

miles useless for cultivation; 656,000 square miles were suitable for potatoes, 407,000 square miles for barley, and 316,000 square miles for wheat. There is a river navigation of about 2,750 miles, 1,390 miles being suitable for stern-wheel steamers and 1,360 miles for light draught sea-going steamers. There are large auriferous deposits, as well as silver, iron, graphite, ochre, brick and pottery clay, mica, gypsum, lime and sandstone, "while the petroleum area is so extensive as to justify the belief that eventually it will supply the larger part of this continent." Furs are at present the chief commercial products of this region, which is the last great fur preserve of the world, and in view of the great danger of the extinction of animals whose furs become fashionable, it was suggested by the committee that fur districts should be leased by the Government, and a limitation placed on the catch of certain kinds of furs. The lakes and rivers abound in fish, especially whitefish and lake trout. The committee pointed out that the valuable whale fisheries of the northern coasts of Canada were being rapidly destroyed by foreign whalers, and suggested that the Government should adopt some measures for their protection. The climate of this region in some places resembles that of Western Ontario.

Fur trade,
Hudson's
Bay Com-
pany.

13. Some idea of the size and importance of the fur trade may be obtained from the following figures of the receipts of furs at the Hudson's Bay Company's warehouse, in Montreal, during the last four years. The figures have been kindly furnished by the manager in Montreal:—