

Manitoba Wheat Inspection System.

(Continued from Page 141.)

free from smutt were all made to suffer in the grades of No. 1 north end, No. 2 and No. 3 hard, that the 2 per cent might have their mutty wheat placed on the market as secured wheat, of equal value to the 88 per cent of the crop that was free from smut.

Catching Whitefish in Lake Winnipeg

No province in the Dominion is possessed of such large wild and beautiful lakes as those which exist in Manitoba. The shores of Lake Winnipeg, Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis, are but little inhabited and a pleasing and interesting wilderness still rests on the old forests that fringe the dark waters and cover the lonely islands. A few fishermen, a few Indians and a few wanderers are almost the only individuals to be met with, either in the evergreen woods, on the shore, or on the homely bluffs that chase each other on their pathless course over the wild expanse.

Having a strong desire to see a very large lake which is still as nature formed it, and still possessed of the splendid harbours for ages has rested on the wild waters, we left Selkirk on the steamer Premier, Capt. Pollock. As the vessel approached the several mouths of the Red River where the waters flow slowly through the extensive stretches of grass and reeds, a number of duck hunters in their canoes were noticed, and large flocks of wild fowl were on the wing. This place is one of the finest shooting grounds in the province. Soon the steamer was breasting the still savage waters of Lake Winnipeg and after a run of about a hundred and fifty miles Swampy Island was reached, where in the little harbor were two steam tugs and a number of boats belonging to the fishing company. Here also rests the disabled steamer Sulta, which is used as a boarding place by the fishermen. A very beautiful island near by is named Punket's island. On this is a small lighthouse, the only one on the lake, and is in charge of a man who is known to be the brother of an English nobleman. Pleasured with the solitude of the situation, the beauty of the islands and the excellent fishing and shooting everywhere to be had, this old Englishman remains in retirement all the year round accompanied by his wife and family. On the lighthouse island are many other islands, the one are white birch trees and beautiful groves of mountain ash; the other just now bearing large clusters of red berries.

Early in the morning we were invited to go out in one of the tugs to visit the fish-nets. Each tug had several boats, and as the crews of the large lines of nets were approached the boats were to go, and here and there the work of removing the large, silvery, sargolite whitefish was commenced. The Indian and half-breeds were exceedingly expert and in order that they might have better hands to work with the fish's head was usually placed in the mouth of the operator. As the head of the whitefish is exceedingly small when compared to the size of the body, and as the Indians' mouth was quite capacious the difficulty was less than might be expected, but it

was curious to see an Indian holding a great struggling fish with the head secured by his strong teeth as he lobbied with both hands to relax it from the net. Some of the fish escaped as the net was hauled in and the operators being exhausted by their struggles and unable to swim properly, they floundered about on the surface and were either gaffed by the fishermen, or when a short distance from the boats were pounced upon by the army of gulls that hovered continually about the nets. These have a simple and easy way, for they are protected in order that they may devour the offal of the fish and so keep the harbours clean. The largest catch made this season at one time is said to be seven thousand whitefish taken from about two miles of net. This affords some idea of the richness of the Lake Winnipeg fisheries, and Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis are as populous with whitefish as is Lake Winnipeg.

As soon as the tugs and boats reach the shore the fish are cleaned and packed with ice, fifty in each box. The next day the fish are again overhauled and repacked with fresh ice, of which an enormous supply has been stored on the island during the winter. Early in the days the steamer wheel makers, iron rounds call and tank the boxes of fish to Selkirk, which is the headquarters of the fishing companies. —Pilot Mount Sentinel.

Business in the Early Days.

Some amusing stories are told of the way business was done at Fort Garry (Winnipeg) in the early days. Such a thing as wrapping up parcels was never thought of at the Hudson's Bay store. Customers were supposed to provide their own packages. Tea, which was a staple among the natives, was usually tied up in the handkerchief of the purchaser. C. A. Loveland, who visited Fort Garry 38 years ago, in his way west, in a prospecting tour, relates the following regarding his experience here in those days. He says: "The rule was to hand down the first article of the kind asked for, thus a 200 pound man would probably be handed a pair of pants of a size suitable for a 120 pound man, and he was expected to take them and vice versa. They objected to any selection being made. Mr. Loveland himself had a great difficulty in getting supplies at all. He was ten days before he could get attended to. The store was opened in the morning and closed at a certain hour in the afternoon, and all who were inside at closing time were ordered out and had to wait their chance next day. After he had waited several days he remained at closing time and by his persistence got the clerk to serve him after hours. He wanted a pound of tea and was told to put out his handkerchief; they knew nothing about wrapping goods in paper, and when he had persuaded the clerk to find him a piece of coarse paper, and he asked for a two quart kettle the nearest of half-inch rope to tie up the parcel containing the pound of tea. When he asked for a two quart kettle the nearest one was handed him which would hold some two gallons, and it was only by more persuasion that he could induce the clerk to let him have one the size he wanted from a little further along the rack,

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