

The Mines Development Act provides for the expenditure of public money for the construction of trails, roads and bridges to facilitate the operation and development of mineral or placer claims or the exploration of new districts. The Mineral Survey and Development Act of 1917 provides for—

- (1) a mineral survey of the province, (2) certain aids to prospectors, (3) protection of wage-earners on mining works, and (4) protection of investors in mining property.

The Iron Bounties Act of 1918 provided for the payment of a bounty on pig-iron manufactured within the province. The bounty is \$3 per ton (2,000 pounds) when the ore from which it is manufactured is mined within the province and \$1.50 per ton otherwise.

FISHERIES

In considering the fish resources of Central British Columbia it is well to bear in mind that these are not fixed in the same manner as its lands, forests, or mines. This applies particularly to the commercial species. The sockeye salmon of the Fraser river, for instance, is hatched in the spawning beds of the Fraser, of which Quesnel lake in Central British Columbia is one of the most important. The young fish then find their way to the ocean and reach maturity in salt water. Returning years later to the spawning grounds from which they started out they are caught by the fishermen of the lower Fraser waters and Juan de Fuca strait. The harvest therefore, falls to the credit of the southern part of the province though the spawning grounds of the interior are a necessary and integral part of the great industry.

For this reason the fisheries of the entire province will be taken into account in the statistics given herewith. The asset is a movable one and no definite proportion can be allotted to any particular part of the province. The salmon must be permitted to reach their spawning grounds in the interior in order that the supply may be kept up for the fishermen of the coast regions about the mouths of the various rivers where the fish ascend.

Second only to the salmon in yield is the halibut. The halibut fishing industry centers at Prince Rupert and might be particularly claimed as belonging to the central part of the province.

The fisheries of British Columbia as a whole are more extensive and valuable than those of any other province of the Dominion. In 1917 they exceeded the combined output of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. They also exceeded the output of the remaining six provinces collectively and represented more than one-third of the entire Canadian fisheries for the year. The value of the fisheries production of British Columbia has increased most rapidly. Records have been kept since the year 1871 when the total value of the fish catch was given as a trifle over one hundred thousand dollars. In 1880 it was nearly three-quarters of a million while the following year was double these figures. In 1888 it almost reached two million dollars and the next year passed the three million mark. In 1893 it reached beyond four million dollars and 1897 beyond six millions. Values varied for some years but finally passed the ten million mark in 1909, fell below the following year but reached thirteen million in 1911 and in 1917 the remarkable figure of twenty-one and a half million dollars.