

injury to the marketableness of the fish. Besides this leaf fat the fat or oil is disseminated in a layer of fat and a layer of lean throughout the fish. They are too fat to be eaten fresh, and are put up for market like the Lake white fish and Mackinac trout—celebrated American delicacies.”

Mr. P. L. SIMMONDS said, that the extract just read formed part of a paper “On some Undeveloped and Unappreciated Articles of Raw Produce from different parts of the World,” which he had read before the members at the close of 1854, and for which the Society had done him the honour to award him their silver medal. It was part of a passage in which he was directing public attention to the neglected river and lake fisheries of North America, and it was known as a peculiarity of the fish of the American inland seas that they were very fat.

Before Professor Wilson replied to the Chairman's question, he (Mr. Simmonds) craved permission to make a few remarks on the very excellent paper which had just been read—a paper which, from its valuable statistics and succinct details, was calculated to do much good, not only for the promotion of colonial interests, but also in diffusing sound and authentic information at home. Unfortunately, a great deal of ignorance still prevailed among many classes in the United Kingdom respecting this, our nearest and most important emigration field. Relatively with our other possessions, Canada was making gigantic strides in progress and prosperity. He saw present his friend Sir Cusack Roney, who, from his official position and practical experience, would no doubt be able to afford much valuable recent information connected with emigration and railroad operations. And as respected railways, Professor Wilson had rather understated the number of miles open, there being now 1,653 miles in working operation. It was satisfactory to mark the present condition of Canada and its improving prospects, which were mainly owing to its extensive land and water communications, which had been so fully described. But there were other causes at work. The Americans and the British settlers were now amicably trading together on mutually advantageous terms under the Reciprocity Treaty. There were now no boundary quarrels, no fishery disputes, no hostile frontier warfare, but a beneficial through traffic was carried on up the St. Lawrence and the lakes to Chicago, and the Western States, and through Portland over the Grand Trunk Line to Canada. But Canada should be viewed not only in its isolated character, but in the relation it was likely to bear, and the influence it would exert in a Federative Union of the British North American Colonies, which would sooner or later take place, even as the union of the Australian Colonies was now being discussed by the several local legislatures. Canada, as had been well remarked, had wisely directed her chief attention to the development of her agricultural resources. These were not only the mainstay, but the sure earnest of success for a young colony. Minerals she had in abundance, the gold of the Chaudiere, the crystalline iron on the islands in Lake Nipissing, the marbles of the Belleville district, the beautiful lithographic stone extending over a tract of seventy miles, from Marmora to Lake Simcoe, the phosphate of lime in the Ottawa valley and elsewhere, and the prolific copper mines on the Canadian shores of Lake Superior, where one mass of virgin copper, weighing 160,000 lbs., had been discovered. But the period has not yet arrived for the due development of these. Labour, capital, and manufacturing works on a large scale were yet deficient. Unlike Australia, where agriculture had given place too much to mining, which partook of a speculative and gambling character, Canada had wisely looked to the products of the farm and the forest, and these furnished the staples of her prosperity. Last year we had imported 115,000 quarters of wheat from British North America. The latest returns of exports given by Professor Wilson (those for 1856,) showed that the total value, adding the exports to the inland ports, amounted to about £8,000,000, averaging nearly £4 per head of the population. And the value of the imports, which, for 1856, was given at £11,000,000, was last year still larger. Much of this was, however, taken out by emigrants. Neither could the materials for constructive works, imported from England, be fairly apportioned to the population. Emigration, which had been rather slack for the two previous years, owing to the demands for enlistment during the war, was last year more active, about 21,000 souls having proceeded to the North American colonies, being an increase of between 4,000 and 5,000 over the preceding years. Most of these, as the Chairman was aware, proceeded to Canada, and although some few passed on to the States, yet the largest portion settled in the colony, and there was even an immigration from the States and Lower Provinces. What Canada was at present they had heard in the paper just read, but what she was likely to be in a few years it