

hypothesis, but it shows the folly of those who talk lightly of bartering her fishery rights without ample financial recompense. The following shows the value of the yield of fish for each Province, and the total for Canada in the first year British Columbia and Manitoba and the North West Territories were respectively taken into Confederation, and 1897.

Province.	1876.	1886.	1897.
Nova Scotia.....	\$ 6,029,050	8,415,362	8,090,348
New Brunswick.....	1,953,389	4,180,227	3,934,135
Prince Edward Island.....	494,967	1,141,991	954,949
Quebec.....	2,097,668	1,741,382	1,737,011
Ontario.....	437,229	1,435,998	1,289,822
British Columbia.....	104,697	1,577,348	6,138,865
Manitoba & N. W. T....		186,980	638,416

† Total for Canada.... \$11,117,000 \$18,679,288 \$22,783,546

The total aggregate value of the fisheries from 1870 to 1897 amounted to, \$438,534,185, contributed as follows:—

Maritime Prov. 28 Years.	Quebec. 28 Years.	Ontario. 28 Years.	B. Columbia. 22 Years.	North Wes 12 Years.
\$ 296,904,211	\$ 54,492,312	\$ 29,256,629	\$ 51,597,771	\$ 6,283,262

The yearly average of each Province was:—

\$10,603,700	\$1,946,100	\$1,044,000	\$2,362,600	\$523,605
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It will be to many a surprise to find that in the inland waters of Ontario, and of the North West, the value of fish taken annually in the last six years has been \$2,422,000. The annual average for the whole of Canada in those six years was \$20,623,000, so that the Provinces which do not touch the sea furnished 11.75 per cent. of the total product of the Canadian fisheries in the last six years. The relative values of the principal kinds of fishes caught in 1897 were: salmon, \$5,670,174; cod, \$3,909,094; herring, \$2,099,077; lobsters, \$3,485,265; haddock and white fish, \$1,533,912. The enormous extent of the product may be judged by the following analysis of the weights and quantities:—

Cwt.	Lbs	Barrels.	Tons.	Cans in No.
1,778,000	162,776,690	1,192,200	885	61,000,000

The following shows the number of fishermen engaged, and the number of vessels employed, and the values of the boats and plant in each Province:—

	No. of men.	No. of vessels.	Value of vessels.	Total value of fisheries, plant.
			\$	\$
Nova Scotia.....	25,373	16,013	1,138,872	3,149,174
New Brunswick..	11,571	6,302	361,332	1,755,324
P. E. Island.....	4,459	2,059	74,807	386,156
Quebec.....	12,044	7,002	188,336	583,403
Ontario.....	3,069	1,422	293,516	744,431
British Columbia..	20,936	5,247	660,660	2,514,660
Manitoba & N. W..	1,667	832	112,398	237,646
	79,059	38,877	\$2,829,921	\$9,376,794

The lobster plant alone is valued at \$1,350,000, which comprises that of 738 canneries. This one crustacean sustains an industry which employs 15,165 persons, and its value last year was \$3,485,265. Another shell-fish, the oyster, yielded \$180,488, the quantity being 44,722 barrels.

The above figures are based on the value of the catches to the fishermen, and the numbers employed comprise only those directly engaged in fishing and preparing products for the market. If to these statistics were added the increase in values when the fish

are retailed, and the number of persons to whom employment is given in the work of retailing and distributing fish, it is probable that the total value above given, viz., \$22,783,201, and the total number of persons engaged in the trade, viz., 79,059, would both be doubled. It would be found also that the total capital invested in fisheries, viz., \$9,370,794, was largely augmented by the capital of retailers and distributors of fishery products.

The expenditures of the Federal Government in conducting the Fisheries' Department in 1897-98 amounted to \$432,635, towards which a revenue was received of \$113,103, leaving \$319,532 as the net cost of administering this important service. The revenue arises from rents, licenses, fees, etc. The protection of this industry from foreign poachers cost \$97,170, and \$157,504 was expended in bounties to the deep-sea fishermen of the Maritime Provinces, of which \$60,939 was divided amongst the owners and crews of 790 vessels, and \$96,565 amongst 23,612 fishermen engaged on 13,937 boats. In 1898 there were 79 licenses issued to American vessels, the holders of which are free to enter Canadian waters to buy bait, ice, tackle, etc., also to tranship their catch to another licensed vessel. These licensed American vessels are not allowed to buy provisions, stores, etc., in a Canadian port, a restriction which they and our local storekeepers resent, and which the Commander of the Protection Service thinks it would be wise to relax. The object of this prohibition was, however, to deny American fishing vessels the requisite facilities for remaining in the waters of Canada, where experience has shown that American fishermen need to be closely watched, as they are ever on the look out for opportunities to pursue their calling in contravention of the fishery laws of Canada. So aggressive, so alert and so contemptuous of law are most of the American fishermen that it would be extremely injurious to those of Canada were the present international regulations so relaxed as to give foreigners any fishing privileges in Canadian waters. By reckless disregard of natural laws the Americans have destroyed their inland fisheries and damaged those of the sea. Experts and other officials are all convinced that our lake and river fisheries would be wiped out and our sea-coast ones reduced heavily in value to Canadian fishermen were the protection to the fish and to their captors relaxed as the Americans desire. The motto for Canada in regard to this source of national wealth should be, "What we have we'll hold." A business which employs 79,000 fishermen, the products of which yield over twenty millions of dollars yearly, is too valuable an heritage to be put in any jeopardy. Nor would it be desirable for Canada to adopt the plan of 'robbing Peter to pay Paul' by sacrificing the great interests which the Maritime Provinces have in their fishery industries in order to secure some concessions from a neighbouring nation that would be only advantageous to some interests in other Provinces. The strength of Canada would be imperilled by any policy that would give the workers and capitalists of one section of the Dominion just ground for realising that they had been sacrificed to benefit the workers and the capitalists of some other section.