FISHERIES RESEARCH IN CANADA

By Dr. A. G. HUNTSMAN
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

In fisheries research as in many other things Canada through her intermediate position is powerfully influenced by both Great Britain and the United States, but their differences have permitted her to "call her soul her own" and to follow a somewhat independent course. Her organization for fisheries research did not spring like Minerva "full-armored from the head of Jove," the creation of some master or collective mind, as have many research organizations, but has developed like an organism, in relation to its environment and by learning from experience.

After the forced union of Upper and Lower Canada (Ontario and Quebec) in 1841, the new Province of Canada felt the stimulus of opportunity for self-government. With demands for protection of its fishing population along the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence from inroads of fishermen from the colonies of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and from the New England states, it considered the services of a British cruiser inadequate and in 1852 appointed Pierre Fortin, a graduate in medicine of McGill University and in later life a Member of Parliament, as magistrate in command of the expedition for the protection of the fisheries in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, building the armed schooner La Canadienne for his use. He was not only magistrate, but also counselor and physician to the scattered communities along the coast, and in addition initiated fisheries research. He described the fishes (naming a new species) as well as the fisheries, and developed a system of detailed fishery statistics that was adopted for the rest of Canada and that has given this country these basic data for fishery research, collected in more detail and continuously for a longer period than holds for any other country. On confederation of the province with New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to form the Dominion of Canada in