

Q. Did you ever find any of them dead? A. Yes, in large numbers. The first season the epidemic sets in there seems to be more of them die off than any year afterwards.

*By Honorable Mr. McInnes :*

Q. Do you find them dead all over the prairie and in the little bushes? A. Yes.

*By the Hon. Mr. Almon :*

Q. Was the one that you shot very poor? A. Yes, very poor, so miserable that I did not carry it home.

*By the Chairman :*

Can you describe the bug? A. It was grey sort of bug, very large—as large as the top of my little finger. I understand they attack the prairie chicken as well.

Q. How long is the bug? A. It has the regular bug shape; it is almost as wide as long—an oval shape. The pheasants, or prairie chickens, as we call them, are troubled with them in the autumn. On one prairie chicken I found them, and there was one very small one and one very large one. They attack the bird just above the neck, where the bird cannot get at them to pick them off.

Q. Do they burrow into the flesh? A. Yes, they eat right into the flesh; it takes quite a pull to bring them out.

Q. Have you ever heard it suggested that this bug deposited its larvae the fall before, and these in the spring develop into bugs? A. I never heard how they come, but it would appear from this one instance which I observed myself, there being two bugs, one smaller than the other, that they must be produced from larvae of some description.

Q. Do you remember after the time of plenty has been succeeded by a time of scarcity in Manitoba, whether that is a time of scarcity all over the North-West? A. I could not speak positively with regard to that. As far as my knowledge goes it is understood as being general all over the North-West.

*By the Honorable Mr. Almon :*

Q. Have the Indians any tradition about that? Have you asked them how they account for it? A. I have never heard. It is not at all likely that they would have the correct version of it.

Q. That complete failure of the rabbits takes place every seven years? A. Yes.

*By the Honorable Mr. McInnes :*

Q. In our province it is every four years, and that disappearance takes place simultaneously with a very small run of salmon, a most extraordinary thing. I do not see where the connection is.

*By the Honorable Mr. Carvell :*

Q. Is it a total disappearance? A. It is apparently total, but it is not actually a total disappearance, because they appear again.

*By the Honorable Mr. Girard :*

Q. It is fourteen years since I last saw them in large numbers and they have been growing more numerous of late? A. Of course I have not had the opportunity of observation lately, but I have noticed that they seemed to have increased decidedly with us during the last three years. They were quite numerous during last winter.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. You have travelled on the prairie; what are the natural products there? Is there not some natural product to take the place of potatoes and other roots? A. I do not know of any. I have never come across them. The only root that I have seen is what is called wild turnip. That is the name by which it is generally known.

Q. Is it fit for food? A. Yes.

*By the Honorable Mr. Almon :*

Q. What size does it grow? A. I have seen it as thick as my wrist, and from four to five inches long. I have seen them grow sometimes as we see potatoes, two growing together at right angles to each other. They appear to be very tender, and I do not know whether they would thrive under cultivation, because they disappear when cattle range over the prairie. Where I have seen them for several years, after a herd of cattle wintering over the place, they disappear altogether.