

taught, they begin to arrive as soon as the snow disappears, and remain until the ice coats the lakes and rivers. Led by nature, they come in full plumage, build their nests, hatch their young, and draw numerous sportsmen from the Eastern Canadian Provinces and England to the otherwise deserted districts. The different varieties are as follows:—Mallard, canvas-back, red-head or pochard, grey duck, black duck, teal, widgeon, pin-tail, shoveller, buff-head, wood duck, blue-bill, shell drake, and many other well-known species. These are our regular visitors.

Within twenty miles of Winnipeg they can be found in myriads. Headingley Marsh, English Lake, Long Lake, Lake Manitoba, Selkirk, and Oak Point are all rendezvous of our ardent sportsman: while the numerous lakes and coulees around Indian Head, down the Qu'Appelle valley, and across that part of the country, would seem to be their home. Even on the regular track from Prince Albert to the Mission, the traveller does not turn out of his way to find them, and unconsciously exclaims, "Where do they all come from?" Our native game birds are not so numerous, but are rapidly increasing, under the protection extended to them during the breeding season by our Game Laws. They include the pin-tail or sharp-tailed grouse, pinnated grouse or prairie chicken, ruffle grouse or partridge, spruce partridge, and ptarmigan. In flavour, the flesh of the pin-tail surpasses that of all the grouse family.

WILD GEESE.—These are not native birds of Manitoba and the North-West Territories Churchill and James Bay (lat. 50 deg. 30 min. N.) seem to be their favourite breeding haunts, though in their migratory flight, they remain several weeks feeding upon the stubble, and afford excellent sport for the lover of the gun. The Snow Goose or Wyvis is a passing visitor, stopping only to feed or to take in ballast in its flights to and from the Northern Lakes; when feeding among the stubble they root up the vegetation and plough the ground as if a herd of hogs had been at work. The Canada Grey Goose, the premier goose of the world, is by far the most numerous—for nearly two months they pass in immense flocks, grazing in the stubble fields, and affording great amusement to the ardent sportsman.

SMALL GAME.—The smaller game birds are plentiful, and include Wilson's English Snipe, Curlew, Golden Plover, and Fallow Rape. They may be designated native birds, being found from April to October.

RABBITS.—Jack Rabbits are very numerous and met with in every part of Manitoba and North-West Territories, notwithstanding the great havoc made among them by the unerring aim of the Indians, Half-breeds, and other sportsmen. Hares are also numerous.

THE DEER TRIBE.—These Provinces are abundantly supplied with Moose, Elk, Carriboo, Black-tail, or Jumping Deer Antelope; and in the Rocky Mountains wild Sheep and Goat.

The **BUFFALO**, once so numerous, is almost extinct, though a few are found near Wood Mountain, North-West Territories.

THE MUSK OX inhabits the districts lying on the Peace and Mackenzie Rivers.

BEARS.—The Common Black Bear is very common indeed, while its relation, the Grizzly Bear, is sometimes met with in the Rocky Mountains.

FISH.—Few countries in the world afford greater sport to the disciple of Isaac Walton than this part of Canada. The various lakes and rivers teem with an endless variety of the finny tribe, but their capture seems to be left alone to the Indians and Half-breeds; the white settlers preferring the gun to the rod.

Lakes Manitoba, Winnipeg, and in fact all our large sheets of water abound with White Fish, Salmon, Trout, Pike, Maskilonge, Perch, Sturgeon, Bass, and many other kinds of the fish species, while the rivers are stocked with Gold Eye, Bass, Suckers, Cat-fish, and Pickerel.

The writer of this has traversed the greater number of the Canadian Provinces and many of the States in pursuit of game, but Manitoba and the North-West Territories excel them all for quantity of game and ready access to hunting grounds.

The following extracts from private letters of some English and American gentlemen, who last year engaged in sport in the Canadian North-West, may be of interest to those who contemplate following their example. Writing on November 23rd, 1885, two English gentlemen say:—

"We could not have hit upon a better part of Manitoba for large game or small. We were, of