

NATURAL FOOD PRODUCTS OF THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

MOTION.

HON. MR. SCHULTZ moved

That a Select Committee composed of the Honorable Messieurs be appointed for the purpose of collecting information regarding the existing natural food products of the North-West Territories, and the best means of conserving and increasing them; and that the said Committee have leave to send for persons, papers and records.

He said:—Hon. gentlemen will remember that early last Session I gave notice of the motion regarding the natural food products of the North-West, which I am now about to make, and perhaps a word or two of explanation may be expedient, and it is this: Unable from illness to make the present motion till late last Session, it seemed improbable that there would be time enough before its close to attain the object sought in the striking of such a committee and submitting the matter to the Senate on the 6th May, 1886. I found that a majority of the hon. gentlemen who expressed their views recommended the withdrawal of the motion till the early part of this Session, and this view being concurred in by the then leader of the House, the motion was withdrawn—the Hon. Mr. Dickey suggesting in the meantime that the mover should communicate his views upon the subject to the Government, whom he said would be glad to receive any information and suggestion upon the subject. It now becomes my duty to make the motion in question, and as the names of hon. gentlemen to compose it have been left blank in the notice paper, I may be allowed to say a word or two regarding the proposed selection. First, then, I desire such present members of this honorable House as were upon a select committee moved for by the Hon. Mr. McCully, and seconded by Hon. Mr. Botsford, on the 12th April, 1870, “On the subject of Rupert’s Land, Red River, and the North-West Territories, with a view of collecting information respecting the condition and capabilities, and the means of access thereto, with power to send for persons

and papers.” This committee, consisting of seventeen members, three of whom were to be a quorum, and their able report, presented 27th April, 1870, was printed in pamphlet form, along with the evidence they obtained, became one of the best and most reliable authorities in North-West matters, and as an immigration agent it was unrivalled. In the formation, then, of the present Committee I specially desire, and have taken the liberty of placing the names of hon. gentleman who were upon the Committee of 1870, upon this Committee, and have added my colleagues from Manitoba, the hon. gentlemen from British Columbia, and other hon. members of the Senate who are personally acquainted with the North-West.

I beg, then, to move, seconded by Hon. Mr. Girard, that the blank in my motion be filled in with the following names:—Hon. Messrs. Botsford, Dickey, Reesor, Girard, Robitaille, Pelletier, Senecal, Bolduc, McInnes (B.C.), Macdonald (B.C.), Sutherland, Ferrier, Turner, Sanford, Ogilvie, Almon, Allan, Leonard, Macpherson (Sir David), Miller, Thibideau, Chaffers, Kaulbach, Howlan, Carvell, Merner, and the mover; and I desire before the motion is put to make some explanatory and other observations. Acting upon the suggestions made, I addressed to the Rt. Hon. the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs the communication which I shall presently read; as it contains much that I would have urged before the House last session, and that I now deem of sufficient importance to bring under the consideration of hon. gentlemen; and I may also state that in this connection I had last spring interviews with the Rt. Hon. the Superintendent-General and the able officer and Christian gentleman who is his Deputy, and they both expressed themselves most anxious to continue to do all in their power in any direction for the benefit of the Indians of the North-West. The letter is dated in May of last year, and is as follows:—

OTTAWA, 27th May, 1886.

*To the Right Honorable the Superintendent
General of Indian Affairs, Ottawa.*

SIR,—Early in April of this year I gave notice in the Senate that I would move that a Select Committee composed of the Honor-