

about the estuary. They are valuable food, they range up to 6 pounds. Then there is the lesser white fish, sometimes called herring, corresponding to the so-called lake herring, which are quite abundant. They are better than the sea herring having less bones. Then there are gold-eye herring and true herring, and ling. Ling belongs to the cod family. It is a very ugly fish with a large head something like a white fish.

Because of the cold water these fish are better than those produced in southern waters. Mr. Stefansson said he considered ling one of the best fish for food. Its liver is regarded as a dainty.

There are jackfish or pike in the rivers or lakes, and the landlocked salmon occurs. Also the sturgeon in practically all the rivers of Hudson bay occur. It is the King sturgeon. Sturgeon yields a variety of products such as oil and leather, and the caviar or salted roe is a valuable product; the flesh is good. They weigh sometimes 100 pounds.

All reports are that fish in Hudson bay, particularly on the eastern side, are extremely abundant. The white whale is the most abundant of the whale tribe, especially on the west side of the bay. The natives eat them. They eat the flesh and eat the skin, regarding it as a great delicacy. It is jelly like, and good leather is made from the whale skin. There are immense schools of them that could be harpooned from canoes or driven ashore in bays. The oil is exceedingly good. They are from 1,200 to 1,500 pounds in weight, feed mainly on capelin. The narwhale also occurs there and is 12 feet to 16 feet in length, but is quite valuable; has a long ivory tusk and one of these is now worth from \$60 to \$80. The walrus is also plentiful. It yields ivory and hide and blubber—the total weight of an average specimen is about 2,000 pounds. The walrus is really being decimated, great numbers have been killed simply for the ivory.

The amount of ivory got from Marble island, by United States whalers, was extraordinary.

The polar bear is extremely valuable and comes in the fish class, almost, because he is more in the sea than out of it. His hide makes him very valuable while the weight of the flesh may be from 800 to 2,000 pounds.

I think the Alaska salmon should be introduced into Hudson bay. They are very productive and I think they are well worth experimenting with.

There is also the Inconnu—it is something between a salmon and the white fish—runs up to 40 pounds in weight. It occurs in the Mackenzie river, also in Great Bear lake waters and Great Slave lake. It might be introduced into Hudson bay.

The fish in the lakes south of Hudson bay are largely white fish and grey trout, sturgeon and pike perch. The last we call the dore—the yellow pickerel.

EXTRACT FROM THE EVIDENCE OF JOHN LAMBERT PAYNE, STATISTICIAN, DEPARTMENT RAILWAYS AND CANALS.

I am statistician for the Department of Railways and Canals. For a number of years I have given very studious attention to the proposition of a railway to Hudson bay. I have been studying the problem from the standpoint of its practicability as a railroad, and in that connection it seems to me that you have three problems indicated:—

1st, that of traffic;

2nd, that of storage;

3rd, that of ships.

You must have traffic for a railroad. What prospect is there for traffic? You have west of this railroad a very large wheat-growing area. Regina is related to Port Nelson in like manner as it is to Fort William. If you assume that 100,000,000