

HON. J. D. HAZEN TELLS ST. JOHN AUDIENCE OF GREAT DEVELOPMENT IN CANADA'S FISHERIES

OUR FISHERY RESOURCES THE LARGEST AND MOST VALUABLE IN THE WORLD

Value of Canadian Fisheries Last Year More Than \$35,000,000, While Future Will Increase That Estimate Many Times — Department of Fisheries Busy Educating Fishermen in Work of Proper Handling and Curing — The Value of the Government Brand — Stocking Rivers and Streams with Game Fish — The Work of the Fish Hatcheries.

The Board of Trade members were well filled last night to listen to the address on "The Fisheries of Canada" by Hon. J. D. Hazen, minister of marine and fisheries.

The speaker read a number of tables showing the enormous increase in the consumption of fish in the last few years, due in a very large measure to the work of the department in bringing to the notice of the people generally the food value of fish as compared with meat, and demonstrating that it was a much more economical food.

President Likely called the meeting to order at eight o'clock. The first business was the nomination of officers and council for the coming year. The following were nominated and will be voted for at the next monthly meeting the first Monday in December:

President, J. D. Hazen; vice-president, J. D. Cudlipp; members of the executive, B. B. Emerson, Senator Thorne, A. J. Gray, F. W. Thomson, J. Hunter White, T. H. Estabrook, W. E. Foster, W. E. Golding, F. C. Smith, F. J. Shreve, C. S. Phillips, H. C. Schofield, W. K. Ganong, P. Gran- nan, W. F. Burditt, J. A. Likely, W. I. Penton, E. A. Schofield.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said it afforded him a great deal of pleasure to have been able to accept the very kind invitation of the St. John Board of Trade and address them on the important subject of the Fisheries of Canada.

That it was the intention that such property rights as the province had in the fisheries, as well as the right to make regulations, should be handed over to the Federal authorities, is evidenced by the fact that the Federal Government acted, without objection from the provinces, on the assumption that such rights had been handed over, and no question was raised for some years.

In the following year the owners of the land—the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Land Company—granted permits to James Steadman and Edgar Hanson, to angle for salmon in this portion of the river. Mr. Robertson tried to stop them. This resulted in an appeal to the courts, which ended in 1882 by the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada. This decision held that while the power to make regulations governing the fisheries is vested

in the Federal Government, the fishery rights in non-tidal waters are owned by the owner of the soil.

Following this decision the Federal Government desisted from issuing fishery leases of license in the non-tidal portions of tidal rivers and in the non-navigable portions of non-tidal rivers—those in Ontario and the inland waters of Quebec.

This decision did not affect the fisheries in the prairie provinces, as the Federal Government owns the crown lands there. Within a few years after this decision, the different Provincial Governments affected passed Fisheries Acts, and arranged for the leasing of the fisheries coming under their control.

The provinces, however, soon began to claim the fishery rights in all waters, and after years of correspondence it was decided to obtain a decision of the courts in the matter. A long list of questions was prepared, which it was thought covered all the points in doubt, and these were submitted to the Supreme Court of Canada, the decision of which was given in 1896. This decision was appealed to the privy council, the decision of which was obtained in 1898. Briefly, it held:

1. That the exclusive right to make laws or regulations governing the conduct of the fisheries is vested in the Federal Government; and 2. That whatever property rights in the fisheries were held by the provinces prior to Confederation remained vested in them subsequent thereto.

It did not, however, define these rights, and the provinces immediately claimed all the fisheries, taking the ground that prior to Confederation they owned not only the non-tidal fisheries, but those of the tidal waters, embracing those in the bays and three mile limits, as well.

So in Ontario and the inland portions of Quebec were concerned, there seemed no doubt, as the waters there are non-tidal, so the administration of the fisheries therein, except so far as the making of regulations goes, was handed over to the Provincial Governments, but the Federal Government took the ground that in tidal waters there is a public right of fishery, controllable only by the Parliament of Canada.

It was at the time hoped that the matter could be settled amicably between the Federal and Provincial Governments, and conferences to that end were held from time to time, and an understanding was reached whereby the Federal authorities would continue the administration of the tidal fisheries as theretofore, pending a final settlement; but the conferences were without success, and finally, in 1910, it was decided to again appeal to the courts on a case agreed to with British Columbia, the other provinces affected becoming intervenants. The matter ultimately went to the Privy Council, the decision of which was given in December, 1913. This decision upheld the contention of the Federal Government, the finding being in brief, that since magna charta, there has been a public right of fishery in tidal waters, no matter where these waters may be, which right is controlled only by Parliament.

While it was thought when this appeal was made that it would settle the matter for all the sea-washed provinces Quebec refused to accept it, mainly on the alleged ground that magna charta does not and never has applied to that province, and in order to finally settle the matter, a reference to the courts was agreed to with that province. It is expected that a decision thereon will be obtained this fall.

One of the unfortunate results of the unsettled state of fishery rights, following the 1898 Privy Council decision, was the preventing of development in the oyster fishery. Experience all the world over where there are oyster fisheries, shows that it is only by private cultivation of oysters that the fishery can be maintained and expanded, and neither the Federal nor the Provincial Governments felt in a position to issue leases to those prepared to go into the industry. Finally, to break the deadlock, a modus vivendi was suggested to the provinces, whereby the Federal Government

would issue leases, and in the event of it being ultimately found that the ownership of the soil is vested in the provinces, they would be paid the amount of the fees collected. P. E. Island refused to enter into this arrangement, but as it intimated that it was prepared to itself undertake the administration of this industry on private areas, the Fisheries Act was amended during the 1911-12 session to enable the administration of the fishery in the province whereby they could undertake such administration. Following this amendment, each of the provinces having oyster areas, entered into such an agreement, and already a reasonably good start has been made in each of such provinces, in private oyster culture. The Federal Government is continuing to administer the fishery on public beds; but this dual control is unsatisfactory.

As the matter now stands, the Federal Government has the making of the laws governing the fisheries in all waters. It has the administration of the fisheries in all tidal waters, with the exception that in Quebec the matter is not yet decided, as well as in the waters of the prairie provinces, Ontario, and Quebec, so far as its inland waters are concerned, have taken over the administration of their fisheries; but New Brunswick, and the other provinces have followed the wiser course of leaving the protection and development of all their fisheries in the hands of the Federal authorities.

Claim of New Brunswick. Some years following the decision in the case "Queen vs. Robertson," in 1882, the New Brunswick government preferred claims against the federal government for losses alleged to have been sustained owing to the latter having wrongfully leased the fishing privileges in non-tidal waters prior to 1882, and for setting certain waters apart, after 1882, for the natural propagation of fish, thus preventing the province from leasing such waters. These claims were pressed upon the federal government for years, but without result until 1914, when a settlement was offered by payment of \$66,882, being a principal sum of \$29,635, and interest thereon at 4 per cent. for 31 years, which amounted to \$36,747. This offer was based as follows: No objection to federal leasing was made by New Brunswick until 1875. It was therefore not regarded that there was any just claim before that date. This left a claim for seven years' rentals, and the average rentals secured by New Brunswick for the seven years following the 1882 decision, were accepted as a fair estimate of what might have been secured for the previous seven years. These amounted to the above sum of \$29,635. This offer was considered as fair by the New Brunswick government and was accepted by it.

Our Fisheries. Canada has in its fisheries a wonderful heritage. They are indeed the most extensive in the world, and they are very prolific. In addition to such well known fishing banks adjacent to its Atlantic coasts as the Georges, Roseway, La Have, Banquet, Misaine, Sable Island, and the Grand Banks and others, we have on that seaboard 5,000 miles of coast line, practically every mile of which is stocked with excellent cod fish, and the whole length of it is dotted with harbors and coves from which the inshore fishery can be carried on with comparative ease and safety.

New Brunswick, owing to its geographical position, is particularly favored from a fisheries standpoint. On one side it has that most excellent of all fishing waters—the Gulf of St. Lawrence—and on another, the prolific waters of the Bay of Fundy. Through it courses not only such mighty rivers as the St. John, Restigouche and Miramichi, the excellence and sporting qualities of the salmon of which are famed the world over, but many other splendid though less important rivers. Up these streams each year, swarm not only salmon, but great quantities of such other anadromous fish as smelts, shad, bass and gasperaux. The numerous sheltered bays and inlets of the province, surrounded by good farm lands, provide unsurpassed facilities for the formation of fishing settlements, so that whether the fisheries are regarded from the standpoint of a separate industry, or one combined with farming, unexcelled opportunities are afforded.

Moreover, this province has the distinction of having in its Bay of Fundy waters, the only sardine fishery in Canada, and it is one of much importance and value had a large body of fishermen mainly depending on it for a livelihood. While the canneries at Lubec and Eastport, Maine, are now the chief buyers of our sardines—these canneries mainly relying on the catches of our fishermen for their raw material—we have five canneries in New Brunswick, two of which are large, one of them being the largest and best equipped sardine cannery on this continent.

The sardine canning industry is now growing rapidly in New Brunswick and there seems every reason for anticipating that in a few years we shall be canning in our own province a major percentage of our sardines.

Also, in the Bay of Fundy we have cod, hake, pollock, haddock and lobsters in abundance. The first three named are mostly marketed in the West Indies and South America in the dried condition, but the haddock, fresh and in the form of finnan haddies, are now well known in all our inland markets.

All the counties on the North Shore produce large quantities of cod and herring, and particularly Gloucester county, which is adjacent to the rich fishing banks of the Bay Chaleurs and Gulf of St. Lawrence. Lobsters are plentiful all along this shore, and the smelt fishery there amounts to over eighty per cent. of the whole Canadian smelt fishery.

All along this coast are scattered natural oyster beds, and vast areas of suitable bottoms for artificial culture and cultivation of oysters, that are now barren, await the advent of the oyster farmer. Already, one company has made splendid progress in oyster cultivation in Westmorland county, and when the possibilities of this industry become better known, no doubt there will be a development along that portion of the coast that will rival that of areas of equal acreage in the eastern States, which now have the largest and most important oyster farming industry in the world.

In addition to its world-wide famed salmon sport fishery in the non-tidal portions of its rivers, New Brunswick has by far the most important commercial salmon fishery in eastern Canada.

The following statement gives the quantities and values of the chief kinds of fish taken in New Brunswick during the past fiscal year:

Table with 3 columns: Name, Quantity, Value. Includes Salmon, Lobsters, Cod, Haddock, Hake & Cusk, Pollock, Mackerel, Shad, Alewives, Sardines, Smelts, Clams, Oysters.

On our Pacific coast, into which 7,000 miles of coast waters, into which flow such large, glacially fed waters as the Fraser River, Inlet, Skeena, Naas and others, up which every year countless thousands of five different varieties of salmon swarm. These fish form the raw material for a large canning industry, the annual value of which is now about \$10,000,000. Off this coast we have by far the richest halibut fisheries in the world, and the opening of the G.T.P. has made Prince Rupert the gateway to it, this port being about 600 miles nearer the principal fishing grounds than any other railway point. The fishing vessels, not only of Canada, but of the United States, are coming to this port in ever increasing numbers, to either ship or sell their catches and the day is not far distant when Prince Rupert will become the Grimsby of the Pacific.

In addition to our sea fisheries, we have about 220,000 square miles of fresh waters, most of which is abundantly stocked with excellent fish, the supply of which is being kept up by our hatcheries. The annual value of our fisheries is now well over \$30,000,000, that of last fiscal year having reached the high water mark of \$35,860,708, of which the fisheries of New Brunswick yielded \$4,737,145. This total value was made up by provinces as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Province, Value. Includes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P. E. Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta.

British Columbia, 14,638,250; Yukon, 63,730.

It may be surprising to those who take merely a passing interest in the subject to be told that since 1870—the first year for which figures are available—Canadian fishermen have taken from the waters fish valued at nearly a billion dollars, the exact figures being \$930,660,146.

While these figures show that the fisheries are now a great asset to the country, their present value and importance are merely an index of what they can and will be made in the next few years.

Until recent years, there has been a serious lack of progress in our Atlantic fisheries, not due to any diminution in the supply, or the need of much capital to engage in the industry, but to the lack of a way of carrying out the fishery and to the lack of demand for fish in our own country. The bulk of the catches has been dry cured or pickled, and in a rather indifferent manner, resulting in comparatively low prices, as a general thing, and a limited demand; but these conditions are being rapidly changed.

It is not surprising that in this country, with a limited population, scattered over great distances, and with the larger centres of population remote from the seacoasts, with its unimproved agricultural resources, and until recently, with no such meat plentiful and cheap in all parts thereof, there has been little demand for fish. An unfortunate result of these conditions is that a Canadian born population has grown up without a taste of fish, and even with prejudice against it, and what is even more unfortunate, that comparatively few housewives have learned how to properly prepare it for the table, simple though the various methods are. With departmental aid these conditions are being rapidly overcome and a widespread demand for fish is being built up.

Even before the war we were faced to face with a meat shortage, and there is little prospect that this shortage can be overcome for years. The great ranches of the west have practically ceased to exist, and what is even more unfortunate, that comparatively few housewives have learned how to properly prepare it for the table, simple though the various methods are. With departmental aid these conditions are being rapidly overcome and a widespread demand for fish is being built up.

There seems to be quite a widespread impression that fish is not very nourishing, and may not therefore with safety replace meat to any large extent. This impression is erroneous, and is dispelled the better. Not only is fish like meat, rich in nitrogenous food,—that is, food which supplies the body with the strength to do its work and builds up its tissues, but does not go to the building up of fat and heat,—but medical authorities advise that it cannot be too strongly insisted on, not only for people of all classes, those who work with their hands as well as those who toil with their brains, fish is an economical source of the energy required to enable them to carry on their work, and that it furnishes the very material needed by children and young people to make them grow up healthy and strong. The ease with which it is masticated and the readiness with which it emulsifies in the stomach and is absorbed makes it a most desirable food. Fish is almost as rich a food as meat, and owing to its much cheaper price, it is an eminently more economical food. That this is the case will be realized from the following: Keeping in view their relative food qualities, if dressed cod can be purchased at 8c. per lb., beef-steak would need to sell at 8 1/2c. per lb. to be as cheap a source of nourishment. If fresh haddock can be bought at 8c. per lb., fresh mutton would need to sell at 7c. to be as cheap a food. If fresh halibut can be purchased at 10c. per lb., fresh pork would have to sell at less than 15c. per lb. to be as economical a food, halibut being unusually nourishing.

Moreover, apart from the fact that in all ages of the world, the fisheries have been the mother of commerce

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1909-10—the first full year the payment of one-third of the l. c. l. express charges was in operation, the department's share on shipments from the Atlantic coast amounted to \$15,162, and on shipments from the Pacific coast, to \$12,541. In 1915-16 the amounts paid had increased to \$27,122 and \$34,872 respectively.

These payments indicate, but a small part of the total business done, as in addition to the l. c. l. shipments, every week several carloads of halibut and salmon are now shipped from the Pacific to Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal, and the fast freight service from the Atlantic coast so developed that shipments for the Friday express are now forwarded almost entirely by it, involving the forwarding of one to three carloads per week, while during the winter, the large quantities of frozen fish that are used throughout the country are usually forwarded by ordinary freight.

Indeed, the business is growing so rapidly that the time is not far distant when it will be big enough to take care of itself.

This general development of the demand throughout the country, is naturally reflecting itself on the fishing industry itself. The fishermen are becoming more alive to their opportunities, and newer and better methods (Continued on Page 4)

Believes She Was Saved From Stroke of Paralysis

All One Side Was Cold and Powerless When She Began Using Dr. Chase's Nerve Food.

A dead nerve cell can never be replaced. In this way it is different to other cells of the human body. But feeble, wasted nerve cells can be restored, and herein lies hope. In this fact is also a warning to take note of such symptoms as sleeplessness and loss of energy and ambition, and restore the vitality to the nervous system before some form of helplessness results. Nervous prostration, locomotor ataxia and paralysis are the natural results of neglecting to keep the nerves in healthful condition. The use of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food when you suspect there is something wrong, will soon restore vitality to the nervous system, and thereby prevent serious developments. Mrs. Merritt Nichols, R. R. No. 2, Dundalk, Ont., writes: "I take pleasure in writing to tell you the great benefit I have derived from the use of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food. I was so nervous I could not sleep, and found it hard to get my work done at all, but, having no help at the time, had to do the best I could. Finally my left arm became powerless and cold, and this continued to get worse until my whole side was affected, head and all. I decided to try Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, and the first box helped me so much that I used several, and believe that this treatment saved me from having a paralytic stroke. It has built me up wonderfully, and I can recommend it most heartily, believing that if more Nerve Food were used there would be much less sickness."

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