

sent time. He believed the whole combination would be one that would be eminently successful. It was a curious coincidence that exactly 10,000 tons of iron were used in the construction of the *Leviathan*, and the same amount of iron would be required for the tubes of the Victoria Bridge. Allusion had been made to the progress of the electric telegraph system in Canada. He only wished that the progress made there would react a little in this country. In Canada a message of ten words, exclusive of the addresses of the sender and receiver, could be sent between Quebec and Montreal, a distance of 180 miles, for 6d., and a halfpenny for every additional word; whilst for the shortest message to Liverpool—200 miles—the charge was 4s. From Quebec to Hamilton, between 400 and 500 miles, the charge for ten words was only 1s. 6d.

Mr. G. F. WILSON, F.R.S., would say one word with reference to the latter portion of the paper, and the commentary of Sir Cusack Roney upon it. He (Mr. Wil-son), in common with most other employers of labour, was often consulted by men who had saved a little money in this country, and who wished to benefit themselves and their families by emigration, but who did not see their way to do so. They were dissatisfied with their prospects at home, and they came to him for advice as to where they ought to go to. Up to the present time he had said that he believed Canada to be the right place. But this paper, he thought, gave the whole of the information that was required, and when it was remembered that it would be laid within a few days upon the tables of upwards of three hundred Mechanics' Institutions, and would be read by thousands of working men throughout the country, it was impossible to exaggerate its importance.

The CHAIRMAN said, considering that Canada was one of the finest dependencies of the crown, he thought they could not but feel indebted to Professor Wilson for placing before the public an account of the resources of that country. He was, therefore, sure that they would heartily unite with him in according their thanks to Professor Wilson for his very admirable paper.

The vote of thanks having been passed,

Professor WILSON begged to express his acknowledgments for the honour they had done him. With respect to the fisheries, those he had alluded to were not at the upper part of the St. Lawrence so much as at the lower part, and on the Gulf. He was sure that any one who was fond of salmon-fishing, and who had read the accounts which he had seen in reference to it, would not think of going to Norway, but would start at once for the St. Lawrence. In the Saguenay and the lower St. Lawrence, he believed the salmon fishing was of the very finest description. A paper on this subject had been written by his friend Dr. Adamson, of Quebec, which afforded valuable information to those who went out upon such an expedition; and there was also a communication by Mr. Nettle, confirming all that Dr. Adamson and others had written. But there were other fisheries of greater importance than the salmon. In the St. Lawrence—in the lower part of the river—the porpoise fishery was carried on, for the purpose of furnishing oil for the lighthouses, but he believed the extent to which it had been carried on was barely sufficient for the supply required by the contract, which had been entered into. In the Exhibition of 1851, a novel feature in the Canadian products was a species of leather prepared from the skin of the porpoise, for which the exhibitor, as an encouragement to pursue the matter, was rewarded with a medal, but he believed very little had been done with reference to it since.

Mr. SIMMONDS stated that it was to some extent an article of commerce in this country, and was used for shoe leather and for other purposes.

Professor WILSON added that he thought it was an article well worth attention. With regard to the salmon fisheries in that district, he was sure they would be carried out to a very large extent. He had tasted salmon in Scotland that had been sent from Vancouver's Island, and it was as fine flavoured as any he had ever eaten. With regard to the exports and imports of Canada, although the imports appeared to exceed the exports by about £2,000,000, yet this must not be considered an unfavorable symptom. He found, comparing the exports of 1856 with those of 1851, there was an increase of 150 per cent., whereas the imports had increased only 100 per cent., and at that rate the exports would soon equal the imports in amount.

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EXTRAORDINARY GOLD NUGGET.—The largest and purest gold nugget yet discovered will be exhibited to public view at the Crystal Palace on the 1st of May. It weighs 1,743 oz. & dwts., and is of the computed value of £7,500; £10,000 was offered for it at Melbourne. It was found at a depth of 18 feet from the surface, in the Bendigo district, about 120 miles from Melbourne.—*English Paper.*