

copper and other minerals. In his report for 1885, Lieut. Gordon, R. N., commanding the Canadian Government expeditions to Hudson Bay, expresses the conviction that with railway communication with the Bay these mines will be speedily and extensively developed.

*Timber.*—North of the Saskatchewan the railway will run through a heavily timbered district, which will be of great value in supplying the necessities of the prairie region. The country around the head of James' Bay is also heavily wooded, a large proportion of the timber being pine of excellent quality, easily accessible and convenient for manufacture and shipment to Europe.

*Fisheries.*—The waters of the Bay and Strait abound with salmon, cod, seal, porpoise, whale and walrus. The Hudson Bay Company already do a large trade in salmon, porpoise and walrus, and for half a century New England vessels have annually visited the Bay for whales. The development of these valuable industries, however, is but yet in its infancy, and a source of such certain wealth to enterprising traders is not likely to remain neglected, once railway communication is established. The white fish trade of Lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba promises to be very large, regular shipments being made as far east as Chicago, Buffalo and New York, and south to the cities of the Mississippi Valley. Notwithstanding the present difficulties in reaching market, the quantity exported in 1886 amounted to 1,509,149 pounds.

#### THE QUESTION OF NAVIGATION.

The period during which Hudson Strait is open for navigation each year is a question that may now be considered as satisfactorily solved. The House of Commons of Canada and the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba have collected a mass of evidence bearing on the subject, the testimony varying as to the period of navigation, from four to six months. No one places it at a less period than four months for steamships, and the preponderance of evidence is in favor of from five to six months.

The following is a brief statement of some of the evidence taken :—

Dr. Bell, of the Canadian Geological Survey, who has made five voyages through the Strait: Navigable from middle of June to middle of November.