

"If great variations obtain regarding the naming or misnaming of this fish, a corresponding diversity of opinion exists regarding its edible qualities. At a remote Hudson Bay post, in the Canadian Northwest, I found that the flesh was regarded as poisonous, indeed, cases of poisoning after Indians and employees of the post had eaten the fish were mentioned, and it was pointed out that even the dogs would not eat it. The dogs are usually on the excellent whitefish and decline being put off with inferior fare, and it is a fact pointed out by various explorers that the dogs of the Northwest, used in the dog-trains, refuse to eat the burbot. I found, however, at another Hudson Bay post, that the fish was often eaten and was regarded as most excellent, no ill effects having been noticed. Belonging as it does to the cod family, it should be an excellent fish for the table, like its near relatives the cod, haddock and hake. In one of the lakes of New York State (Lake Winnipiseogee) it is pronounced equal to the whitefish for table use, and the liver is generally considered a rare delicacy.

"Dr. Richardson (*Fauna Boreali-Americana*) is recorded to have said that 'the flesh of the fresh-water cusk is firm, white and of good flavor; the liver and roe are considered delicacies, when well bruised and mixed with a little flour, the roe can be baked into very good biscuits, used in the fur countries as tea bread.' Professor Brown Goode spoke of it as a very excellent fish, especially for boiling; though Dr. T. H. Bean pointed out that apart from the liver, the fish is not esteemed in the Great Lake region and northward, but in the rivers of Montana the burbot is in great favor."<sup>†</sup>

Pennell states that the flesh of the English burbot is white and firm, and is considered superior in flavor to that of the eel.

It has a very wide geographical distribution in the old world and on this continent. It has been recorded in Germany, Austria, Russia and other countries; but it is of very local occurrence in the British Islands, being wholly absent from some rivers and plentiful in none. The belief prevails that it is decreasing in numbers and doomed to extinction. It does not appear to be

<sup>†</sup> Report of Department of Marine and Fisheries (Fisheries) 1900, p. lv.