

The spawning years of the Fraser river have occurred in cycles of four, the years 1901, 1905, 1909, 1913 and 1917 being included. Interest is now focussing on the coming run of 1921.

Great losses to the salmon industry were permitted to be perpetuated by shutting them off from access to their spawning areas of the upper Fraser. A dam constructed in connection with mining activities across the outlet of Quesnel lake, barred the entrance of fish for some time. Though the sockeye passed up the Quesnel river in millions, they could not enter the lake. Later a practical fishway was constructed to overcome the barrier. In 1909 over four million sockeye entered this lake, while in 1913, owing to a blockade in the Fraser canyon caused by a slide of rock from the Canadian Northern railway construction, only about half a million reached these spawning grounds. The run to Chilko lake was large in the years 1901, 1905 and 1909, but small in 1913 owing to the same blockade. The importance of keeping the way clear to these areas is therefore apparent.

The Meziadin lake section is now a favourite spawning ground for the Nass sockeye packs. Falls in the Meziadin form a natural barrier, but these are now overcome by a great fishway constructed by the Dominion Fisheries Branch. In the spawning season, during the spring and early summer months, these salmon push their way up the large rivers into the many lakes lying inland, and even ascend the smallest tributaries to every favourable body of water, however small, within reach.

Salmon are caught chiefly by gill-nets, seines and trap-nets operated from fleets of small fishing smacks. They are immediately taken to canneries constructed at convenient points all along the coast and put up for trade in tin cans, packed in wooden cases. Fishing may be conducted only under license, which must be obtained from the fisheries officials. The Dominion Government has established a number of hatcheries for the purpose of increasing this valuable species. Two are located in Central British Columbia, one being on Babine lake and one on the Skeena river. From these some 13,450,000 sockeye were hatched in 1917 and liberated in the Skeena watershed. There are some seven or eight additional salmon hatcheries in the more southerly parts of the province, and the total number of salmon fry produced in 1917 approached fifty million.

The halibut fishing industry of the Pacific coast adjacent to Prince Rupert has come into considerable prominence during the last few years and is of special interest to Central British Columbia. This industry is carried on in large, well equipped steamers and vessels. The fish are captured by set lines or hand trawls, dories being used for setting and hauling the lines, as in the Atlantic deep-sea fishing. Herring are mainly used for bait, the supply of these fish being very plentiful in these waters.

The Pacific coast, with its numerous sheltering islands and deep inlets and fjords affords most excellent fishing grounds of unusual protection. The length of this coast line, in British Columbia waters, exceeds 7,000 miles. Luxuriant woods clothe these shores, adding to the general pleasing effect.

At Prince Rupert during the height of the fishing season, about July, the "mosquito fleet," as it is called, comprised of fishing boats of an average value of about \$8,000 each, presents quite a busy scene. Canneries are scattered at various points up and down the shore, but most of the halibut catch is shipped out in

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