present day, whether pursued in Canada or elsewhere, ranks high

among the world's most ancient and most honourable callings.

IN Canada, a country whose inhabitants are largely engrossed in agricultural and commercial pursuits, it is perhaps natural that the fishing industry should command a relatively small share of public attention and thought. At any rate, it is quite safe to say that of all major Canadian industries none is less intimately known to the Canadian people and to observers of Canadian conditions abroad than is Canadian fishing. The golden harvests of our Western provinces have enthralled the imagination of all students of our national growth. They have grown perhaps too accustomed to measuring Canada's national wealth solely in terms of the steadily increasing volume of Canadian agricultural products. Every Canadian and all the world knows Canadian wheat and fruit, Canadian lumber and pulpwood, Canadian metals and ore, and Canadian furs; they are fast learning of Canadian manufactures. But few are acquainted with the activities of Canada's fishing industry and the extent of Canada's fishing production.

YET of all departments of the vast natural resources of the Dominion of Canada, none presents features of more fascinating interest and national importance than does her fisheries. In no department of her natural resources does Canada hold world-supremacy so completely as in the unsown and boundless harvest of her eastern and western seas and her unequalled expanse of inland waters. In their extent and in their inexhaustible fecundity Canada's fisheries offer her people a vast and primary source of national wealth to be had for the gathering.

WITHIN a necessarily limited space, in the following pages the endeavour has been made to present for our policyholders a few of the outstanding features of the Canadian fishing industry. There are added a few practical hints and recipes for the preparation of fish as a food. If, in some small measure, the interest of our readers is aroused in the fishing industry in general and the fisheries of Canada in particular, the aim of the Fisheries Number of "Sunshine" will be achieved.