

spawning-beds. After this spell of fasting, ablution and athletics have been gone through, the geese are evidently prepared for their long flight of many hundreds of miles to the south. On the first favourable opportunity, which means a fresh breeze of northerly or north-westerly wind, they take wing in batches of thirty or more, circling round until they attain a safe altitude and then bearing away before the wind on about a true southerly course, never resting, I believe, until they reach winter quarters, many hundred miles distant. The Canada goose, on the contrary, stops to feed by the way, especially on the lakes in which wild rice abounds, which brings both ducks and geese to a much finer condition for the table than any other kind of food that they can obtain. Both the blue and white wavy are excellent, wholesome food, and one of these with a pound of flour or bread forms a days rations much liked by the men, especially when fresh. Many thousands are cured by salting and packed in barrels for the use of the Hudson Bay Co's. people, and the Indians of or near the coast, besides living upon them during a part of spring and autumn, "bone" and smoke-dry a great many for winter use, and also prepare much of the fat, to use with their hares or fish.

All kinds of grouse in Canada with which I am acquainted have the well known habit, during winter, of passing the night under the snow to protect themselves from the cold; but possibly a practise which most of them more or less follow, when the snow is in the right condition for doing so, has not been generally observed. The bird is not content to make its bed close to the door by which it has entered the snow, but generally bores a tunnel at the distance of a few inches under the surface to a distance of three or more feet, before it settles down for the night. The reason why the bird should go through so much apparently useless labour—for its night's bedroom would have been equally warm had it gone only a few inches beyond the door—was at first difficult of explanation, but a little more experience taught me to admire the intelligence of the