

Extracted from the
FIFTH ANNUAL DIRECTORY OF THE SONS OF ENGLAND AND ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETIES
OF THE OTTAWA VALLEY, April, 1902.



Printed by the Commissioner of Fisheries, Ottawa.

PROFESSOR EDWARD E. PRINCE,

A SHORT SKETCH OF

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DOMINION COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES, OTTAWA.

Few high Government officials are better known throughout the various provinces of Canada than Professor Edward E. Prince, Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries. Since his appointment in October, 1892, he has visited repeatedly every Province from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and there is no important river or lake and no stretch of sea-shore, where fishing is carried on, which has not been inspected by that zealous and gifted official whose recommendations to the Government have done so much to utilize, preserve, and advance our vast fishery resources. Professor Prince, after a period of University training in Scotland, at St. Andrews and Edinburgh and at Cambridge, in England, devoted himself to fishery studies early in his career. Natural History had always had a special attraction for him and it is not surprising therefore that his first official appointment was in the famous University of Edinburgh, where in 1885, he was Senior Assistant and Demonstrator in Zoology, and in 1886 became Curator at the Marine Biological Station in connection with St. Andrews University, Scotland. Under the Scottish Fishery Board, Professor Prince conducted elaborate investigations upon the eggs, spawning, breeding habits and migrations of young fish in the sea. He went out with the fishing fleets, superintended dredging and other deep-sea work, and acquired that thorough practical knowledge of the fisherman's operations, which have been so valuable to him in dealing with the complex problems of the Canadian fisheries. Professor Prince has never been a theorist, but above all a practical expert with a full and exact knowledge of his subject in all its branches. As the *Vancouver Daily World* recently said: "His reputation is not confined to our own Empire, he is recognized as a foremost authority by foreign Governments." Thus he was four years ago chosen to represent Canada as a member of the Executive Board of the International Fisheries Association, which met at Tampa, Florida; while the French Government

selected him as one of the two delegates from this continent to the great International Fisheries Congress at Paris in 1900. When in 1895 a large shipment of B. C. salmon, regarded as illegal in London, where seized by the English Fishmonger's Company, the High Commissioner for Canada cabled to Ottawa for the opinion of Prof. Prince, and our Government cabled back the reply that Prof. Prince pronounced the fish to be legal according to the English fishery laws, and in consequence this valuable shipment of Canadian salmon was at once released.

It is probable that no other authority ever had the opportunity of so thoroughly mastering the details of the fisheries of England and Scotland, few have such a complete a knowledge of the fisheries of Ireland, * and it is certainly not too much to say that no man ever possessed so extensive a knowledge of the vast fisheries of Canada as Prof. Prince. In the large work on the "Life-history of Food Fishes" (with 30 quarto plates) which he published conjointly with Prof. McIntosh, the greatest European fishery authority, Professor Prince fully detailed his surprising discoveries in the study of fish-life in the sea, and he has since added to his publications on marine life a series of about fifty zoological papers, many of them of remarkable interest. A very striking article on the work of the Scottish Marine Station was published in Macmillan's *Illustrated Magazine* in 1889, illustrated by the famous artist Holland Tringham, and it attracted wide attention. In *Longman's Magazine* several fascinating articles on fisheries by Prof. Prince have appeared, and for many years he was on the contributing staff of the *National Observer*, edited at that time by Mr. W. E. Henley, and including on its staff Kipling, Swinburne, Barrie, Gilbert Parker, Jas. Payn, Thos. Hardy, and most of the famous literary men of our time. During the years 1888-89, Prof. Prince was Secretary of the Scottish Bait Beds Commission, presided over by the Rt. Hon. Lord Tweedmouth, and in Canada he has taken a prominent part in several similar commissions. Thus, in 1898-9 he presided over the sittings of the Lobster Commission, which took evidence all along the Atlantic coast of the Dominion, and reported in a Government Blue Book of great interest and value, Prof. Prince's active interest in the Commission added greatly to its public importance and

* Prof. Prince was naturalist on the Government Survey of Irish Fisheries, 1890.

success. The work of that commission was followed with unusual interest not only in Canada, along the shores of the maritime provinces, but also in the neighbouring republic, indeed a United States journal, the leading authority upon fishery matters, said: 'We cannot but admire the conscientious work of the commission. Unlike most of the investigators that we have in this part of the world they have not made the work an occasion for pleasure at public expense, but have with diligence and perseverance prosecuted the inquiry with unremitting earnestness.' Recently he was appointed chairman of the British Columbia Salmon Commission, which, included as members Mr. G. R. Maxwell, M.P., Mr. Aulay Morrison, M.P., and Mr. Ralph Smith, M.P., and held sixteen most successful sessions on the Pacific Coast during January and February. Respecting this Commission the *Daily World*, Vancouver, of January 28th, 1902, says:— "When Hon. James Sutherland started his career as Minister of Marine and Fisheries he earned the thanks of all right-thinking men in British Columbia by appointing a commission to inquire into the fishing industries of this province. The minister was well aware that there are peculiar conditions existing on the coast which make such an inquiry one of not a little difficulty and one calling for much patience on the part of the commissioners. For the difficult post of head of the commission and real examiner a man well versed in the matter was required and one able to hold his own when conflicting interests appeared before him and attempted to sway his judgment. Prof. Prince, the expert and permanent head of the fisheries department at Ottawa, was naturally chosen. There is no one on this side of the boundary line, and few persons on the other, who surpass him in all-round knowledge of the subject which has been his study for so many years. Prof. Prince has had experience under several ministers—both Liberal and Conservative—and they have found him the right man in the right place."

For four years the Commissioner of Fisheries has been the Director and responsible head of the Marine Biological Station of Canada, having been unanimously elected to that important office by an influential board consisting of representatives from the six great universities of the Dominion. A Blue-book just issued entitled "Contributions to Canadian Biology" bears evidence of the energy and scientific qualifications of Prof. Prince, to whom this notable Marine Station largely

owes its existence. The Georgian Bay Biological Station authorities have recently enlisted Prof. Prince's sympathy and scientific aid by asking him to join their Board of Directors.

Professor Prince, apart from his eminence as a fishery expert, has a reputation in the wider field of zoological science. Indeed, he was for some years Professor of Natural History in the Medical College of Glasgow Royal Infirmary, resigning his chair to come to Canada; and he was President of the Andersonian Naturalists' Society, and Vice-President of the Natural History Society, Glasgow. He is hon. member of the two societies just named, and of the Marine Fisheries Society, Grimsby, England, as well as the Nova Scotia Institute of Natural Science, Halifax, N.S., and has been President of the Ottawa Field Naturalist's Club, and of the Ottawa Literary and Scientific Society, in which societies he has taken an active and prominent part. He was Canadian Secretary of the Biology section of the British Association, at the Toronto Meeting, 1897, and was selected to contribute important articles to the Association's Handbooks at Edinburgh, 1892, and Toronto, 1897.

The Royal Society of Canada invited Professor Prince to deliver the annual evening address in May, 1897, and he has twice delivered Somerville Science Lectures in Montreal, (1896 and 1899), and was asked to take part, on two occasions, in the popular science courses of Toronto University in 1893 and 1898.

He has always taken a keen interest in military matters, being one of the original members of the University Artillery Battery, St. Andrews, Scotland; and he holds a commission in the Governor-General's Foot Guards, Ottawa. He was born in Leeds, England, May 23rd, 1858, and married in 1894 Bessie Morton, the second daughter of the late Rev. Hugh Morton Jack, M.A., minister of the Parish of Girthon, Kirkcudbrightshire.