

utility and good results derived from salmon breeding in the neighbourhood of the sea, but placing young fish in a large inland bay or lake, where the water is swarming with enemies, is a blind proceeding, producing not one scientific result; it is actually absurd. Almost all the fish will be wasted, and the few that survive will doubtless leave the dangerous waters, never to return again. Have we not already proved that shad pass annually from the Gulf to Lake Ontario, and by so doing shewn that the lake is not land-locked to fishes which require a change of water? Therefore, the fact that shad pass up the St. Lawrence to Burlington Bay, is strong proof that salmon hatched on the north shore of the lake are not likely to remain behind, while they can find their way to the sea. If this is not the case, what has become of all the salmon hatched year after year at Newcastle? What benefit has the country derived commercially from this source to make up the annual outlay of money to sustain this establishment?

#### WILD RICE.

The cultivation of Wild Rice has been to a great extent successful when undertaken in the inland waters of Western Canada, where it is partly a native, and now it may be found in ponds, lakes and rivers in Ontario. We have no available record of how far north this aquatic plant or cereal can grow, but it seems extraordinary that in the Province of Quebec no attempt has been made to experiment with its seed. On the British side of Lake Champlain there are many available localities for the introduction of wild rice seed, and although we think it will not grow north of latitude 46.50, the seed should be sown in places at first south of the St. Lawrence, where, if it succeeds, and becomes acclimatized to the combined waters, then the good localities on the north side could be tried. It induces the presence of all kinds of wild water fowl in the autumn. In the west it grows in water six or eight feet deep, and the

red-winged blackbird, ducks and waders resort there and afford fine shooting. Sportsmen's Clubs are using every effort to extend its growth in Canada. It is also said that where it grows prolifically, it has been cut before seed-time by manufacturers, who find its fibre, taken from the under surface of the water to a depth of six or seven feet to be very valuable. It affords, it is said, the strongest kind of fibre known for making bank note parchment paper.

#### GOOD ANGLING PROSPECTS.

We have been informed since the Fishery Department at Ottawa, and the Fish and Game Club of the Province of Quebec stopped net fishing, that Maskilongé, Black Bass, Pike-perch, and other good food fishes occur abundantly in local waters this year. Of course, the abundance of the fishes is mainly attributed to this mode of preservation, which may be the case, but we are aware that fish, like terrestrial animals, have an occasional prolific specific year. Be this the case or not, there is a prospect that anglers will have good sport this season.

#### THE QUEBEC MARMOT.

(*Artomys empetra.*)

This quadruped, a rodent, allied to the ground squirrel (*Tamias*), does not occur to our knowledge on the Island of Montreal. It is, however, common in many other portions of Canada. The following remarks are made from one which we have had from the Eastern Townships. It is larger than the Alpine Marmot. Its head is smaller in proportion, and round; its ears are very short; its cheeks are ash gray, and its nose black. The fur is of a curious roan colour from the hairs being gray beneath, black in the middle, and white at the tips; the belly and legs are of a high-toned fawn, approaching to orange; the toes are black and naked; the tail short and rather bushy. This species inhabits Hudson Bay and the northern parts of Canada. It is a solitary animal,