

latter "Cook's Sugar Evaporator," does equally well for both sorghum and maple syrup. It is made by C. C. Post, Hinesburgh, Vermont, and is in high repute among the maple sugar makers of that state.

A large supply of domestic implements competed for the patronage of the fair visitors to the shows. Sewing-machines, generally in busy and brisk operation, from several well-known manufactories, invited inspection and criticism. Most well-to-do farm families in the United States are now provided with these valuable indoor labor-saving contrivances. Washing-machines of all sorts and sizes were also exhibited, and the competition among them seemed to be pretty keen. It was even more keen in the matter of clothes-wringers, by means of which the most laborious part of washing is reduced to mere child's play. At the Michigan State Fair, a number of competing wringers were put to a very severe test. An inch board tapering to a point was attempted to be passed through the rollers.

The only wringer that passed triumphantly through this ordeal, was the "Gipson Wringer," manufactured by the Shelby Manufacturing Company, Shelby, Ohio. The tapered inch board went between its rollers without difficulty several times, and after each time the rollers held a sheet of writing paper so tenaciously that it tore in pieces on being pulled. This is truly a "Universal Wringer," having expansive gearing so adjusted that it will either wring the thickest bed-quilt, or the finest muslin fabric.

Many other novel and useful articles might be named, but these notices have already become too extended. We will only mention one thing more: a new style of corn broom manufactured by "The Syracuse Patent Broom Company." This broom is so made that the brush is removable. Hence one handle will last a life-time. When the brush part is worn out, it can be replaced with a new one. We do not know the price of this broom, but if it be reasonable, it is well worthy the attention of Canadian manufacturers and traders.

In conclusion, we recommend such of our readers as can spare the time and money, to visit the United States Exhibitions. All parties interested in the manufacture and use of labour-saving implements, could not fail to pick up a great deal of valuable information, by acting upon this suggestion.

SHRINKAGE OF WOOL. A committee appointed by the Illinois Wool Growers' Association, made a report of their labours in superintending the scouring of

wool and awarding premiums thereon, at the late annual meeting of that association. They give an elaborate table of results which show that the fine wool fleeces of ten bucks and four ewes averaged 15 1/2 lbs. in the dirt, and 5 2-1/2 lbs. scoured, making the average shrinkage nearly two-thirds, (66 2/3 per cent.), the greatest shrinkage being 78 1/2 per cent., and the least 51 1/2 per cent.; the shrinkage upon one coarse grade ewe 57 1/2 per cent., the single Cotswold ewe 45 1/2 per cent., and upon the three Southdown fleeces about 46 per cent.

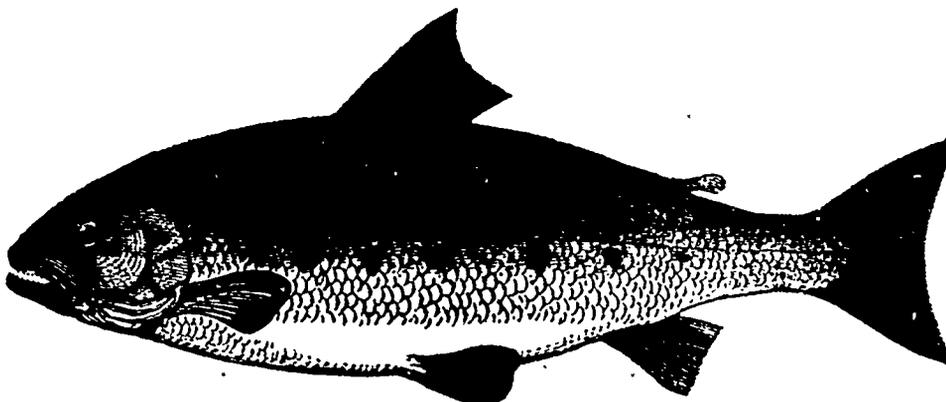
As will be seen by our reports on the last page, the price of wheat rules high. Spite of the tariff, our American friends are obliged to take our breadstuffs,

Canadian Natural History.

The Salmon Trout.

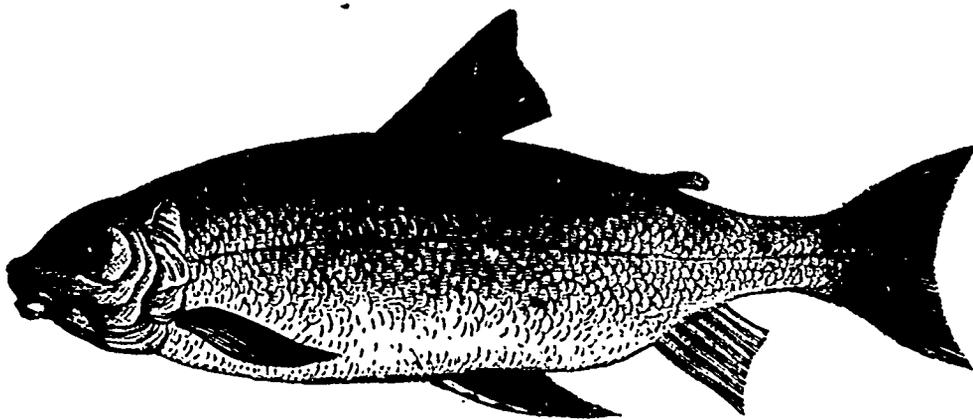
Salmo Trutta, (Yarrel.)

This fine fish, which is said by naturalists to be identical with the Salmon Trout of the Thames, the Sea Trout of Scotland, and the White Trout of Wales, Devonshire, and Ireland, has its haunts on the Eastern side of the Province of New Brunswick, and in the



Gulf of St. Lawrence, and is, we believe, found nowhere else on this continent.

The Salmon Trout very much resembles the true Salmon (*Salmo Salar*), than which its body-colour is darker, and its fin-colour lighter. It is considered a sort of intermediate fish, between it and the Brook Trout (*Salmo Fontinalis*). The length of its head is as one to four of the length of the whole body, and the depth of the body to the length of the same. The teeth are small and numerous, occupying five rows on the upper surface of the mouth. On each side of the tongue there are three or four teeth, strong, sharp, and curving backwards, well fitted to secure living prey, or convey food toward the swallow. The dorsal fin-rays are twelve in number, the pectoral thirteen, the ventral nine, the anal ten, and the caudal nineteen. These fish go in shoals, leaping and sporting with much show of spirit and enjoyment, and often enter rivers and estuaries in large numbers. Their food is miscellaneous, but the *Talitris Locusta*, or common sand-hopper, would seem to be a favourite article of diet with them. Specimens have been taken



in British waters weighing as high as seventeen pounds, but they are seldom, if ever, found more than half that size in North American waters. The whole Gulf of the St. Lawrence abounds with them from one to seven pounds in weight. They ascend the rivers as far as the tide reaches, but no farther, the pure fresh water apparently not suiting their habits. They afford splendid sport to the amateur fisherman, being taken with a scarlet fly in the bays and along the coasts. A strong fish will often make a long run, and give an exciting time of it to the angler. They prey largely upon the smelt which they pursue into the rivers and harbours, returning to the sea as soon as the smelt take to the brooks.

The White Fish.

Coregonus Albus, (Cuvier.)

This fish, properly speaking, belongs to the Salmon family, and abounds in the upper lake waters of this Province, the best being taken in the clear, cold depths of Lake Huron. It is, perhaps, the most delicious table-fish of all the purely fresh-water varieties, and though its flesh is rich and fat, it does not soon produce satiety. In October it leaves the lakes, and enters the rivers in order to spawn, returning to its usual haunts by the middle of November. It inclines to go in shoals, and resorts to different parts of the lake, according to the season of the year, its movements probably being determined by the supply of food. This fish is chiefly a vegetarian, but in the lakes to the far north, preys on insects and can occasionally be taken with a hook and line. Now

and then an angler trolling for Lake Trout or throwing the fly for the Black Bass has hooked a specimen, and "Frank Forester" expresses the opinion that were his habits only studied and humoured properly, he might be regularly caught with the hook, and from his activity and strength would give much sport to his takers. Thus far, however, it has no reputation as a game-fish. The average weight of the White Fish is from three to four pounds, though when very fat, it attains to seven or eight pounds, and in some localities has been taken of much larger size. In shape it is very deep as compared with the length and thickness. The head is narrow above, with a moderately wide frontal bone, and forming one-fifth of the length, exclusive of the tail. The eyes are large. The jaws and tongue are furnished with a few teeth, which are almost imperceptible to the naked eye. The scales are large, irregularly orbicular, and about half an inch in diameter, with a bright, pearly lustre. The colour, in the shade, is blueish-grey on the back, lighter on the sides, and white on the belly. It is a truly beautiful

fish, and no less useful than beautiful, affording their principal subsistence to several Indian tribes, and being a main article of diet at many of the fur-trading posts. In the rapids of the Sault St. Marie it is taken with scoop-nets, and speared by the Indians. The common mode of capture however, is with the seine.

RATS AND MICE.—The *Gardeners' Chronicle* says:—The following is a somewhat ludicrous calculation on the idea that there are one rat and ten mice per acre in the country. The vermin amount thus to 91,116,000 which would consume 182,232 bushels of corn daily, or 4,156,167 quarters and four bushels in a half-year, namely, 182 days and a half; and this would supply 5,831,424 people with a 2 lb. loaf each daily for six months, or 2,915,712 people daily with a 2 lb. loaf each the year round.

A notion has prevailed that Australian birds are almost destitute of song. Mr. Harper explodes this theory. He is now in Australia, and in a vein of enthusiasm describes the woods as resounding to their native songsters. A similar libel against Canada used to be retailed by tourists and others. It has, however, been pretty thoroughly refuted.