

and close along the shore. These are the "flounder" or "fluke" but larger and fatter than those caught on the British coasts. Very few of the fishermen eat them, the majority indeed will not touch them. I tried them in several places both boiled and fried and considered them excellent, and I was informed that certain merchants on the West Coast who had recently exported them to America had done remarkably well with them. They would sell equally readily in Great Britain. The average price flounders fetched in Scotland last year was 13/6 per cwt. whilst in England they brought as much as 16/—, a considerably higher price in both countries than that fetched by cod. The supply I was assured is practically unlimited. This I can well believe for the flounder is an exceedingly prolific fish and in Newfoundland, as I have said up to the present time it has been scarcely fished for at all. There is a variety known by the fishermen as the deep sea flat fish which are much larger and better fish in every way. They are not often brought ashore as the fishermen beat them off their hooks, but they must be quite plentiful or they would not be caught at all with such large hooks as those on bultows or trawls, for all flat fish have very small mouths and cannot take a large hook. These deep sea flat fish would certainly fetch a high price, considerably higher than the inshore flat fish if a market were available for them.

PLAICE.

A great many persons assert that the plaice also occurs in Newfoundland waters, but I did not see any, and I am therefore not in a position to state whether this is so or not. The fishermen take no notice of the flat fish at all and do not therefore distinguish one from the other. It may be inferred that the plaice does exist for where other flat fishes are found in such abundance, it would be strange if the plaice was

absent, although it is true the sole is absent also. Plaice is rising steadily in value in the British markets, the average price per cwt. obtained in Scotland last year being £1 11s. It being so valuable a fish and as the supply in Great Britain is steadily diminishing, it would seem to be worth while to ascertain definitely whether they are found here or not. I tried hard to do so, but I found it impossible with the time and limited means at my disposal. I was told on the West Coast that the best place to make enquiries would be St. Pierre, for the French make use of all the flat fish, and of many other fish too, which in Newfoundland are not used at all.

The value of the plaice landed last year in England was over one million pound sterling, and it has risen in value from 18/8 per cwt. in 1905 to £1 8s 11d in 1913. A great portion of the supply is obtained from the Barents Sea, that part of the Arctic Ocean including within it the White Sea, and lying between Archangel and Spitzbergen.

HALIBUT.

The halibut is one of the largest and most valuable of the flat fish family. It is at present only fished for on the south and west coasts and there only to a small extent, but the fishing area could be very largely extended, for halibut are met with in most places around the Island wherever the water is deep. They are not caught in other places merely because there is no outlet for them, whereas on the South west coast, they can be shipped over fresh to Sydney. I saw some excellent specimens brought in by the boats at Channel, both large and small, the latter called "chicken halibut" being merely the young of the fish.

The importance of the halibut as a food fish is very considerable, and is yearly increasing. The supply heretofore has been chiefly from Iceland and from the Barents Sea but lately it has been sent over successfully from