

P R E F A C E

This booklet is issued by the Department of The Naval Service in the hope that it will come into the hands of many in whose homes fish has not yet become an important part of the diet of the household, and who will, by a perusal of its pages, be led to see the wisdom, from the standpoints of both economics and health, of giving fish as an article of food a prominent place.

Up to a few years ago the demand for fresh fish in the inland portions of Canada was comparatively small, and the more important markets, such as Toronto and Montreal, were being mainly supplied from United States' sources, and in some instances with fish that had first been exported to that country. In 1907 the Department of Marine and Fisheries undertook to see if something could not be done to change these conditions. It found that the dealers were handicapped by lack of transportation facilities and high transportation charges. Except for a limited through trade, mainly in halibut, from the Pacific coast to Toronto and Montreal, the business was so small that the railways did not find it feasible to place cold-storage facilities at the disposal of the shippers. The express rate on fish from Halifax or Mulgrave to Montreal, for instance, is \$1.50 per 100 lbs., while from Portland it is but 80c. While there is an import duty of \$1.00 per 100 lbs., giving a gross rate from Portland of \$1.80 per 100 lbs., the short haul from United States' ports, and the reliance that could be placed in having orders promptly filled, more than offset the small advantage of 30c. per 100 lbs. to the Canadian shipper.