

districts were carefully guarded against any one gathering it, except the 10,000 he employed for the purpose. Each of these collectors in the year 1709 was bound to furnish two ounces free, and then was at liberty to sell the rest to the emperor for its weight in silver. If the root had the form of a human being it could be sold for its weight in gold. Even to-day great prices are paid for large and curiously shaped specimens, especially if they resemble the human figure. It was first discovered in Canada, near Montreal in 1716, by Father Lafitau, a Jesuit missionary among the Iroquois, and in 1718 a description of it was furnished. The French soon engaged in collecting and exporting it to China, and so great did the trade become that it gave quite an impulse to the commerce of Montreal for a number of years. At one time great numbers of Indians were engaged in gathering it about Montreal and Quebec and large quantities of it were sent to China. In 1832 the shipments of ginseng from the United States amounted to 407,067 pounds, valued at \$99,303. In one county in Wisconsin the trade is reported to have reached, in 1858 \$40,000 and in 1859 \$80,000. Immense quantities have been exported from Minnesota. At present the chief sources of the plant in the States are Ohio, West Virginia and Minnesota. About the close of the eighteenth century it was discovered also in Massachusetts, its exportation commenced and large returns obtained. During the last year 75,000 pounds were sent from America. In the forests of Tartary, where it was once plentiful, it is now almost extinct and hence has arisen the demand for it from America. It is not regarded of any value in this country as a medicine. Some are fond of chewing it as the taste is rather agreeable, being sweet, bitter, somewhat aromatic and pungent. The fact that Chinese doctors claim, that the roots of different shape possess widely different medicinal properties indicates, that its healing virtues are more of an imaginary character than real. But faith in its virtues continues, and as yet a great demand for it exists. The Chinese physicians introduce it into almost all their prescriptions for the nobility, to heal the sick and increase the vigor of the healthy.

A traveller in China remarks, he never entered a drug shop but ginseng was being sold. Volumes have been written by Chinese doctors upon its medicinal powers, asserting that it gives ready relief in extreme fatigue, renders respiration easy, strengthens the stomach, promotes the appetite, relieves all nervous affections and gives a vigorous tone of body, even in extreme old age.

The following figures taken from the *Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal*, April, 1891, will give some idea of the trade in ginseng in Canada :

The quantity sent out of Canada last year is stated to represent