

APPENDIX T.

REPORT ON THE FISHERIES OF THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA.

FORT GARRY, January 11th, 1872.

To the Honorable
The Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that, in compliance with instructions received from the Department of Marine and Fisheries, upon my arrival here I at once endeavored to obtain, from such trustworthy sources as at this season of the year were within my reach, information regarding the Fish and Fisheries of the Province of Manitoba and of the North-West Territories.

The waters of the North-West may be divided into three systems: 1, The lakes and rivers which flow into Lake Superior; 2, The lakes and rivers which flow into the Hudson's Bay; 3, Those which empty into the Arctic Ocean.

In Neepigon Lake and River, and in some of the adjacent smaller streams which lie on the North shore of Lake Superior, lake trout and speckled trout are found. The former in fair quantity and of good size in the Lake, and the latter in very large quantities in the rivers and small streams. White fish are also found in this region, although they are neither so numerous nor of so large a size as those found in more Western waters. The brook trout are very plentiful, never having been netted in large quantities. They are only caught by the Hudson's Bay people and the Indians for their own consumption, and not for purposes of trade.

In the Lake of the Woods, Rainy Lake, and the waters of what is generally known as the "Lake Region," that is, the country lying between Lake Superior and the Eastern frontier of the Province of Manitoba, white fish are plentiful, so also are sturgeon, together with pike and coarser kinds of fish. These waters have been little fished, the country being but sparsely inhabited, and the traders and Indians who reside there only catching fish enough to supply their own wants. Lake trout are found in the Lake of the Woods and in most of the smaller lakes, more especially in Clearwater Lake, where they are found in large numbers and of fair average size.

We next come to that immense water system which finds an outlet in Hudson's Bay. This comprises—1st, The waters of the Red River, the Assiniboine and the Saskatchewan, with their tributaries, which, flowing into Lake Winnipeg, empty through Nelson River into Hudson's Bay; 2nd, The waters of the chain of small lakes and rivers which empty into Churchill River; 3rd, The waters of those less important but still considerable streams, which flow directly into Hudson's Bay at various points between James' Bay and Chesterfield Inlet.

Of all these waters it may be said that "they abound with white fish." Probably few persons in the Eastern portion of the Dominion have any adequate conception of the immense quantity of white fish found in the lakes and rivers of the North West.

The white fish (*Coregonus Albus*), or, as the Indians call it, the "Attehawmeg," of the North West, is a far larger and finer flavored fish than the white fish taken in more Eastern waters. It is generally caught with nets, seldom taking either natural or artificial bait. A white fish weighs from half a pound to ten or twelve pounds, the average weight being about four pounds. As a general rule it is understood that the coldest waters always produce the finest fish.